

Peirce School
Strive to shine: as a student, as a friend
PTO Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 12, 2014

1. Co-Presidents' Greeting - Amy Cooper, Emo Orrell

a. Thanks for Bingo Night

Thanks to the Hospitality Committee and Lori Pescatore. Lori notes that Bingo Night is an easy, cheap, and fun event.

b. Walk to School Wednesday

Cancelled this month because of the snow day. We will try again next month.

c. Chess Club Scholarship

Brian Epstein has asked the PTO to buy a shirt for one of his club members who cannot afford it.

2. Principal's Remarks - Karen Hartley

a. Progress on the Library

Over April vacation, the library carpet will be replaced with wall to wall carpet squares. The damaged bookcases will be replaced as well. Tomorrow, plasterers are coming to repair both the library and the reading room upstairs.

b. Air Conditioning

Starting in the next few weeks, air conditioning will be installed to cool the entire building. Any noisy work will be scheduled around the MCAS. The system should be up and running for May. This means Peirce will have more hosting to do: the Summer Fun language immersion program, administrative meetings, summer school. (Peirce was supposed to be completely air conditioned when it was built, but AC was omitted last minute to save money, and consequently, the computerized heating system has never worked properly.)

c. Peirce Pride Assemblies

Our most recent Friday assembly was for Integrity. The kids are very supportive of each other: No tears from those who don't win, just cheers for their classmates. Upcoming assemblies: March 7 for Responsibility and Reading (coordinated with Read Across America week); May 2 for Cooperation; June 13 for Excellence. Assemblies begin at 1:30. Principal Hartley is hoping the fifth graders will plan something for the final assembly.

3) Committee Updates

a. Treasurer and Fundraising - Lori Pescatore

Copies of the PTO budget were distributed. Lori says everything is fine; nothing new. We received the money from school pictures.

b. Community Outreach - Jessica Callaghan

Jessica was absent and will no longer be able to make Wednesday meetings. The Coat Drive went well. The kids are excited about the 100th Day of School drive for the Arlington Food Pantry.

c. Hospitality - Erin Whalen

Erin was absent. Our next Hospitality event is the Ice Cream Social on the Friday before Memorial Day.

d. Enrichment - Jocelyn Willett, Sherri Bulmer

Jocelyn was present. The owl program is scheduled for February 26. The second grade bridge program is March 6. Ms. Coletti explained how difficult it was to try to do the bridge program (part of the engineering curriculum) themselves last year; much better to have the Museum of Science come in and do it. They may opt to use the empty, third kindergarten classroom for more space. Radio Disney is March 5; Museum of Science in June; Aquarium sometime in April for K-1. Rocky DiRico is coming to talk about his time in Japan in April. There is some strain on funding as the Museum of Science was more expensive. But Jocelyn still wants to bring in a storyteller for lower grades, who haven't had as much programming this year.

e. Library Enrichment - Jane Torregrossa

Mrs. T was absent. See Principal Hartley's update.

f. Science Garden and Landscaping - Dorothy Schuette

Dorothy was absent. No report.

g. Safe Routes - Flynn Monks, Mary Alice Vallarino

Flynn and Mary Alice were absent. This month's Walk to School Wednesday was cancelled because of the snow day.

h. Teacher Representatives - Alicia Coletti, Daniela Hurley

Ms. Coletti was present. No news from the teachers.

4) Upcoming/Ongoing Events

a. 100th Day of School

Food drive for the Arlington Food Pantry ends Friday.

b. Teens for Jeans

This drive, organized by Arlington High students, also ends Friday.

c. Hats off to Reading

Our Read Across America celebration will take place the last week of February and first week of March. Each student will receive a paper Seuss hat on which to record all the books he/she reads. If they bring their hats on the last day, they will be entered into a drawing to win a Seuss book or related prize.

d. Pub Trivia Night

Held March 8 from 7:00 to 11:00 at the Sons of Italy. Room parents are collecting \$5 per family and putting together baskets to be raffled off at the event. Each grade has a basket theme: sports, movies, family fun, booze, spa, etc. Also, if you have a skill or talent, donate something for the silent auction. E.g., Lori is donating eggplant parmesan to feed 30. The teachers are also donating their time, e.g., Ms. Flynn and Mrs. Lamont will take kids to Build-a-Bear again. Admission is \$5 at the door, whether you play trivia or not. Teams will be assigned once you get there. Trivia will be from 7:30 to 8:30 and the last bid at 10:30.

e. Art Show

Emo reports she had a great turnout at her house last month. Twelve people met to plan and party. Jobs were assigned. They decided to go with a moon landscape for the cafeteria. Emo may set up her photo booth during the show to get shots of the kids with their projects or recycled art. It would be nice to have some photos to hang in the building, too.

f. International Festival

April. No news.

g. Electronics Recycling Drive

April 5. Combined with collections for both Cradles to Crayons and More than Words (a nonprofit bookstore for at-risk youth in Waltham).

5. Other topics

No news or information about the assault of a 14-year-old at Summer St. and Cutter Hill Rd.

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