

PTO Meeting
Wednesday, March 12, 2014

1. Co-Presidents Greeting
 - a. Thanks to: Dorothy and Helpers—Read Across America—really fun, kids loved it.
 - b. Thanks to: Lori and helpers—Trivia night—fabulous! Susan had great questions, Thanks to Mike for MCing
 - c. Walk to School Wednesday—Stickers handed out; warmer weather—there were more Walkers
2. Principal's remarks
 - a. Carpet getting replaced in the library. Less expensive to do now than if problems arise in the future. By end of April vacation, library renovations should be finished including painting.
 - b. Chiller--installation begins --24th of March—less parking will be available during installation. There will be full air conditioning in the building (only elementary school in Arlington to have full building a/c).
 - c. MCAS testing starting next week for 3-5 grade

3. Flynn: Vision 20/20 for Education Task Force Report—
Vision 20/20—annual survey. Committee includes 2 town meeting members and parents. The purpose of the committee is to give parents a place to talk about ideal vision for schools going forward regardless of budget.

Discussed:

- How communication be improved and information better distributed.
- How to discuss volunteer teaching efforts
- Ways to tap into broader Arlington community
- Ideas that were once discusses but dropped (ex. 2nd language teaching)
- Putting a survey together.

2 main issues:

1. Huge enrollment increase—how to be more on top of/aware
2. State of physical plan of the high school

Flynn will be on communication subcommittee. They are taking suggestions for ways to get information out there. Next meeting is April 2nd at 7:00 p.m. at the Cyrus Dallin Museum in Arlington center.

4. Dorothy:
 - a. School Grounds Spring Clean-up—(Fifth Graders earn money for graduation \$ from PTO): Saturday, April 5; 2-4 (tentative date) Fifth graders work for 1-2 hours, parents can stay, and other parents can help. Contact Dorothy with any issues you feel need to be addressed.
 - b. International Festival—Friday, April 11—Theme: games from around the world
 1. Game room representing different cultures—games, art projects, etc.
 2. Performances
 3. Dessert pot-luck—baked items only. Dorothy obtained a temporary food permit
Volunteers are needed—staffing tables, performing, MCs, baking. A flier went home this week. Next meeting is at Dorothy's house on Tuesday, March 18th, at 7:30.

- c. Electronics, clothing, and book collections: Saturday, May 10th 9 a.m.-1 p.m. This is a fundraiser that has been done for a few years. For every electronic item, people pay, and then the school responsibly recycles the items. Peirce keeps all the money except for the cost of disposal of large monitors. Volunteers will be needed. Also Cradles to Crayons donations accepted (children's toys, clothing, etc.). And book donations to More Than Words. A flier will go out with all of the information. On the same day, the 5th graders will run a carwash to earn money for their graduation.
 - d. Science Garden Projects—student planting? Looking for people who are interested in helping with the garden, either to help with the gardening or with student planting programs. The teachers will be asked about student involvement.
 - e. Container Planting by Girl Scouts—One troop will do the planting in the containers in the front of the school.
5. Upcoming/ Ongoing Events:
- March 21-Art Show-Next Week!
 - a. 5th grade will do a pizza sale independent from Art Show
 - b. Emo will do Paper moon photo booth
 - c. Many movies coming in
 - d. Sign-up genius filling up—help is still needed—contact Emo.

Lori—Budget update—not very much going on right now

Trivia Night--\$700 for raffle baskets, and admission was \$5/person

Red Sox Tickets being raffled: April 23 vs. Yankees \$10/ticket or 5 for \$40

Jocelyn--Enrichment—

A few issues with the Disney program for 3rd and 5th grade. Radio Disney & NSTAR—The program is about energy conservation—meets curriculum in a game-show format. Kids seemed to really enjoy it, but there were objections that Disney was marketing (posters were distributed). The program was free. Enrichment budget is fairly small. It was discussed to maybe consider an opt-out for future years in case parents have objections. Parents will be made aware of the program and who it is run by. The program was discussed at two separate PTO meetings prior to the program. Also brought up was getting an idea from the teachers as to how effective they feel the program is.

More enrichment programs coming up this year.

Peirce school received a thank you note from the Arlington Food Pantry--476 items were donated during the food drive