

PTO Meeting notes
10/23/2019

Principal's Update:

We received lots of great feedback regarding Saturday's event. Discussed the calendar. The next PTO meeting is being held on Wednesday, November 13th.

Teacher Rep:

Discussed incentives for the kids who raise money for the Read-a-Thon. Asked Tara if she had other ideas. Brought up the pajama day as a reward for raising money but decided that popcorn day would be more well received to the students. We agreed that the reward should be based on their effort versus how much money the students collect.

Read-A-Thon:

Megan and Krasi discussed the Read-A-Thon. Megan is going to send a packet home and plans to run the Read-A-Thon the first three weeks in November. We discussed one sponsor per challenge. The children will have reading logs which will be collected at the end of the week. In most schools they focus on a two-week period to set up the reading challenge. We can communicate all of the information on the PTO website. We discussed using PayPal as a vendor for collecting money. They have no upfront fees. The other option is Cheddar Up. It's similar to PayPal but with two exceptions:

- Credit card fees are higher
- PTO doesn't pay the fees for using this vendor but the end user does pay a certain percentage per transaction.

Welcome Committee:

The Welcome Committee is going to start checking in with new parents. Questions or concerns related to the curriculum, a teacher and/or a classroom should be brought to the attention of the teacher and/or the principal.

Additional discussions:

The laminator is not working again. We will request that Pat order a new one.

Discuss the state-of-the-art poster maker. Krasi is going to attend a demo from a vendor. She will provide us with an update as soon as she meets with the sales vendor. We just want to have a comparison with the expensive printer versus the much less expensive option. We are leaning towards the less expensive option.

Annual Fund Update:

We generated \$11,300 towards the annual fund and \$3,300 from the family picnic and fall festival. We have about \$18,700 in our bank account right now and have already paid out for two enrichments programs and supplies for the teachers. We are able to cover for existing trips and programs.

November book fair kick-off:

We received 54 responses from the events poll. 27 for the glow dance which was the most popular. The event is being held on a Saturday. There was concern that the glow dance is very chaotic. It was decided to have the glow dance in cafeteria. In the gym we will have basketball or some other type of activity. Discussed having a sensory room for the kids who might be overstimulated by the noise and chaos.

Library:

Renee is working with the librarian to go through our library which is outdated and has not have purchased books for 10 years. We are very out of date compared to other schools in Arlington. There is not much PTO can do about that but make sure that book fair money gets diverted to the library. We will receive approximately \$5,000 for books and they will be more curriculum-related reading material and based on the needs of the school (not necessarily fun books). We also discussed a catch-up fund so that we can get to the same level as other schools.

We discussed different book fair vendors. Sarah reviewed comparison sheet and the benefits/pros of each. Follet and Scholastic come in those handy little cases but we are committed to Book Rack this year.

Emily is almost done with the Peirce Directory. Josh is still working on entering the new teachers. Once it's ready to go she will work with Megan to make sure that it goes into the email.

Committee Updates

Enrichment – Lisa put in an application with the Agricultural Council (applied for a grant for \$935 for an enrichment activity for the 3rd grade).

Community Outreach- supporting first grade with Cradles to Crayon. Heard from Lori Pescatore that they are sending out info regarding the food drive which is town wide. Will find out if there is any grade interested in being in charge of the food drive.

Spirit day is going well. Every Friday kids are dressed up accordingly.

PTO has been working with a vendor to get spirit wear for the school.