

PTO Agenda/Meeting Notes

October 12, 2017

7-8pm



Attendance: Adam Howes, Esther Zaff, Beth Herlihy, Tiffany Back, Negar Shivaiei, Kerry Prasad, Rakashi, Jen Behr, Barbara Mauger, Amy Volk, Ryan Brennan, Abby Schwartz

- Thank yous - Picture Day (Lori Zinner), Fall Picnic (Sangeeta Jathar), SEPAC coffee (Renuka Raghavan) ELL Coffee (June Li), and continuing Walk to School Month (Barry Elliott)
- Walk to School – still need helpers to coordinate in the mornings
- Upcoming Events:
 - Halloween Party (Barbara Mauger) – planning underway, still need volunteers, flyers going out next week, 10/27 setup, NOT a drop off event room parents to send a reminder
 - Musical – casting done, rehearsals underway, looking to add a parent orientation night next year prior to tryouts to understand commitment, adding an FAQ to the website
 - Teacher Breakfast – date set for 11/13
 - Welcome New Family breakfast – 10/19 all are welcome
 - Mini Grants – proposals being accepted, awarded 11/10
- 5th Grade Experience (Abby Schwartz) – events throughout the year to make a special/memorable year and have a sense of connection before moving on to Brown, combination of fun activities, community service and learning about global issues, 5th grade field day June, class party April, promotion day June, reception hosted by 4th grade families, t-shirt, yearbook, contribution requested
 - Hunger Banquet 11/14 – split into income classes based on the world population and given a meal based on the level to understand what the

life is like for different people around the world - focus on the idea of world hunger

- Team building for 5th grade fall – Beth looking to bring in Project Adventure requesting \$550 per facilitator (needing 3 facilitators) instead of field day if budget allows
- Added activities (Beth Herlihy)
 - Art Show 5/17 – 5th graders to be leaders (planning, setup, clean up, etc)
 - Pastel Project – 5/23 in spring decorate front walkway, parents bid on sections of the school entranceway to decorate as a family
- Directory Update (Amy Volk) – going to print tomorrow, should be distributed in the next 2 weeks
- Room Parent Update (Negar Shivaiei) 10/2 meeting, past room parents shared experiences with new, fall class events are underway
- Creative Arts and Sciences Update (Kerry Prasad) – teacher lesson for each grade level, teachers choose programs from a Newton-approved catalog, the PTO lessons (Kerry Prasad/Emma Ardiff) coordinate the details for each program and apply for grants when available, biggest portion of the PTO budget goes towards programming
- Spirit Wear – store closes 10/12 midnight
- Annual Fund Update (Ryan Brennan, Treasurer) – 73 families have donated (of 325 families) \$13,600 raised so far, 43% of goal, 22% participation, get the word out!
 - 5th grade experience (separate portion of budget) 25% of goal and participation
- How to get more people involved in the community add a Volunteer spotlight to the update (blurb/picture) each week to show how many people it takes to make this community run, maybe re-start the twitter account as another way to get the word out about events
- Updates email - 47% open rates (12-20% open rate for other Newton schools) Go Countryside! (but still room to improve)

- Committee members: send recap/notes from your events afterwards to Adam to build a repository for planners year after year
- Mystery Dinner 11/18 – need volunteers and dinner hosts