

PTO Agenda/Meeting Notes

November 6, 2017

7pm



Attendance: Adam Howes, Liz Flaig, Esther Zaff, Rakashi Chand, Negar Shivaiei, Kerry Prasad, Beth Herlihy, Barbara Mauger, Amy Volk, Sangeeta Jathar

Agenda

- Annual Fund Updates – as of 11/4 \$20,908 (68%) only 33% of families participated, sending a reminder message through the room parents and will extend the deadline
- Halloween Party – great success thanks to Barbara Mauger, \$1,200 profit, putting some of the profits towards purchasing items on sale for 2018
- Mini grants update – 9 requests came in over budget but trying to finalize and get teachers as much as possible, will be awarded this week
- CA&S – full schedule for the year finalized
 - Received a grant Massachusetts cultural society for Andy Green Poet for 5th grade
 - Ruby Bridges (grade 3-5) first African-American child to desegregate the all-white William Frantz Elementary School in Louisiana during the New Orleans school desegregation crisis in 1960 (sharing travel costs with other schools)
 - Kemp Harris storytelling (grade K-2)
<http://www.kempharris.org/storytelling/>
- Mystery Dinner – website set, flyers going home this week, host houses in good shape, get your friends to sign up!

- Countryside Day at the New England Mobile Book Fair - \$200 profit from proceeds
- Holiday gift drive
 - Organizing the wish lists from two shelters and the Newton Early Childhood Program.
 - 28 individual items ranging in price that will go on a sign-up genius that will be sent out with the newsletter next week.
 - 22 children to sponsor with 4-5 items each and 5 more expensive baby items- these will be at the table in front of the school during pickup and drop off from Nov 13-17.
 - gift cards for Countryside families and boxes of diapers (for the shelters) to be sponsored and these will be on both the sign-up genius and at the table.
 - All wrapped gifts, gift cards, and diapers need to be turned in by Dec 4 and delivered that week.
- Winter gear swap – check your closets for outgrown items and adult gear as well, ends Thursday 11/9
- 2nd annual ELL feast – Thursday 11/9, 10 families plus 23 individuals, set up volunteers needed
- Stand Up, Sit Tall for Inclusive schools week / Title 1
 - Evening and morning events for parents geared around Responsive Schools, inclusiveness, mindfulness, co-taught classroom overview, and growth mindset, guest speakers coming in to help Beth Herlihy
 - Celebration of art and writing – all students are welcome to participate by creating something to enter
- Day of Kindness – Wednesday before Thanksgiving focus across all grade levels
- Safety drills – full school will walk to Brown middle school, split into 2 routes, meet in the auditorium and sit by class, used for any reason needed to evacuate Countryside (smell in building, no heat, etc.)
- Lockdown – will practice in December, all classrooms have walkie talkies to be able to communicate and teachers can lock doors from inside

- Election Day Bake Sale – vote and buy a snack, pizza being donated by Sweet Tomatoes, all proceeds go to 5th grade experience
- Understanding Our Differences – looking for a 5th grade organizer, 3rd and 4th grade had great events recently
- City-wide discussion on Race – Angier, Thursday 7-9pm
- Families Organizing for Racial Justice (FORJ) – see Kerry Prasad to get involved
- Teacher Breakfast - Monday 11/13, donations welcomed
- 5th grade experience – adding team building elements this year, Project Adventure facilitated event at Newton North, will have other events throughout the year to build bonds with other students before moving to middle school
- Walk to School – Thursdays, huge success thanks to Barry and Alisha Elliot