

PTO Meeting Agenda Thursday March 10th 7pm and Monday March 14th 8:15

Introductions: Erin Harnish, Ellen Nickerson, Tracy Marlow, Jan Parish, Tami Duschik, Rosemary Griggs

Opening Prayer:

Reports: Treasury report went over report and discussed would like last year's numbers on there for reference as well. Budget meeting next month. (Erin Harnish, Ann Travers, Annette Gushman, Rosemary Griggs : Date and time to be decided.)

OLD BUSINESS:

1. School newspaper: Mrs. Stepanowski Has agreed to have newspaper meetings in the mornings at 7:30 before school on Wednesdays. She and the middle school students will discuss articles, topics, newspaper making. May issue: need reports to be assigned for each grade and submit an article from each grade to Mrs. Stepanowski. (Call for articles April 21st deadline). Allow extra articles from those who participate with Wed. Morning paper meeting. Review and set next deadline and goals

Have submissions include: comics, drawings, announcements, alumni news.

Page of ads to be sold: \$25 for businesses and \$10 for students (select standard rectangle same size for all.) Plan to put adds together on page.

Community Garden: updates- Julie Reardon Conway: via email. We are meeting this coming Wednesday March 23rd at St Rose school at 3 pm. Please let me know if you can or cannot come and if you are interested in participating. Please also pass the word along and invite others or let me know who you recommend I contact. Thank you for your time. See you on Wednesday!

2. Art Appreciation
 1. Could still do this year and need an idea for an Author or Artist –need committee, invite guest
 2. Could do a family event in association with the art show day already scheduled for this Spring that will showcase the students art. Mrs. Griggs shared that Art Show and Science Fair will be done on alternating years.
3. Book Swap-Went very well. Will have one more before the end of the year coordinated with RIF. Always accepting more used books for 4-8th grade in the uniform room.

NEW BUSINESS

4. Propose amendment to bylaws: "Room parents shall attend or send a representative from the class to the monthly PTO meetings." This should help is communication and distribution of tasks for all school functions.- discussion ensued via email and at the meeting. Pros were being able to hear and cooperate more between the needs and help in the classrooms. We could combine efforts for classes when appropriate. We could engage classes in all school events. We could have a room parent help identify a representative from a class to come to PTO meetings. (They would not be obligated to come themselves). Some think it would be very helpful for room parents to meet with each other. Cons: Too much for room parents to do any more than they already do.
5. Need volunteers to set up office: We can use old office: What would be like? How would it function? – ideas were to have visual ideas of volunteer opportunities, notebooks and copies of previous projects, events and outlines. Also have a teacher needs inbox for parents with a few minutes to help with things if they have time. A place for parents and teachers to interact. Coffee and snacks could be made available.
6. Service Learning ideas: Would we like United Way head to come speak to our next PTO meeting? Everyone liked the idea of trying to participate in the fall United Way community day as a school/parish community.
7. Spring concert PTO meeting and vote for officers for 2011-12 year. Ideas for nominations: do a call for nominations approximately one month prior to voting. Vote by ballot at the concert.
8. Lent Dinner April 15th: Pizza and salad: need volunteers, check on paper vs dishes. Tami Duschik, Ann MacDonnell (has food handlers permit), Erin Harnish. Call for more volunteers. Set up game tables at various tables around the room for fun and games during dinner and encourage school and church families to attend. (We have had 3 games donated already.)
9. Any Spring fundraiser? Tami looked into getting flowers to sell this year and it may be too late to order, also the church plant sale has already been announced and several agreed it has been hard to run both at the same time. May wait until close to Father's day and do a different fund raiser this year.

10. Teacher and Staff appreciation week is the first week of May – checking with Vita Taormina-Hennessey to see if she is heading this up and to direct volunteers her way. Have not heard back yet. There was some discussion at both meetings about trying to organize a unified event in the teachers lounge each day rather than each class doing individual things. Mixed interest in this. Pros: we can include all the teachers and adds to the spirit of the week. Cons: Some parents like doing specific things for their teacher.
11. Additional discussion item at both meetings RECESS: Still a need for more parents to watch kids at recess. There is a concern that people do not know how important the extra supervision is or that the time frame away from work or someone's day is just that impossible. Even if a bunch of different people did it a few times a year or once a month it would be helpful. We also discussed how it is harder and harder to get people to cover for lunch time for teachers.

We discussed needs for more equipment for recess and Mrs. Griggs shared that she will check, because more jump ropes have been ordered and now that she is aware can order more balls as well. We also discussed that perhaps our kids need to be familiar with more inclusive recess games and more variety of active games.

NEXT PTO MEETINGS WILL BE THE Second Monday (APRIL 11th) at 8:15 at the school, and Thursday (APRIL 14th) 7-8pm at the Harnish Home. We will host the Lent Dinner April 15th at the Parish Center. All families welcome to the Pizza and Salad dinner (donation) there will be board games to play family style.