

## October 4, 2011 PTO Meeting

**Call to Order:** 7:02 pm

**Attendance:** Mary Robinson, Annu Sial, Ruth Miller, Abdul Arshad, Namita Paranjothi, Kara Wunderlich, Jo Schulman, Cathy Brown, Deshan Yang, Carrie Luttrell, Faronda Davis, Sandy Lohss, Nell Colozza, Amie Tighe, Lindsay Klasing, Gina Haralson, Cara Bauer, Susan Berkebugler and Carol Aguilar.

**Welcome All:** Sandy Lohss the Vice President of the PTO committee welcomed everyone.

**September Meeting Minutes Approval:** Approved 1<sup>st</sup> by Monica Kornblum and 2<sup>nd</sup> Faronda Davis

### Reports of Standing Committees:

- A. **Classroom Creations:** Kara Wunderlich reported that every basket that was donated was accounted for. A total of 31 baskets were made and \$1,358 was the total amount earned. It was brought to the PTO's attention that a few teachers do not want to be in charge of rounding up all the items for the baskets anymore. The PTO committee will look into other options on how to collect items for the basket. It also was noted that doing the baskets during Ability Awareness week was hectic for everyone.
- B. **Book Fair:** Namita Paranjothi reported the book fair is set for November 11-18. To The Book Fair and Beyond is the theme. November 10<sup>th</sup> the committee will be setting up for the book fair. Volunteers are still needed.
- C. **Gift Wrap:** Jo Schulman reported the school earned \$3,170. The budgeted amount to be earned was \$5,000 such that the amount earned was low.
- D. **Trunk or Treat:** Stephanie Alport and Jo Schulman reported Trunk or Treat will be on Friday October 28<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-8:00pm. Cars can arrive at 6:00pm. Trunk or Treat is an all school celebration 5<sup>th</sup> grade fundraiser. All profits go towards the 5<sup>th</sup> grade end of the year party. It is estimated the school should earn \$1,000-\$2,000. Flyers with more detailed information will be sent home.  
Jo Schulman had an idea for a 5<sup>th</sup> grade fundraiser. She would like the school to have window clings and key chains made. The 5<sup>th</sup> graders could sell the window clings and key chains. Tom Evans has a local company in St. Louis and he will be making window clings and key chains with the school logo. Window clings will be \$3.00 and key chains will be \$2.00.
- E. **Fall Festival:** Gina Haralson reported that the Fall Festival was a huge success. The school had the largest crowd it's ever had. A total of 571 paying guests with an estimated 630-650 people in attendance. Over 32 families donated bake goods for the cake walk. Gina wanted to say "Thank you for all the volunteers help and donations from families."

## **Officer Reports**

**President's Report:** Cara Bauer had nothing to report

**Vice President's Report: Sandy Lohss:** Rainy day games provide from the PTO for the teachers was a success. For the most part everything on the teacher's wish list was granted. Mrs. Brown wanted to thank the PTO committee for the items on behalf of all the teachers. Some of the older teacher shifted their funds to new teachers so the new teachers could get more items.

**Treasurer's Report:** Christy Groner was not able to attend the meeting.

**Unfinished Business:** Nothing to report

**New Business:** Jo Schulman reported she was approached by Debbie Palazzola and Susan Berkbugler to help coordinate a new program called Sharing Panther Kindness for needy families. Debbie and Susan would like to keep the giving within our own community and reach out to families in the school. The principal, nurse and counselor would choose four families that would benefit from the program. The families would receive a wish list and items would be purchased for the families. Snowmen would be made and each snowman would have an item listed on it from the families' wish list. The students would choose a snowman and the children would go out to purchase the gift and wrap it. They then place the snowman on the gift and bring the gift back to school. All the families' personal information would be kept confidential with the staff. The children would not know whose wish list they were buying items for. Wednesday December 14<sup>th</sup> is when the families would come to school to pick up the items.

**Principal's Report:** Carrie Luttrell reported she is very thankful to be part of the Shenandoah Valley community. She stated "from an educator perspective and parent perspective she is thankful for parents being involved in the school. It really makes a big difference." She has a concern about the school menu and the quality of food being served to the students. Wellness is extremely important and if the school wants the children to be at their best the school needs to be feeding the children nutritious food. The school has run out of food at least two times which is unacceptable. Carrie is taking action on this matter and discussed that situation with the food manager. The school is serving a less than nutritious lunch. The gym teacher Laura Beckmann is getting involved with getting grant money for helping the school improve the school lunches. Other elementary schools in the district have a salad bar with fresh vegetables, tuna, and baked potatoes on Friday. Carrie will be asking for a salad bar with the same items. As the wellness committee gets started with Laura, the school will be looking into changing the menu. Another program that is being looked into is Seed To Table. This program would allow the children to grow a garden. Carrie is also working hard to address the problem that the cafeteria is too small for the student population and the school has a concession stand instead of kitchen in the cafeteria.

The newsletter this week will have data and school improvement goals posted. For the Adequate Yearly Progress, the school meets all standards except in all free and reduced lunch communications arts sub group. This program allows the school an opportunity to review what the goals for learning are and what student achievement should be. A school improvement plan is written. Every grade level or specialist

has created a special learning community called PLC. They set academic goals for their students. Eight groups set academic goals and are taking ownership for their learning. This helps students become more engaged in their growth. Each teacher takes data and monitors the data sets to monitor the goals. Carrie will present more information at a later time.

The dismissal process will be reevaluated for car riders. The school will discuss trying to make dismissal easier for parents and for the safety of the children.

Linda Lindberg requested the City of Chesterfield to have the speed limit signs changed to adapt to the school's new time change. The signs will be changed by October 17<sup>th</sup> in time for the school time change.

**Teacher's report:** Cathy Brown wanted to say "thank you for all the help from everyone during ability awareness week." The Ability Awareness committee would like to do more things throughout this school year. In the month of October, the school will be having a collection for Autism Speaks. The school will encourage the kids to donate money for the collection. The children can bring in 25 cents or a few dollars. Anything is appreciated. Teachers will be discussing autism and reading books to increase awareness about autism.

**Adjourn:** 8:22pm

Thank you for attending our PTO meeting

Next PTO meeting is Tuesday November 1, 2011 at 9:15 a.m. Agenda items due by Thursday, Oct. 27.