

McCornack Elementary PTO Meeting

October 6, 2008

In attendance: Esther Barton, Danielle Benson, Kallin Benson, Debi Cornell, Judy Davies, Angie Elstone, Laurie Freeman, Kimberly Green, Marina Hajek, Misty Hill, Vicki Hood, Kim Hove, Tasha Katsuda, Cheryle Konold, Brian Krueger, Tami Krueger, Debby Liamon, Regina Ligon, Laurie Nichols, Karen Olsen, Holly Powell, Sara Raffensperger, Theresa Rath, Linda Stiegler, Gina Wadsworth

Holly Powell opened the meeting and welcomed all attending. Tasha Katsuda presented sweet treats as a thank you to PTO board members.

Jog-a-Thon Update

Jog-a-thon figures as of today are at \$13,044.76. Expenses will come in at approximately \$500. Last year's gift wrap sale had a net profit of \$10,730.

Student response to the jog-a-thon has been positive. The wrap up assembly for the jog-a-thon is scheduled for Thursday, October 9th from 9:00-9:45 am.

Safe Routes to School

Shane Rhoads, 4J's Safe Routes to School Program Manager, presented information about this program. Shane is based at Roosevelt middle school, but services all of 4J. Since 2005, there has been federal funding available for working with safe routes to school.

- Based on national figures: approximately 50% of children used to walk to school. This figure is now down to 15%.
- Roosevelt has a program in place where students are counted daily for walking/biking to school. This program also rewards students with prizes that they can earn, such as an IPOD or digital camera.
- Shane listed the 5 E's of "Safe Routes to School"; they are encouragement, enforcement, engineering, education & environment.

1st Step

What are issues for a school?

The district and city are working with "Safe routes to school" as well as community & health organizations.

Goal

The goal in the next two years is to write a large infrastructure grant, looking to see what needs to be done to improve dangerous areas. "Safe routes to school" is hoping to form a group of people committed to safety. The kick-off for this group is scheduled for this Wednesday with a focus on promoting walking to school.

National Walk to School Day - Wednesday, October 8th

This year McCornack is participating in International Walk to school Day. Last year eight schools participated in this event. This year, 4J has twenty-five schools participating!

McCornack will have prizes for students that participate in the Walk to School Day. Each student who participates will receive a bag of goodies, including a bracelet & charm. There will be apples for all students and breakfast will be served by volunteers.

Marina Hajak stated that volunteers are needed to meet students at pre-determined locations to walk kids to school. Help is also needed to serve breakfast. A sign-up sheet was sent around to get volunteers.

Crosswalk Safety & Bicycle Safety

Edwin Jaffarian will be working with students this month on crosswalk and bicycle safety.

Principal Update

- _ Tasha introduced Cheryle Konold, McCornack's new office manager.

- _ Staff is narrowing down the date for safety week. The goal is to have his happen prior to Halloween.

- _ Project Based Learning is a hands-on learning style where students get involved in a project that relates to their community. Students participate by using direct application of skills. Teachers must work closely together to come up with a process to help students come up with an end project.

The first grade team is currently using project based learning in an effort to get students involved and to understand the process of *how the voting ballot works*. This project will involve on-line research, group work, individual pieces, bulletin boards and lots of student participation. The hope is that students will gain an understanding of how the voting process works, understand that voting is a choice, and also learn that you don't always get what you want. In addition, it is important for students to understand that there are many issues involved in the voting process.

Auction

McCornack has had an auction for the past three years. Holly noted that there is a concern about profits with the current economy. Costs to have an auction are at about \$4,000. Last years' auction netted \$11,000. Holly said that she is willing to do one more year and would like to have a theme such as "Monte Carlo Night".

- _ Sara Raffensperger moved to vote for having an auction this year
- _ Laurie Nichols 2nd the motion
- _ Vote: Unanimous

Holiday Bazaar

The holiday bazaar has been advertised through the school web site and on Craig's List. So far we have twenty-seven paid tables and four more applications for tables. Twenty of the tables are from outside community members. We have the capacity for at least 60 tables.

Meet the Masters Art Program

PTO purchased modules for six artists were last year: Cassatt, Homer, Mondrian, van Gogh, Picasso and Monet. This program is a volunteer based curriculum which is broken down by age level. There are three parts to the program: school wide assembly, in class sessions with teachers, and volunteers teaching in classes.

Each teacher's tote contains: file folders with artist masters, and a CD ROM (including questions and answers presented in a slide show about each artist). Holly gave a presentation showing how the slide shows work.

Parent volunteer's totes contain: supplies, instructions and information on artists.

McCornack will be starting with Mary Cassatt. Because the K-3rd grade has a portraits/people & places grant, teachers felt that this artist would be a good fit. Students will be learning about Cassatt's style prior to their art museum field trip.

Curriculum Night & Watermelon Feed

Discussion took place around the timing of curriculum night and the watermelon feed. There is a concern about low turnout for some classes on curriculum night. Question about the timing of curriculum night were also brought up. It was noted that many factors go into scheduling these events, including teacher requests. Tasha noted that having all grade levels curriculum nights on the same evening would make it easier to obtain translators and to provide day care.