

Cedar Island Elementary PTO Meeting Agenda

Thursday, December 8, 2016

6:30 pm

Welcome & Introductions

Brandy Gerth

Attendance: 10 parents, 4 staff (Barb Lindsay, Dan Wald, Cindy Stoa, Michelle Sabinski)

Old Business

Turkey BINGO

Kim Landstad

- Made almost \$1000 at this fundraising event. Next year an adult needs to be in charge of the Bingo card exchange table; this year the 5th graders helped out. PTO bought the Bingo cards this year so next year profits should be higher. Book Fair coupons were a big hit as a prize.

Butter Braids

Katie Heule / Dawn Lanie / Amber Burke

- Sales are done. Dawn & Amber helping out this year to take over next year. Waited until Thursday to turn in order forms. Profit of over \$4000! This will be a good goal for future budgets. Tuesday, December 20th is the delivery date. Katie still looking for volunteers to help hand out on the delivery date. Butter Braids now offers frozen cookie dough at \$16 per unit. PTO thinks it will be a good addition to this fundraiser.

Book Fair

Candee Ebeling

- Total sales was over \$7500; profit just under \$2000. School gets Scholastic dollars to use. These are distributed between the classrooms, the media center and Turkey Bingo Book Fair certificates.

Conference Catering

Katie Heule / Beth Burggraff

- Beth took over from Katie this year. Not a lot of food left over. Need to ask for more contributions for the Spring conferences? Staff doesn't think so. It was just the right amount. Staff very thankful for the food.

Reports

Treasurer's Report

Sara Hanzlik / Kari Jansen

- YTD Income \$21,410 (budget for the year is \$39,295). YTD Expenses \$12645 (budget for the year is \$39,295). Do we need to buy planners for the 5th graders next year? Some students are using their iPads to keep track of homework assignments.

Principal's Report

Dan Wald

- Recognize November has been a busy month for volunteers; thanks all the volunteers for their dedication.
- On-line conference scheduling was overall successful, but there were a few hiccups. Asked parents in attendance about their experience. Parents liked the ability to schedule themselves and get conferences back-to-back for all kids in one family. Confusion with two teachers with the last name Johnson as there was no indication of which one they were. Loved that there wasn't extra paper. Liked the ability to change the conference time if needed.
- David LaRoche will be scheduled to come to school in March as a guest author.

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- Winter break is coming. Friday, December 23rd first day off; back to school Tuesday, January 3rd. Some parents would prefer to have a 2 week break. Dan encouraged them to let the school office know their preference.

Volunteer Update

Barb Lindsay

- Holiday boutique almost over this week.
- Bobcat Council helped at the holiday boutique. Loved the buttons. Also planning a pajama day for the school the last day before break. Pennies for Patients campaign will begin right after winter break. This will be their first service project for the year.
- Volunteering for field trips will be standardized so parents will have a better chance to participate if they want to.

Teacher's Report

Specialists

- Kindergarten: Making gingerbread houses this week. More candy in their mouths than on the houses ☺ Thank you PTO for supporting our K classes. Learning about winter holidays around the world.
- 1st grade: Busy learning about character traits and visualization. Looking forward to reading celebration this Friday to celebrate the nearly 44,000 minutes we read.
- 2nd grade: Holidays around the world in social studies. Enjoying math talks in math to develop stronger number sense. Mrs. Packer, GE teacher, coming into classrooms to teach a variety of lessons.
- 3rd grade: Writing realistic fiction stories in writer's workshop. In social studies using Chrome books to study and explore ancient Egypt. We are looking forward to the Physics of Force field trip in January at the UofM, which is only \$4 for the transportation.
- 4th: Working on summarizing fiction & non-fiction text so that we may begin our book reviews. Just finished multi-digit addition & subtraction unit, and looking forward to beginning multi-digit multiplication after break. We want to throw a shout out to PTO for the holiday boutique. The students love the opportunity to shop for others.
- 5th: Monday was the beginning of a new trimester. Continue to use iPads to further show our learning. Funding has been obtained to purchase OZObots through DonorsChoose website. Students will be using the OZObots to explore coding.
- Thank you from the staff for conference catering. Provided a large signed card to share.

New Business

Holiday Boutique

Barb Lindsay

- Kids so excited about the holiday boutique. One commented, "This is the very first time I get to shop by myself." Parents liked the option to allow them to 'keep the change'. In a transition this year. Should invite Lisa Skov to talk about the logistics of pulling this off. We need some additional volunteers to help out next year. High school students have been coming in the afternoon to help wrap gifts, and this has been a BIG help.

Art Adventures

Barb Lindsay

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- Volunteers have been in training. They'll be bringing lessons back to the classrooms in January. The coordinator for this program has a 5th grader this year so next year looking for a new coordinator.

Amazon Smile

Brandy Gerth / Taryn Kubelbeck

- 0.05% of sales comes back to the school if Cedar Island is chosen as the charity of choice. Cindy linked this to the PTO page. Will be using other methods to get the word to parents: email, PTO Facebook page, newsletter. First check was a little less than \$50 but expect more to come. Brandy mentioned Thrivent also has a program that supports schools.

5th Grade DonorsChoose.org campaign

Taryn Kuebelbeck

- PTO curious to understand more about this. 5th grade OZObots were bought through DonorsChoose. Does there need to be some way to screen altruistic organizations like DonorsChoose before moving forward with them? Do these funds stay with the teachers or with the school? Why didn't the teachers come to the PTO to ask for funds? Parents like the program, and PTO wants to fund them. Do the teachers think PTO has limited funds, or only fund certain activities? This isn't true. Dan W. will remind the teachers that the PTO is here to support them, and there is money available. PTO & staff agreed that it's okay to go through a program like DonorsChoose to raise funds (this is an altruistic site that pairs donors with schools); however, if sufficient funds aren't raised, PTO can be a resource to fund the rest rather than going directly to parents. PTO also interested in learning more about the OZO bots.

Ending Items

Last minute additions, comments

- Fundraising discussion: Is this a good opportunity to allow parents to donate in a different way? Many parents express their desire to simply contribute to the school so that 100% of the dollars go directly to the school. Staff and PTO both think this is a good opportunity to think of new ways to allow parents, and perhaps outside altruistic organizations, to contribute to the school. Teachers may have more ideas about fundraising as well.

Adjournment: Adjourned at 7:57pm

Next PTO Meeting: Thursday, January 5th at 6:30 pm

Thank you for being a part of Cedar Island's PTO!

2016-2017 PTO Officers
Brandy Gerth, President
Taryn Kuebelbeck, Vice President
Lara Gilbert, Secretary
Sara Hanzlik, Treasurer
Kari Jansen, Asst. Treasurer

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