

Otisville Elementary February PTO Meeting

February 18, 2010

Josephine Whitehurst
Staci Doty & Kelly Fedrezzi
Jennifer Logedo
Sally Ann Clayton
Secretary

Chairperson
Co-Chairpersons
Treasurer

Assistant Principal's Report: Vincent Biele

Our past events:

5th Grade Band Concert was held in January. About ninety 5th graders performed various instruments. They sounded great. Mrs. Fenfert did a wonderful job preparing the students for the concert. It's amazing how fast they learned their instruments. They've only been playing since October.

The NED Show was a great character building educational show. This show tied in with our school theme "Helping Hands with caring Hearts". The students loved this interactive show; they especially loved the yo-yos. We did not anticipate the huge demand for yo-yos.

Jump Rope for Heart: A representative from the American Heart Association came to talk to students about the importance of diet and exercise. Students will jump rope next week to raise money for the American Heart Association.

PTO Young Lady/Special Gentleman Dance, K - 2: We had a great turnout. Everyone had a wonderful time.

Upcoming Events:

2/20	Odyssey of the Mind Competition
2/20	PTO Young Lady/Special Gentleman Snow Tubing, Grades 3 – 5
2/22 – 2/25	Jump Rope for Heart
3/4 – 3/5	Mad Science Program

Treasurer's Report: Jennifer Logedo:

Jennifer Logedo could not be with us tonight. More details to follow in March.

Motion made, second, and approved.

Approved Minutes/Correspondences: Sally Ann Clayton

Minutes were reviewed from the January meeting. No questions were asked.

Motion made, second, and approved.

Guest Speaker: David Alberts from Aramark

David Alberts, from Aramark (our breakfast and lunch supplier), came to answer questions from a few concerned parents about our lunch program. David re-emphasized that our District lunch program meets the guidelines set by New York State. For every lunch for grades K – 2, five components must be served: bread, protein, vegetable, fruit and milk. For grades 3 – 5, three components must be served: Questions were asked about fat content in some of the foods such as popcorn chicken and nachos. David will investigate and report back to the school.

Student Council will get involved to find out what foods “students like” and what ideas students may have about the lunch menu. We want students to get involved and give their opinions. One parent suggestion was to exchange milk with juice. If your child does not like milk, can he/she get a juice container in place of milk? Another suggestion is to serve organic milk.

Aramark would like to meet with the PTO on a quarterly basis to keep communication lines open. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Aramark.

Old and On-Going Business:

Box Tops for Education: Box tops will be collected until June. Box Tops collected through this month will be counted for this school year. The school has made over \$2200 this year in box tops. Thank you for everyone's support.

Ink Cartridge Recycling/Target Charge Card/Campbell's Soup Labels: 2900 pts have been tallied for Campbell Soup labels. We can order from the catalogue certain items for the school. Staples year to date \$660 in rewards. We will receive a payout in March for all the cell phones collected. We have earned 19,736 points with Price Chopper. With these points, we will be able to pick some fun items for the playground for recess time. We have earned \$110 for Target; we should receive a payout in March.

New & Upcoming Events:

Young Lady/Special Gentleman Dance, K – 2: Everyone had a great time. Pictures will be sent out next week.

Young Lady/Special Gentleman Snow Tubing, 3 - 5: This Saturday, February 20 from 10am – 12 pm. The PTO will supply the hot chocolate; snack donations are appreciated.

Game Night: We will cancel game night this month. With the cold weather, we anticipate a very low turnout.

Tricky Tray: Will be held on March 19th. Some donations we've received are tickets to the Westchester Dinner Theatre, Harness Racing Museum, and tickets to see the Renegades. If you are out somewhere shopping or out to dinner, please ask if the shop or restaurant would be interested in donating to the Tricky Tray. We have tax exempt letters that you can provide to them.

Spring Picture Fundraiser: Spring pictures will be held on March 3rd. Every student will be photographed and pictures will be sent home. There is NO obligation to buy.

Mad Science: This assembly will take place on March 4th and 5th for all students.

Adult Mixer: We are trying to confirm April 17th at the Otisville Firehouse. We would like to have a DJ. We need about 60 people to attend and the cost would be about \$15 per person.

Busy Bees' Preschool said they would watch our children for the night; \$20 for the first child and \$15 for the second child.

We need about \$500 for essentials. Motion made, second, and approved.

Book Fair: The book fair will take place from March 9th through March 11th. Each class will shop for books. Books start at \$3.99 and end at about \$11.00. Five dollar vouchers will be given out to needy students. There will also be a family night on Wednesday, March 7th in the gym which will allow families to shop for books.

A School Garden by Matt Kansy: Matt Kansy is a nutritionist who is interested in creating a “School Garden” outside on school grounds. His wife, Maria Kansy , is our school nurse. Both Matt and Maria (their children attend Otisville) would like to see our school community come together and get involved in planting a garden, watching fruits and vegetables grow, and enjoying them. Every student can be a part of this garden by first growing seeds in milk cartoons.

Matt believes that if each student takes part in developing and caring for this garden, he or she would be more excited to taste these fruits and vegetables. To create a garden together, students would have to cooperate and work with each other. This helps build character and commitment.

To get started we would need a donation of tools, bags of soil and some seeds. Matt has been talking with Mrs. Reh and Mr. Biele about starting this garden. More information will follow.

Please come and view the film called “Fresh” on March 3rd at 6:30 pm in the gym. This film talks about both conventional and organic methods of growing vegetables and fruits.

Thank you for coming. Our next meeting will be held on March 10th.