

Otisville Elementary November PTO Meeting

November 12, 2009

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

Chairperson
Co-Chairpersons
Treasurer

Josephine welcomes everyone.

Principal's Report: Alice Reh

What a great PTO turnout tonight. It's wonderful to see the caring parents who give their time to come and see what's happening in their child's school.

Our theme this year is "Helping Hands with Caring Hearts". The PTO funded a great event for all grades. Author/songwriter John Farrell entertained students and taught them about character education, being kind and respectful to others. The students really enjoyed listening to him. Through his books and songs, he delivers very positive messages.

We are collecting personal care items and food items for Minisink Cares. Bins have been set up in the lobby area to collect these items.

This month we will be doing something called the Fundred Project. This project was developed by an artist. Students design their own dollar bill and then their dollars are matched with real dollar bills at Washington D.C. Money will be given to post Katrina.

Assistant Principal's Report: Vincent Biele

We are looking into a character education show called The Ned Show to occur sometime during the second half of the year. A company puts on this show for all kids. NED stands for:

N – Never Give Up
E – Encourage Others
D – Do Your Best

This show promotes character education and making good decisions. Its mission is to encourage and inspire students everywhere.

To book this show, we can either pay, or see the show for free. If we choose the free option, the company will leave merchandise at the school to be sold. We only pay for what is sold. For more information on NED, please go to www.nedshow.com.

Upcoming Events:

11/19 – Evening Parent/Teacher Conferences
11/20 – 12:20 dismissal; afternoon Parent/Teacher Conferences
11/25 – Students off; Full day Parent/Teacher Conferences
12/2 – Winter Concert 7pm
12/3 – Snow Date Winter Concert 7pm

Treasurer’s Report: Jennifer Logedo:

This month there is no new information.

Motion made, second, and approved.

Approved Minutes/Correspondences: Sally Ann Clayton

Sal reviewed the minutes from the October meeting. No questions were asked. Motion made, second, and approved.

Guest Speaker: Arlene Dellerio with Hometown Helpers

Hometown Helpers is a community outreach program geared towards helping elderly and disabled people. Our mission, as a community outreach program with the Village of Otisville and Town of Mount Hope, is to provide a support system for our community seniors and adults with disabilities in their goal to remain independent. Hometown Helpers provide local transportation, light household and yard chores, paperwork (bookkeeping, letter writing), grocery shopping, minor home repairs, etc.

If you (or someone you know) can donate a small amount of your time each week or each month and become a hometown helper, you will make a world of difference for these seniors. This is a way of giving back to your community.

For more information, you can call the Village of Otisville at 845-386-5172 or Town of Mt. Hope at 845-386-1460.

Old and On-Going Business:

Box Tops for Education: (Cindy Petito) The school has made \$1500.

Ink Cartridge Recycling/Campbell's Soup Labels: Keep sending in your old ink cartridges and Campbell Soup labels.

School Pictures: Retakes will be Monday, November 16th.

New & Upcoming Events:

Identikid: This program, of creating a child's personal ID card, was held November 5th; it ran very smoothly. All students' names, who participated, were put into a hat and one name was pulled. A kindergarten student won a \$50 Walmart gift card. A big thank you to Mary Lesko, who in the past, has been in charge of this program. Staci Doty will take over next year.

Theatre Works: "The Lion, The Witch & The Wardrobe" was a huge success. Grades 3 – 5 students really loved the play. In June, Theatre Works will put on "Max & Ruby" for Grades K – 2. Preschoolers are welcome. The PTO would like to thank Mary Lesko for working with Theatre Works and getting the school the best productions. Next year Cassie Melton will take over.

Fall Fundraiser: David's Cookie Dough has finally arrived. Pick up is Friday, November 13 between 4pm and 7pm.

Young Gentlemen/Special Lady Roller Skating: This event was canceled because only ten boys were participating. Another idea for a Grade 3 – 5 boys' event, is playing baseball or basketball. Boys could play against moms/dads. More information will follow.

Zumba: This event happened 10/23 and everyone had a good time. About 60 students/parents participated.

Fall Festival: The Fall Festival was held on Friday, October 30th for grades 3-5. There was music and dancing. Each student received a pumpkin. All the students had a great time.

Game Night: This bingo based game will be held on November 20 at 7pm. Buy one card for two dollars and each additional card you buy will cost one dollar. One board game per family is allowed. After that, winnings include school supplies, travel games, etc.

PTO Membership: All membership applications are due by November 30th. We do accept applications throughout the school year. Teachers' minigrant applications are also due by November 30th. You must fill out a membership application to apply for a minigrant.

Holiday Workshop: This will occur the week of December 7th. A letter will be sent home towards the end of November with specifics and price ranges. We've been sent many sample items which are geared towards mom, dad, aunt, uncle and pets. We will also be asking for volunteers to help make this workshop successful.

Young Ladies/Special Gentlemen K – 2 Dance: This event will occur in February. \$2500 has been allocated to this dance. Motion made, second, and approved.

Young Ladies/Special Gentlemen Grades 3 – 5: Possible snow tubing may be the event for the older girls. More information will follow in January.

Teachers' Requests and Suggestions:

Tech teacher, Teresia Parker, has two requests:

1. T-Shirts for Odyssey of the Mind. Grade 4 & 5 students did a great job last year as they placed 2nd in competition. Teresia Parker has requested approximately \$100 to \$150 dollars for t-shirts. Motion made, second, and approved.
2. Funding two Electronic Field Trips for Grades 4 & 5. Colonial Williamsburg hosts a series of electronic field trips. These field trips are events that are broadcasted, live, from the Colonial Williamsburg site. In addition to viewing events, students are encouraged to think about the presentation and have the ability to call-in or email questions that will be addressed "live" by the Williamsburg personnel. The cost of each field trip is \$120 for a total cost of \$240. Motion made, second, and approved.

The PTO wishes everyone a wonderful holiday season! Our next meeting will be held on January 20th.