

The 1st Otisville Elementary PTO Meeting

Welcome Back

September 9, 2009

Josephine Whitehurst welcomes faculty, staff, and parents to the first PTO meeting for the 09/10 school year. The new officers for this school year are:

Josephine Whitehurst	Chairperson
Staci Doty & Kelly Fedrezzi	Co-Chairpersons
Jennifer Logedo	Treasurer
Sally Ann Clayton	Secretary

Principal's Report: Alice Reh

I was very excited about the start of the school year. The first day of school ran so smoothly. The students were confident, well behaved and seemed very comfortable in school. Kindergarten students did a great job transitioning to school. This sets the tone for a great year.

Our theme this year is "Helping Hands with Caring Hearts". The focus will be on building character education. We want to create and build more of a K-5 community. We want to encourage our students to be caring and empathetic. A committee will be created containing both faculty and staff to brainstorm ideas. Parents, if you have any ideas to help build on character education, please let us know. Our first character building activity this year is Pinwheels for Peace, Monday 9/21. All students will create pinwheels which is a concept of peace – getting along with your neighbor. We will bring the school together, as a whole, outside.

School Messenger System: Through this system, parents will be alerted about the early dismissal drill on Friday, September 18th. Students will be dismissed 15 minutes early and there will be no Kids' Club. The call will be made the week of September 14. The school messenger system will also be used to inform parents about early school closings or when after school activities are canceled.

Assistant Principal's Report: Vincent Biele

"What a great first day of school"! The students did such a good job coming back to school.

I want to thank the PTO for all the great events during the last school year and I look forward to another great year.

Some additional events coming up:

- 9/15 Bus Safety for Kindergarten;
- 9/16 Open House for K-2
- 9/18 Early dismissal drill at 3:15
- 9/23 Open House for 3-5

Guest Speaker: Elaine Lybolt (YMCA Kids' Club)

The YMCA Kid's Club is a childcare program which operates from 6:45 am until 8:50 am before school and 3:30 pm until 6 pm after school. It is also available on half days from 12:20 until 6pm. This is the ninth year that the YMCA has been in charge of this program. Some events that occurred this past year include: a martial arts demonstration and a visit from a local canine unit. The YMCA thanked the parents, faculty & staff for all their support throughout the year.

The YMCA also thanked the PTO for their continued support and Marisa Lynch for the beautiful two page layout in the yearbook. More information is available in the office for anyone interested in Kids' Club.

Treasurer's Report: Jennifer Logedo:

Jennifer reported that there is \$2,500.00 available to spend. This money is the result of over allocation from the school planners. Motion made, second, and approved.

Approved Minutes/Correspondences: Sally Ann Clayton

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

Old and On-Going Business:

Box Tops: Cindy Petito will be in charge again this year. Last year, the school made \$2000. Each month, your child will bring home a sheet to collect box tops. Each box top is worth 10 cents. For more information, please visit boxtopsforeducation.com. Thank you Cindy for your hard work.

Hannaford Helps: When you buy three or four items, you get coupons that you turn in at the service desk or send into school. Thank you to Cassie Milton for your hard work.

Target Charge Card: You need to register your Target charge card for the school (at the service desk or online). For every item you purchase, a certain percentage is given back to the school. Please go to target.com for more information.

Ink Cartridge Recycling Program: We collect old ink cartridges and recycle them to Staples. A percentage is given back to the school..

Thank you to Valerie Joyce for handling the two activities mentioned above.

Boo Hoo Breakfast: Great turnout. Many kindergarten parents came after sending their children off to school. There was a lot of donated food. Thank you to Josephine Whitehurst and Staci Doty and all who've helped make this event successful.

Welcome Back Breakfast for Faculty and Staff: Thank you to all who've helped. Again, we had plenty of food which the faculty and staff really enjoyed.

Yearbook: Marisa Lynch has a meeting next Tuesday, September 15th, to discuss the cover for the upcoming yearbook. She needs someone to volunteer to take pictures of all school events.

New & Up-Coming Business:

Fall Fundraisers: Both fundraisers, David's Cookie Dough and Little Caesar's Pizza, have been distributed to all students.

Open House: September 16 for K-2; September 23 for 3-5. The PTO will have a table available with sign up sheets for parents to help in upcoming events. If parents can give a small amount of their time, we can guarantee great success throughout the year.

Game Night: Our first game night is Friday, September 25. This game is Bingo based. Students can win board games and school supplies.

School Pictures: All pictures will take place on Thursday, October 1st. Lifetouch will be at the school all day. Flyers will be sent home the week of September 14th.

PTO Membership: All membership fees are due by November 30th. PTO dues come back to school in the form of a mini grant to help support teachers.

Book Swap: October 15th & October 16th. Each student can bring four or five books to swap. Every student will receive at least one book. We are in desperate need of chapter books. Please donate if you can.

Young Gentlemen/Special Lady Roller Skating: Grades 3rd, 4th, & 5th. This occurs October 25 in Matamoras at American Skating. Last year, everyone had a great time. For this event, we are in need of a photographer. This is a great opportunity for a high school or college student who studies photography. The K-2 "Young Gentlemen/Special Lady" event will occur in the spring. More talk is needed to determine the best activity for this age group.

Craft Night: We will have two set dates in October and one date in November. More information will be available at the next meeting.

Suggestions: To make money for the school, we had two suggestions. The first included Zumba lessons at the school; charge a small fee at the door for adults, children are free. The second suggestion includes the donation of coats which parents and students can purchase for a small fee. If you have any suggestions, please contact the PTO.

Thank you again for everyone's support. We hope to see you at our next meeting on October 14th.