

**Margaret Beeks PTO Meeting**  
**February 5, 2014 @ 6 pm**

Attendance: Laura Oler, Caroline Mullins, Holly McFall, Faith Taylor, Leslie Kornblith, Dawn Owczarski, Susan Thompson, Melody Warnick, Nichole Marsden, Rhonda Burch, Ivette Valenzuela, Jenny Lo, Heather Fisher-Clarke, Bill Sembello, Micah Mefford

Welcome

Updates:

Survey went out from PTO. The PTO newsletter (Beeks Speaks) is not getting to everyone. Mr. Mefford sends to the first email on file, so husbands often get the email. To fix this, we will send the newsletter out through the PTO mailing system (via class parents). We will also send home a paper copy. In the survey 75% said they were getting emails from class parents. We hope to improve on that.

Readathon: Starts Feb 6. Packets are ready. It lasts 3 weeks. There is a video on the website explaining how it works, as well as instructions in the packet. There are lots of prizes, including Dairy Queen participation coupons, Cold Stone, Papa John's, Sweet Frog, Carol Lee Donuts, Ben and Jerry Coupons, etc. Students must bring in weekly minute records to participate in the prize raffle. Helpers will be needed at the end of the Readathon to tally for prizes. In addition, our Read Across America book is *A Cricket in Time Square* and is kicking off simultaneously with the readathon.

Guest Author: The guest author is Madelyn Rosenburg. She is coming March 11. Some of her books include *Canary in the Coal Mine* and *Happy Birthday, Tree*. She is a former MBE student! She would like to do 3 sessions with the students. We discussed book orders and why they were stopped. Mostly they are a lot of extra work.

Nikki Giovanni is also coming, probably in March.

International Week: Feb 17-21<sup>st</sup>. The map showing where student families came from is up on our bulletin board. There will be announcements by students. The 20<sup>th</sup> is the International Night "Taste of Countries" celebration, with several countries being represented.

Mother Son Square Dance: March 12, 6-8 pm. There will be a band with a caller. Refreshments include chili and pies. There will be a leather craft and hay bales in the decorations.

Rose Court Father Daughter Dance: April 9, 6-8 pm.

Restaurant Nights: We have a restaurant night scheduled for PK's on March 5 from 5-9 pm. PK's is also willing to provide food at cost for other school events. Bull and Bones restaurant night is May 19. Teacher Appreciation: There will be a teacher appreciation luncheon on Weds, Feb 19. The theme is international to go along with international week. A link should be added to the website so people can volunteer for it there.

Skate night: Adventure World management has changed, so we are starting over again. It needs to be scheduled a month in advance. We can schedule Mon – Weds. Possible dates are last week in March or April 30 (early release). We need to re-negotiate terms.

Box Tops: Our totals include May, so they look better than they are. We have about 11,000. We are on track based on last years' totals. Our goal is 20,000. Other fund-raising opportunities include an online program with Kellogg's, Amazon smile (use smile.amazon.com), Target.

Pop Tabs: We are collecting them in 2 liter bottles, and we are doing well! We need more 2 liter bottles. There actually is more aluminum in the tab than the can because the can is mostly not aluminum. Proceeds go to help the Ronald McDonald house.

Kroger cards: Get them from Faith.

Directory: Faith is working on a new directory that will include new families.

We would like PTO to have a representative at school board meetings to observe and report. Holly went to the last one and reported: Dr. Graham is currently the acting superintendent. The budget is the main item of discussion. There is a \$5 million shortfall this year. We are also getting a new security system.

Principal's Report: Report cards will come out on Feb 10.

Feb 13 is the next brown bag lunch. It is an open discussion, so bring questions.

May 12 – Jun 6 is the SOL window. March 10 – 21 is the 5<sup>th</sup> grade writing SOL window.

Security system: wiring is done and permits have been submitted. It will be done in the next 1-2 months. All visitors will need a driver's license to get in. It will only operate during school hours. We will need extra office help at lunch and the end of the day.

Budget: Although there was a 2% raise last year, teachers were required to fund their own retirement, so the take-home was less than previous years.

Treasury Report: Box tops made \$1500, Kroger \$1300, and \$1100 for January. We paid the 2<sup>nd</sup> teacher stipend. We are on track.

2 fund request from Mrs. Gilliam for music field trips for the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> graders were submitted and approved. The funds will pay for busses. The amounts were \$203.28 for the 3<sup>rd</sup> graders and \$167.28 for the 2<sup>nd</sup> graders.

We discussed the fact that we are not reaching parents with the PTO meetings. Some suggestions were to hold them at Lanridge Apartments or Nellie's Cave Park when the weather is nice, hold them on the weekend, and have pizza at the meetings.

Mr. Sembello brought up that he would like to see something done to improve our fence.