**PTO Meeting Notes**

**October 19th, 2016**

**PTO Board Members in Attendance**

Hubert Gordon – Principal

Melissa O’Neill, Jacque Sanchez – Co-Presidents

Michelle Mozingo – Co- Treasurer

Maya Noren, Eve Zucker**- Co-VPs, Communication**

Gena Russo – Recording Secretary

Alyssa Bernstein – Co –VP, Corresponding Secretary

Carin Kalt - Educational Grants

**Fall Festival, Tara Gravel**

* With rain in the forecast, fall festival will be moved to the cafeteria and gym on Saturday October 22nd
* 120 people already pre-paid
* Tara will order extra cash boxes
* Tamika will sell spirit wear
* Food – start cooking earlier to avoid long lines

**Apex – Alyssa Bernstein**

* Distribution centers in South Carolina have been flooded with recent hurricane therefore delaying shipment of bracelet prizes to all students
  + Expected to arrive and be delivered on Friday 10/21
  + Dedicated Apex newsletter via email will be sent on Tuesday 10/25
  + Re-communicate via ParentLink and letter home that the fun run is annual and in the fall moving forward

**Tour Your School Day, November 17th**

* Need Volunteers!
* Possibly reach out to room parents and have them be leads on giving tours
* 5th grade students will also participate
* Start time TBD

**Halloween Parade, Friday 10/31**

* Operate on a ½ schedule with no afternoon specials
* Parade starts at 1:30

**Anti-bullying campaign, Melissa O’Neill**

* A parent came forward offering to head up an anti-bullying campaign
  + Specifically, kids need to know what to do once they see bullying
  + Educational program to take place in the classroom – possibly by giving info to room parents and having them communicate
  + Melissa to reach out to parent to come up with ideas since the board felt this could be a good program

**Tutoring Program – Melissa O’Neill**

* New program for the school
* Kindergarten parent and former teacher Katie Champi will chair
* Katie to come back with ideas on how to introduce to the teachers and get parent volunteers
* Refer to volunteers as “Testing Buddies” to help the teachers while they complete testing

**Auction, Melissa O’Neill**

* In need of donated items. If anyone has a contact who owns a restaurant please consider reaching out
* Notice will go up on FB looking for donations
* Looking to record 2 kids per class speaking about their teacher and why they are special
  + Room parents will be asked to coordinate
  + Beth Knight – will take videos and put them together in a video montage to be played on auction night
* 5th graders will be asked to video a “thank you” of appreciation to each of their teachers starting from K and up

**Grants – Carin Kalt**

* Looking into grants we could apply for –including Art Grants
* Art teachers are looking for drying racks and cork strips for the art show (makes hanging up and removing art easier for volunteers)
* Art teachers need to come back to us with material totals
* In the meantime Alyssa will move forward with looking into purchasing 1 drying rack for Mrs. Weiss

**Maker Space, Maya Noren**

* Looking for a teacher to manage the Maker Space over all – possibly the new science enrichment teacher
* Idea is to initially offer the Maker Space as a Brain Buster to 15 students and then open up to the school at large
* 4 stations will be offered
  + Legos or Kinex, Snap Circuits
  + Crafts – fabric, beads
  + Stop Motion Animation
  + TBD – 4th station
* Ms. Gerber has a lot of craft material but looking for Board approval to purchase:
  + Small science kits
  + Invention kits
  + Glue, supplies
* Items can be added as time goes on but for starters board gave approval for Carin to purchase science kits
* Newsletter to announce donations are needed for Kinex and Legos
* Maya will look at current Lego supply NE may have

**School Store, Maya Noren**

* School store in the past generated a lot of PTO funds and school spirit
* Sell Northeast material – pencils, erasers etc.
* Possibly have 5th graders run store with a parent or teacher lead
* Chair needs to start by coordinating with 5th grade teachers
* Kart will go to classrooms when teachers sign up – 1x a month for example

**Donuts for Dads/Caregivers, Maya Noren**

* Idea of program is to give busy dads a chance to spend time in the school and visit the classroom
* Event to be planned in January to give dads ample time to clear morning schedule and attend (7:30am start time)
* Space apart from Father Daughter Dance
* Alert teachers of this event in case they can come in early and meet the Dads
* Possibly hold event in the gym (not cafeteria)to avoid bus drop off

**Curriculum Newsletter, Alyssa Bernstein**

* Newsletter will move to bi-monthly to allow for enough updates
* Teachers need to start submitting in full sentences
* Need K&1 teacher leads to be at the next PTO meeting to discuss updates

**Gym, Alyssa Bernstein**

* Mr. Bradley would like to bring in a Latin dance group to teach Latin moves
* Possibly offer as a gym class or have them come in for an assembly
* Mr. Bradley needs to gather more information

**Great American Smoke Out, Alyssa Bernstein**

* Assembly to be set up for next year – Have Dr. Michael Bernstein speak to 4th and 5th graders

**Enrichment Ideas, Eve Zucker and Carin Kalt**

* Math Museum
  + Company is located in NY. They bring stations to enrich students with math and science for a day.
  + NE teachers can lead the stations to save cost of having a facilitator
  + $950/day
* Juniper Joe
  + $300 / 3 hours
  + Invent/build items from scratch
  + Eve to look into if he can do an assembly or if he visits classrooms
  + Attends schools all over Westchester and the Bronx
* Story Pirates
  + Company that works with schools to take stories that kids write and actors act them out
  + Tickets are sold to the show – students who wrote stories are given recognition
  + Possibly pick one grade to do the show – stories can be written individually or as a class