

PTA Meeting September 22nd, 2008

Call to order... All Welcomed

Principal's report – Mrs. Seide thanked parents and executive board for a solid start of the school year, and thanks to PTA for efforts over the summer in regards to the play ground. Thanks to parents for help with welcome back picnic and ice cream social. New parents expressed feeling welcome as well as thanks for new parent PTA meeting (kindergarten). Meet the teacher was well attended and informative. High hopes for this year. Curriculum maps available on district website. Encourage you to tap into them. Students will be taking assessments; there are workshops for grades 4 and 5, Social Studies assessments will be in mid Nov. Oct 2nd will be a workshop with Mrs. Mulvany. Students will be taking ELA's (grades 3, 4 and 5) in January. A workshop will be available on Oct 16th for parent information, these are posted on website. Check website "in your back pack" for information.

- Mad science which is always a favorite will be starting as of Oct 16th. Program will be on Thursdays, Separated by grades 1 and 2 and then grades 3-5.
- Extra help is available; teachers are avail 2 x's per week. You can find a copy of the extra help schedule on the West Nyack website.
- Oct 17th interim progress reports will be available to inform you if children are in need of help
- Nov. 4th is parent teacher conference day, if you haven't scheduled an appt already, be sure to do so.
- A 3rd kindergarten section has opened now that there was an increase in kindergarten enrollment, thanks to everyone for their understanding.
- No further reports of head lice have been found.
- Emergency contact information is important to get in, please do so if you haven't already. Or if updates need to be made please do so.
- Please let us know if there are issues with the Bus, and ensure your child wears their seatbelts and stays in their seat at all times.

Treasurers report - was reviewed by Karen Moore, as Purnima was not available, Camilla Levine motioned for approval for budget changes which was seconded by Trish Dunbar. All voted unanimously in agreement with budget changes.

Corresponding secretary – Heather Allinger -

Old business:

- **Playground report** – Presented by Eileen Walker – Lois Canye, Karen Moore and herself are working on the committee for rebuilding playground, there are 3 bids currently for rebuilding, one is very low, however we are still looking into this. Because we're a little skeptical at this time. Looking into quality, heavier plastic better hinges,

etc. We are waiting for booklet from Frank Stefanelli; we want to replace part by part, piece by piece to get what we want and possibly in our school colors. We may have 10 thousand donated and another 10 thousand if the deductible is waved. Once everything is ordered we are told it will take 3 weeks for delivery. Once everything has arrived hopefully they will build quickly. Waiting still for catalog form Frank to complete this process. Eventually plans are to put the little park in back and then build the new Wonderpark in the behind the little park. A plan will go into effect to share the field space to ensure safety with Upper and lower grades as their parks will be in close proximity to each other.

New business:

- **Instructed vote from council –**
 - 2008-2009 photography program – scholarship program for 10 scholarships for north and south each for 10 thousand each vote taken with 57 yes, 0 no's (unanimous approval)
 - National PTA convention to send 2 members - \$125 for this purpose, all in agreement
 - Annual interest earned, council scholarship award - all voted yes.

- **Halloween fun Night** – headed and presented by Dawn Smith and Karina Ellis – thanks for all who have signed up we need about 100 volunteers. Please sign up see Dawn and/or Karina for details. Signup sheets are going around. Please give your email address for contact info, if not then phone #. We will try to give first choice for committees however if we are over staffed we will have to make other arrangements, 7-9pm will be time for Halloween Fun Night, We will need about 10 Volunteers for clean up and the goal is to finish clean up by 10 pm or earlier. We have some team leaders but still need more team leaders, a team leader is ready to be in charge of a particular committee, and they make sure their committee is going as it should be. Still need someone to dress up as a scarecrow for pictures. Trying to minimize amt of people in this building. Only West Nyack elementary students and siblings up to 6th grade, we will have wrist bands not tickets. Volunteers, parents, kids, student volunteers with varying colors for wrist bands. Student volunteers will need to fill out an application and contracts will be given for parents to sign and be accountable for them, if the Student Volunteers are not holding up to their responsibilities their parents will be asked to come get them. Clean up will start at 9pm. List of class parents will be reviewed when available. All class parents will be responsible for working 1 hour. We need to keep # of people under control to meet fire code. We will turn people away from the door; tickets need to be purchased ahead of time. There will be no exceptions to the amount of tickets sold. No friends, family from out of WNE. We would like this to be fun for parents and the kids. Hour of work can be requested and we will work our best to accommodate everyone's needs

- **Fall Fundraiser** - Trish Dunbar and Tara Clark – There was a discrepancy between how prizes will be awarded (amount of money earned for sales vs. amount of items sold). Reports will be done by the company to determine how a child gets their incentive prizes. The fundraiser has been extended to Oct 8th. As of today \$2,997.00 has been totaled for fundraiser earnings, we get half of monies earned from fall fundraiser so we really need to sell more to make our budget work, we are budgeted for a proposed \$6,500 earnings from Fall Fundraiser in order to stay on target with this we need to sell a total of at least \$13,000 in sales, which we are currently far behind. It is the earnings from our fall fundraiser that allow us to budget for other programs, without our expected sales we may have to cancel some programs as funds will not be available. As an additional incentive to encourage further sales the First 75 orders received will get a little piggy (cute little Pig figurine that children would like). In addition, Each Class needs 50% participation in the fall fundraiser to earn a pig for our annual pig race.
- **50th anniversary celebration** – we will have an open house November 21st (a Friday) we will open our school to the community, with pictures, tours, and refreshments. If you'd like to help that evening or if you have some memorabilia you'd like to lend for the event please contact Laurie Park, will need help with refreshments and tours. The day before Thanksgiving Wednesday November 26th, we will do the time capsule with the kids. Looking for donations to exhibit if families have been here in the past.

Committee chairs introduced – introduction of committee members who have and continue to head committees.

- Membership – Camilla Levine
- PALP –
- Plant Sale – Veronica Archul
- Publishing Center – Trish Dunbar and Tara Clark
- Reflections – Lee Shanley
- School Pictures – Margaret Aleamo
- School Store – Tara Clark
- Shared Decision Making – Kathy Klassen
- 50th Anniversary Celebration – Laurie Park
- Healthy Treat Sale – Sarah McTasney
- Book Fair – Rosanne Routolo
- Boxtops – Lynn Mueller
- Class Parents – Eileen Walker and Mary Mileo
- Cultural Arts – Giny Szymanski
- Echo – Karen Moore, and Johnna Hraska
- Fifth Grade Moving UP – Camilla Levine
- Halloween Fun Night – Karina Ellis and Dawn Smith

- Health and Safety – Kathy Klassen
- Holiday Boutique – Trish Dunbar
- Hospitality –
- Kindergarten Orientation – Melissa Tacetta and Johnna Hraska

Additional signup sheets are available in the back please feel free to ask questions.

Hospitality - Post meeting the Board Discussed Hospitality, and came up with the following schedule which will be followed accordingly:

October – Trish Dunbar

November – Tara Clark

December – Kathy Klassen

January – Laurie Park

February – Lori Greene

March – Kathy Montague

April – Karina Ellis

May – Kelly Morales

Miscellaneous –

- Question asked about security at the after school Y program, Response - this topic is currently being worked on.
- info@wnespta.org – email to get your email address on this.
- Question by Eileen walker, can we make a motion to open scholarship (Washburn and Silberman scholarship) to everyone, not just those who plan to work with children. And can we ensure that the recipient only gets one scholarship. Per Eileen Walker “We are funding money so we should be allowed to make changes to the specifications of the scholarship.” – This topic to be further looked into.

Closing statements – thanks for coming out tonight. We are happy to announce we kept the meeting under an hour – Yeahh!!

Adjournment motion to adjourn by Karina Ellis, Second by Kelly Morales, all in agreement.