

Family Center PTO Meeting - Wednesday, April 17, 2019

Attendees: Lori Holtzman, Liz Florek, Michelle Snyder, Debbie Reilly, Shanon David, Alison Yee, Anne Handley-Fierce and Kami Waldman

President Report (Lori Holtzman): Proposed to have events for the following school year scheduled prior to the beginning of school. Calendar would be added to welcome packet. Presented revised PTO Dues form, it was approved. It will be added to the PTO website. Board positions for next year need to be filled.

Treasurer Report: No treasurer report presented. Debbie raised concern because she has already had 2 scholarship requests totaling \$4,500 and potentially an additional one that would be \$2,232.

Communication (Liz Florek): Email blast to be sent out regarding filing PTO positions for next year.

Teacher Appreciation (Julie Stiles via Lori Holtzman): Teacher Appreciation hosted a fruit and muffin bar from the early release day. Will be sending out sheets for kids to fill out for teachers for teacher appreciation week. Teacher Appreciation week is May 6-10.

Outreach (Alison Yee): Oatmeal drive to very well, collected over 2,300 packets.

Art to Remember (Lori Holtzman): Art to Remember will be done again next year.

Director's Report (Debbie Reilly): The Family Center staff members are continuing their professional learning. Some of our study includes the following:

- The early childhood teachers continue to reflect on their practice by using the text **Really Seeing Children** to look at children's adventures and challenges that include risk. We wonder, "What risks do we take if we don't help children negotiate risky situations on their own?" and "How do we balance safety and risk-taking in outdoor play?"
- Parents as Teachers (PAT) educators continue our reading of **Parenting Without Borders** to look at what we can learn from parents around the world. Recently, we looked at varying approaches to self-esteem and failure. We wonder, "How is failure viewed in different cultures?" and "Is struggle viewed as an opportunity for learning or a blow to a child's self-esteem?"
- Along with the PAT educators, the Stay, Play and Learn facilitators are listening to Brene Brown's audiobook, **The Gifts of Imperfect Parenting**. Her questions help us think about being vulnerable to children, the wisdom of jumping in to solve children's problems when they are sad, and the difference between perfectionism and healthy striving for excellence.

2019-2020 early childhood class enrollment is going well and some classes are already full. At the Ice Cream Social families will receive a list of families enrolled in the program they chose for their child. That list of children will be divided in classrooms in July and families will then receive their child's classroom list. (For example, at the Ice Cream Social, families enrolled in the 4-morning program will receive a list of all children enrolled in the 4-morning program. In July, those families will receive a list of the children in their child's classroom-- Purple or Yellow.)

Family Center staff members thank all families for their participation in PTO! The funds and fun generated by our PTO serves parents, children and staff members. PTO funds and your time have brought our community nature education materials, teacher appreciation treats, scholarships for families in need and playground improvements. WE THANK YOU!

Closing (Lori Holtzman):

Next PTO meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 15, 2019