

## **Family Center PTO Meeting | Wednesday, September 20, 2017**

**Attendees:** Nicole Loiterstein, Lori Holtzman, Amy Nathan, Jennifer Berends, Julie Stiles, Laura Seelbach, Liz Florek, Rachel Pa, Michelle Snyder, Debbie Reilly, Lisa Moore, Chrissie Wojciechowski, Ross Schumaker, Jessica Graetz, Lilly Scharff.

### **Opening & Welcome** (Lori Holtzman)

**Treasure's Report** (Jennifer Berends): The budget for the 2016-2017 school year was presented. Still waiting for final PTO dues to come in. Funds have been slotted for scholarships although at this time there have not been any requests. The PTO collected fewer funds from the Class Picture fundraiser (see below). A motion to approve the annual budget was made by Laura Seelbach and seconded by Julie Stiles. Motion passed.

**School Picture Fundraiser** (Laura Seelbach): The class picture fundraiser has been moved back to the fall for the 2016-2017 school year. Lori Holtzman has agreed to be the photographer. Laura Seelbach will work with Lori, the classroom teachers and the room parents to schedule the photos.

### **Communications Report** (Lori Holtzman on behalf of Kary Spiegel):

- **Buzz Book & PTO Info Sheet:** Kary Spiegel is working on a PTO information sheet that will be distributed to parents with the Buzz Book the first week in October. The purpose of the information sheet is to introduce the PTO to families and share the annual calendar of events.
- **Room Parents:** All classes have a designated room parent. Katie Cotsworth was recently added as the Redbud Room parent. Kary will reach out to the classroom teachers to notify them of their room parent.

### **Outreach Report** (Lilly Scharff): The PTO plans to move forward with two service projects this year.

- **Diaper Drive:** A diaper drive will be scheduled for the first full week in December benefitting St. Louis Diaper Bank. Families will be encouraged to donate opened packages of diapers or make a contribution so that diapers can be purchased at the organization's discounted rate. It has been suggested that the elementary schools be notified of the drive as well as they may have opened packages of diapers to donate.
- **Oatmeal Drive:** The Oatmeal drive will be scheduled will take place in February and benefits Operation Backpack and Operation Food Search.

### **Spirit Wear** (Jessica Graetz): Spirit wear is available for purchase from the Family Center's [website](#).

**Art to Remember** (Jessica Graetz): The Family Center is participating in the Art to Remember fundraiser. This is a creative and simple way to purchase keepsakes customized with your child's artwork and our school earns 33% of all profits. All order forms are due by October 24th and all orders will be shipped in time for the holidays. Jessica has shared the Art to Remember timeline with the classroom teachers. The teachers are currently working with the children on their artwork.

**Teacher Appreciation** (Julie Stiles): The PTO coordinates catered lunches and dinners on professional development days and conference nights and special treats throughout teacher appreciation week. The PTO works with the room parents to provide snacks for the teachers on some early release days. Julie has reached out to all the room parents and assigned/planned the teachers appreciate days for the school year. This Friday the teachers will enjoy a trail mix bar for the early release day care of the Yellow and Purple Rooms.

**Nature Trail Flashlight Walk** (Nicole Loiterstein / Debbie Reilly): The Nature Trail Flashlight Walk is scheduled for Thursday, November 9 from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. The cost will be \$30/family. Debbie Reilly is working with Catherine Katz on programming for the event. Kary will follow up with Catherine Katz to discuss communication needs to ensure parents understand that the funds collected benefit the nature education programs at the school. Debbie will look into holding a rain date on the calendar.

**Fall Book Festival at Barnes & Noble** (Shannon Davis): The book festival is scheduled for Friday, October 27 from 5:30 – 8 p.m. at the Barnes & Noble in Ladue. Shannon will reach out to family center staff to discuss programming needs and also contact the volunteers. Teachers will be asked to complete their wishlists by October 1. Shannon may also include the regularly scheduled 10 a.m. Story Time to encourage families to shop/visit at an alternate time the day of the book fair. Families will be given an additional opportunity shop online for 6 days beginning 1 day prior to and ending 4 days after the event.

**Wine & Dreams** (Lydia Bledsoe & Jessica Graetz): Jessica is following up with Parker's Table in Richmond Heights to secure a March date for the Wine & Dreams event – tentatively looking at March 1 or 8.

**Director's Report** (Debbie Reilly): Debbie gave an update on the Family Center Playground. The school and district are looking at ways to fund the project and may be asking families to contribute through a letter writing campaign.

**Parents as Teachers (PAT) Report** (Debbie Reilly): Debbie shared an update on the Parents as Teacher's program. The Educators saw 305 children from 206 families last year, completed 903 personal visits, and administered 215 developmental screenings. A recent outreach by the Educators to the Concordia Seminary families has been well received.

**Closing** (Nicole Loiterstein): The next PTO meeting will be Wednesday, October 18 at 9 a.m. in the multi-purpose room.