

MINUTES OF WOODLAND PTO MEETING TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2015

The PTO meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by Danielle Scala.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT (Mr. Heaney)

Mr. Heaney:

- Expressed appreciation for having the opportunity to be Principal of Woodland. He stressed the importance of building the whole child, including character development and recognizing good character and behavior both in and out of school.
- Thanked the PTO for its support and contributions to the Woodland community through providing the Holiday lunch for staff; Simply Gourmet; providing funding for grade level programs and assemblies through Dream It-Fund It and Cultural Arts; and hosting Movie Night.
- Reported the NJASK results for Woodland and the district as compared with similarly situated districts across the state.
- Provided an overview of the PARCC Test. The open ended and performance based assessment will be conducted during the first two weeks of March, 2015. The year-end assessment will be in May, 2015. Third and Fourth grade students will be provided laptops for the testing. Fourth Grade students will also take the NJASK Science assessment. Fifth graders will use their chrome books. A PARCC practice test is available online. Teachers are preparing students for the future and their ability to collaborate with others.
- Reviewed classroom activities, including Fifth Grade Egg Drop experiment, Newark Boys Choir assembly, paper towel experiment by Reach Too students and Second Grade Gingerbread Day.
- Outlined upcoming events: Bricks4Kidz for 1st and 2nd Graders on January 15; Martin Luther King Day on January 19; Geography Bee on January 22; Third Grade Musical on January 27; 4th and 5th Grade marking period closes on January 28; Districtwide ELL presentation at Woodland on January 29; International Day on January 30; and African Drum Assembly on February 1.
- Noted that Kindergarten Registration for 2015-2016 school year is underway

TEACHER LIAISON (Anita Brower)

Mrs. Brower thanked the PTO for the holiday luncheon, Bricks4Kidz and sponsoring Lego Movie Night and asked for the Woodland community to continue to support the PTO's efforts.

SIMPLY GOURMET (Danielle Scala)

Danielle Scala reported that Simply Gourmet is now using biodegradable boxes and expanded some of the menu options. She asked if there was any additional feedback from parents on Simply Gourmet.

DIRECTORY (Danielle Scala/Alice Stout)

Christine Rau and Lauren Wishnia are chairs. There were issues with processing the information gathered by InfoSnap and converting it into the directory. Districtwide, the PTOs are discussing the issues and ways to streamline the process. Updates will be provided as they become available. Judy Shanahan suggested investigating the possible outsourcing of the production of the directory and offered to do more research. Alice Stout indicated that that option has typically been more expensive when it was previously researched.

APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 11, 2014 MINUTES (Danielle Scala)

In response to a question from Kim Palmeri-Naman, Danielle Scala clarified that funds the cancelled Earth dome event (Spring, 2014) would be directed toward Science Day activities. On a motion by Alice Stout and seconded by Cindy Percario, the membership approved the minutes of the November 11, 2014 Woodland PTO Meeting.

DREAM IT- FUND IT (Danielle Scala)

Danielle Scala provided an overview of the grade level assemblies under Dream It Fund It: First and Second Grade assembly is Bricks4Kidz program; Third Grade had an assembly on gems, rocks and minerals; Fourth Grade is anticipated to have a program on pioneers; and Fifth Grade has not yet submitted a request.

INTERNATIONAL DAY (Danielle Scala/Judy Shanahan)

International Day, chaired by Roula Ioannou and Tracy Leftkowitz, is scheduled for January 30, 2015. The countries of Norway, Poland, Mexico, Jamaica and South Africa will be represented. Judy Shanahan provided an overview of the day, noted that more volunteers are needed and requested that Homeroom Moms send an email asking for additional volunteers. Anyone who is able to volunteer should contact Roula Ioannou.

SCIENCE DAY (Danielle Scala/Kim Palmeri-Naman)

Science Day, chaired by Kim Palmeri-Naman, is scheduled for April 22, 2015. The schedule is currently being developed. Events will include assemblies on modern science, the science of color, light and sound and a laser light show. In addition, Overlook Hospital will provide a giant heart, the 4H Club will conduct experiments with worms, and Rizzo Reptiles will bring in reptiles for an assembly. Second graders will also present their ocean projects to the First Grade students. Lunch and refreshments will be provided for presenters. Volunteers are needed for certain events and Homeroom Moms will be asked to reach out to parents in their classes for volunteers as the schedule is further developed. More information will be provided as additional details are finalized.

UPCOMING EVENTS (Danielle Scala)

- SEPTO Nieman Marcus Fundraising Event to benefit special needs is scheduled for February 18, 2015 at the Nieman Marcus at the Short Hills Mall. It is a districtwide event with the hope that it will draw at least 25 people from each school in the district. Further details will be communicated as they become available.
- Family Fun Day is tentatively scheduled for May 2, 2015 at Camp Riverbend. Potential alternate dates as well as making the event a potential fundraiser will be explored. Details about cost, food and activities will be provided at a later date.

- *The Fifth Grade Event* is being coordinated by ALT this year. Alice Stout, Tracy Leftkowitz and Erica Greene are coordinating Woodland's role in the 5th Grade Event. The Fifth Grade Event is scheduled for June 3, 2015 (June 10, 2015 rain date) at Camp Harmony.

OTHER ITEMS

Judy Shanahan commented on reductions in certain activities, such as special days and assemblies. After looking at the proposed 2014-2015 budget, she suggested that that money may be available. Danielle Scala noted that income is uncertain, certain events go over budget and that a reserve is required to be maintained.

EXPRESSIONS OF APPRECIATION AND THANK YOU (Danielle Scala)

- Cindy Percario and all the volunteers for organizing Craft Day
- Patti Puglisi for all her work on Cultural Arts and her assistance with Dream It-Fund It.
- Alex Krutis for all her work as Chair of Spirit Wear.
- Christine Rau and Lauren Wishnia for the directory.
- Carolyn Sena and Joanne Dufek for organizing and staffing the Staff Holiday Luncheon.
- Lauren Wishnia and Danielle Rowell for their hard work on the bulletin boards.
- All Chairs of Special Days.
- Mr. Heaney for his ongoing support.

The meeting adjourned at 8:24 PM.