Plympton Elementary PTO

November 15, 2012

The meeting was called to order by Hamish Sherlock at 7:05 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the October meeting were announced and approved.

Treasurer’s Report  
by Melanie Sherlock

* Account Balance: The beginning balance in October was approximately $22,800.
* Mixed Bags: Mixed Bag Fundraiser is ongoing.
* Restaurant night out: The chateau was the biggest one so far having received a check for $396.

Executive Board Report  
by Hamish Sherlock

* Hamish is stepping down as PTO president because of work commitments. The board will decide how to proceed. We may need a meeting in December for nominations.

Principal’s Report  
by Mrs. Hurwitz

* Brandeis Junior Achievers: JBA took place this fall and went well. We will have another one in the spring.
* Homework Club: This is ongoing and is going well.

**Teacher’s Report**  
by Mrs. Bower

* Plimouth Plantation: The 3rd grade went to Plimouth Plantation on November 2nd. The teachers want to thank the PTO for generously donating the buses to get there and back.
* Classroom visitation: Parents were invited to come to classes to observe on November 14.

**Multicultural Report**by Mrs. Paradis

* English classes: English classes for non-English speaking parents has started on Thursday nights. The kids go to the library and stay with Mrs. McClary and one other teacher volunteer while the parents learn English. This year, the parents are bringing in their notices from both the school and the PTO and they are going over those.
* Family Literacy Night: On December 6, all families are invited to attend family literacy night, which is sponsored by Title I.
* Website: The Multicultural committee has a website and it is linked from the Plympton PTO’s website.
* This year’s charity: Around Election Day, the students had an opportunity to vote on a charity to help this year. They voted to support Coaches Across Continents. A 4th grader’s uncle works there in Kenya. This program teaches skills through soccer: education and organizational skills, as well as female empowerment. The students will make banks out of milk cartons and collect coins to send to this charity. The banks will be going home in January.
* Grant: Mrs. Paradis applied for a grant from the Cultural Council to bring a program with African drumming and dancing here in the spring with Tufts and Brandeis students. If the grant doesn’t cover the full cost, the multicultural committee may ask the PTO to pay the difference. There is already a grant in the budget for $250.
* The continent of Africa: On a monthly basis, the multicultural committee will be highlighting kids/families from an African country. They get to bring items from Africa in to showcase.

Standing Committee Reports

1. Restaurant Night Out
   * Our November restaurant night out was at Friendly’s and lasted from November 5-8. We do not have the final number for it yet.
   * October’s restaurant night out was at the Chateau Restaurant on Tuesday, October 16 from 5-8. We raised $396.
   * The December restaurant night out will be at Uno’s on December 12. Need a coupon for Plympton to receive at least 15%. Coupons will be sent home and posted on Facebook and on the website.
2. Clip and save
   * Sent in a shipment for $667 collected between the end of school and October 31. We should receive a check around December 15. Keep sending in your BoxTops. We are hoping for a record year!
3. TerraCycle
   * Melissa Bardsley and Michelle Richard came in to speak to the kindergarten through 3rd grades during their lunches. Our collection has been good, but not great this year.
4. Visiting artists

* Hannafords will be coming for “Food Play” sometime in December.
* Kindergarten: Dental hygienist to visit in March
* Grades 1-3: Clara Barton – February 15
* 1st grade: March 20 – Dinosaur lady
* 2nd grade: Magnets - December 17
* 3rd grade: Museum of Science Planetarium – May
* 4th grade: High Tech touch
* 5th grade: Newton in a Nutshell

1. School Directory
   * Elizabeth Lear reported that the directories have been sent home.
2. Mixed Bags fundraiser

* The Mixed Bags fundraiser will be open through the end of the year. Can place orders through the website.

1. Gift cards  
   * A flyer for the gift card fundraiser went home and are due back on November 29. We can send in another order after if the gift cards are still in demand. We do have some in stock. If people want gift cards to be available on a monthly basis, we can do that too.
   * Shop With Script—You can set up an account and put orders in there. This site keeps a record of what you ordered in past. You can also save a favorites list. Can also pay with Presto pay and it will debit your checking account. You can also pay with Paypal. Or you can send a check or money to PTO mailbox.
2. Pie sales  
   * Pie pick up was today. We made $1096.00 on this fundraiser.
3. Election Day Bake Sale   
   * Thank you to everyone who helped with the bake sale, either working the sale or dropping off baked goods. We had lots of help and donations. We raised approximately $1800 for the scholarship fund. There were lots of leftovers that went to 2 fire stations and the soup kitchen at Sacred Heart Church.
4. KidStuff Coupon Books  
   * Liz Lear is running this fundraiser. One book per family was sent home this week. Payments and returned books are due back on November 30.
5. BJ’s Fuel Your Fundraiser
   * The PTO received 20 sign ups, which results in a $100 profit.

**New business**

* John Frassica made a motion to have the vice president (Anina Thompson) act as president for the month. Cindy Boudreau seconded the motion.
* Matt Kiernan made a motion to review and approve the final budget at the December meeting.
* Announcements:
* Ghenya Sloan Kuchler is running the BOKS program at Plympton School Several parents have already attended the training. There will be another training on November 27 from 4-8. Please let Ghenya know if you are interested in attending. We are hoping to start the program in February. The city is looking to implement this program at all the schools. We will be the first to do it.

Next Meeting

* To be announced

Adjournment

* The meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m.