

Minutes

PTO Meeting – September 17, 2008

The Woodland School

7:30 p.m.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 by Jill Larson and Jacqui Mandelbaum, PTO Co-Presidents.

Mr. Hansen's Report

- Mr. Hansen discussed Dad's Reading Night
 - o He stressed the importance of students' dads being involved
 - o Their physical presence means so much to a child
 - o He mentioned that studies have been done and shown that it is even more important than moms being present

Teacher Liaisons

- Mrs. Brower attended the meeting
- She thanked the PTO for the Book Fair and the donations to the library
- She expressed appreciation for the Smartboard in-service training for all the teachers
 - o It was great for the education of the teachers
 - o The teachers are embracing new learning modalities for our children
 - o She acknowledged that we as adults need to adopt new technologies
 - o Great interactive tool for students in geography

Treasurer's Report

- Rebecca Keenan shared the 2008-2009 Budget
- The Appeal letter was discussed
 - o The PTO exceeded its goal
 - o All contributors were thanked by Jacqui Mandelbaum

Membership

- 195 Families and 45 teachers and staff joined the PTO this year
- Membership is available to all families that pay \$10 in dues
- The PTO may include "PTO Dues" with the Appeal Letter next year
- Families could write one check to cover both items

Book Fair

- Jacqui Mandelbaum thanked all of her parent volunteers for the assistance at the Book Fair

- Woodland Parents donated over \$200 in book donations to *Head Start* in Plainfield
- Mrs. Fraumann's students made beautiful "thank you" notes that were shared with the PTO

Fall Festival

- Debbie Vetter discussed the upcoming event
- The volunteer schedule is robust but anyone is still welcome to lend a hand
- 33 families pre-ordered food
- 18 families have entered the Scarecrow Making Contest
- There will be 8 craft tables set up at the Festival
- She mentioned that the high school is allowing Woodland to use their parking lot for the hay ride

Dad's Reading Night

- Jacqui Dardis updated everyone on the progress of this event
- This evening is a great opportunity for children to spend quality time with an important male figure in his or her life
- The safari themed night will include a scavenger hunt, and refreshments
- Younger siblings are welcome

Food Days

- Maria Seckler spoke about the success of the Food Days
- September/October Food Days generated \$4500 to the PTO
 - o This was a 20% increase from last year
 - o This increase is mainly due to pizza and Baha Fresh
- Ordering for November/December closes on October 17
- Payments for November/December are due by October 22
- There was a discussion about the lunch periods and the availability of snacks for purchase
 - o The point was raised that Kindergartners are not eating their lunches but still buying ice cream
 - o Some parents feel that they are throwing away a healthy lunch for purchased snacks
 - o Other parents feel that parents should control their child's snack purchases by choosing whether or not to provide 50 cents on M/W/F
 - o The Majority of the PTO members present at the meeting felt they would like to continue with snack availability 3 times a week and not penalize older children
 - o Jacqui Mandelbaum assured everyone that the snacks are nutritionally compliant with state regulations
 - o The ice cream's #1 ingredient is skim milk with 1.5-2.5 grams of fat
 - o A suggestion was made to have Kindergartners re-pack their uneaten food to give parents an idea of what they are eating
 - o A resolution was agreed on

Dine Around

- Christine Prinzivalli talked about America on Rye's success
 - o The sales receipts from Woodland Families were over \$600
 - o The school received 15% of this
 - o Mr. Hansen was the Celebrity Scooper serving the children of Woodland
- Burger King is the next Dine Around
 - o Woodland School will receive 15-20% of all sales between 5-8 pm
 - o The event takes place on October 28
 - o The drive thru is included in overall sales
 - o Parents were urged to let friends and neighbors know about Burger King night
- Christine reminded everyone that this is a great opportunity to visit with other Woodland Families while getting a quick convenient dinner and getting the school some extra funding

Halloween

- Jill Larson discussed the events at Woodland School on October 31
- There will be a parade with all the children in costumes at 1:30
- All parents and families are welcome to attend the parade
- A reminder was given that only class moms may enter the school for the class parties that follow the parade

Social Action Committee

- Cheryl Opell discussed Coins for Kids which raised over \$300
- She thanked everyone that contributed to the "Wish Bin" for *Head Start* at the Book Fair
- Cheryl asked that everyone spread the word about the upcoming Coat Drive
 - o It will take place from October 20 through mid November
 - o Please keep Woodland School in mind when coming across your used coats
- Mr. Hansen will be distributing UNICEF boxes the last week of October
- In November the committee will begin a campaign to collect supplies for soldiers
 - o 4th and 5th graders will make letters to send with supplies
 - o 2nd and 3rd graders will decorate the envelopes for the letters
 - o It will be called "Operation Shoebox"
- After the holidays the committee hopes to again fill backpacks for students in need with food
- There will be a book drive in March or April
- At the end of the year the committee will collect supplies from Woodland Families for a soup kitchen food drive. This is a time of year when these kitchens are running low on donations.

Music Liaison

- Jennifer Nuzzi spoke about the 2nd Grade Play

- It will take place on November 18
- The theme is “Bugs”
- Volunteers are needed from every grade, not just 2nd
- Volunteers are needed to help coordinate costumes and props for every production
- It is a lot of fun and you do not need a musical background to get involved

Recess Rocks

- Tracy Dario spoke about the success of the program
- Kids get extra exercise during the week
- The time is spent playing a variety of structured games
- The volunteers facilitate these games and make sure the kids have a choice in what interests them
- Tracy asked parents to ask their children what games they would like to see in the future
- Parents can split recess times to volunteer
- Kids love to see their parents at recess
- It takes place 25 minutes before lunch and gets kids moving
- There was a discussion about what happens at “Recess Rocks”
 - There is not basketball but kids play many other ball games at recess
 - It is not mandatory, but helps kids who may not know how to initiate play with others when it comes to sports
- Woodland walks was a part of “Recess Rocks”
 - Students did laps in the gym, receiving a chip for every lap
 - Last year the students walked from Warren to California in combined miles
 - There were grade competitions too
 - In November a volunteer sheet is coming out

YMCA Afterschool Clubs

- There is still room to join
- The fee would be prorated
- Contact Jacqui Mandelbaum or Jill Larson with questions

Casino Night

- This fun night will take place on Saturday, March 21 at Twin Brooks Country Club in Watchung
- There will be silent auction items and raffle baskets
- There will be a meeting on October 22nd at Dolly Politan’s home and everyone is welcome

Mom’s Night

- Angela Salerno spoke about this social evening
- It will be held on November 13 at Primavera

- This is a great night to go out and make new friends
- The “Extreme Makeover” winners will show their new looks
 - o Angela drew the winners from all entries
 - o Sofi’s Salon will be donating the new looks to the winners
 - o Some of the winners included Mrs. Krumm, Cheryl Opell, Helen Martino and Lisa Rica
- Two teachers plus 20 other vendors will set up display tables
- No tickets will be sold at the door – they are available for \$39 ahead of time
- Everyone is encouraged to bring a friend – it is not just for Woodland moms
- Flyers went out to Union Village and The Giving Nest
- For the last few years over 150 moms attended
- Sometimes there is a “surprise guest” like Mr. Hansen

All Other Business

- The school made \$1387 on Box Tops
- Mrs. Pfeifer’s class won the ice cream party