

PTO Meeting

Tuesday, September 15, 2015

Principal's Report - Jill Gebeke:

Our current enrollment is approximately 450 students, which is close to capacity. There is one spot in K, with a wait list of 20 students. One spot just opened up in 2nd grade. Class size limits are based on the percentage of free/reduced lunches. Schools with higher free/reduced lunches have lower class size limits.

We have a large number of new students, not counting K. First grade has 18 new students, second grade has 11, third has 9, fourth has 10, and fifth has 6. Usually there are only four to eight new students per grade. Jill and Sean Stewart have been meeting with the new students to help them adjust to Chelsea Heights.

There are several new staff members this year. Sue King is the new secretary. Ms. Schaetzke ("Ms. S") is the Phy Ed teacher. There are two new paraprofessionals. The art teacher position is still posted.

The new prep rotation is STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math), PE, and Arts. Each class does one week in each prep class, on a rotating basis. Semester one of the Arts prep will be music, and semester two will be art.

The Target Red Card Take Charge of Education program will wind down this year. In the past, Chelsea Heights has received approximately \$4,000/year from this program. This discretionary money was used to buy baggie books, award prizes, equipment, etc.

<http://www.startribune.com/target-will-end-school-charity-program-shift-giving-focus-to-wellness/327423181/>

iPads will be deployed next Wednesday.

Jill is looking for suggestions to help orient new families during Open House. Most families meet their classroom teachers, but they don't realize they can meet specialists and visit other parts of the school. Perhaps fifth graders can give tours?

There was an incident of a child being put on the wrong bus. The communication issue with the buses has been resolved.

There is a bus App (MySPPSBus) and a school district App (MYSPPS). Jill will write about them in her Cheetah Chatter column.

President's Report - Brooke Ust

Brooke gave a brief overview of PTO, what we do, and how to be a part of it. The PTO raises money for the school through various fundraisers. They also organize several school and community events throughout the year. Please see the attached PTO flyer for more details.

Club's Choice is our first big fundraiser of the year. Typically, 200-250 kids participate, and the PTO receives approximately \$11,000 in revenue. Club's Choice is a catalog sales company, offering a variety of products like cookie dough and wrapping paper. Family and friends can order online. The fundraiser will start on Monday, and go through October 6. Delivery day will be November 3.

There are many volunteer activities.

Some of the main roles that need to be filled include:

Secretary for Executive Committee - attend Executive Committee and PTO meetings and take notes for both

Communications - Facebook, email reminders, proofing flyers

Running Club Coordinator - 5-6 week commitment in the spring

Family Fitness Night Coordinator - event in January to get kids moving and exercising through activities like yoga, jump rope, and an obstacle course.

Literacy Night Coordinator - event in February to promote reading

Finance Report - Lisa Preston

Lisa gave an overview of the PTO budget. We are starting the year with approximately \$24,000 in reserve. Some of this reserve will be spent this year on grants for teachers. The proposed budget for 2015-2016 was approved. Please see attached budget for details.

Rec Center Update - Darcy Rivers and Ashli Osorio

NW Como has started a new program for 2nd-5th graders called Rec Plus. It provides afterschool activities. The kids have signed a No Bullying Pledge and have agreed to be "no bully helpers." Ashli's goal is to have NW Como be the safest rec center in Saint Paul.

Darcy is currently working on the programming schedule for January through May. If anyone has programs they'd like to see, they may contact her directly.

The Back to School Bonfire will be Friday, October 2 from 6-8pm. There will be a DJ, jump castle, and a train ride. Concessions will be sold by the booster club. They will need more volunteers.

The rec center is currently accepting registrations for fall programming. Basketball registrations for ages 3 to 14 will be accepted until the end of September.

Miscellaneous:

Approximately 125 kids at Chelsea Heights have been identified as Gifted and Talented. There are not separate classes for these children, but they have access to different opportunities including book clubs and Destination Imagination.

A tremendous amount of work goes into making the class lists. The ratios of ESL, ELL, GT, gender, and ethnicity have to be balanced. Classes are also checked to ensure that kids are separated or put together as needed, and parent requests are taken into consideration.

Bingo, Papa Johns, and Amazon Smile were all suggested as possible fundraisers to investigate.

Library time will begin next week. Each class will have 30 minutes in the library to pick books. Julie Silver, one of the paraprofessionals, will handle book check-outs. The school will need volunteers to re-shelve books.