

March 13, 2018 Agenda

1. Principal's Report

We had a successful book swap. The PTO and Aaron Kerr helped with book donations and had great volunteers. Students each received a minimum of two books.

Literacy Night - We had a great night! The activities were very engaging, students were active and 245 people signed in to the event. Laura Pejsa organized a wonderful event. She received a grant for an author who visited during the school day and teachers received copies of her book. We have discussed changing the name to possibly "I love to read" night. Thanks to Dars and Lift Bridge for the donations of root beer and ice cream.

Science Fair - We had a really big crowd, but fewer students did projects. We have asked that pictures be taken of the winners this year and Mr. A. was able to take pictures of most of the award winning projects. Have we considered two different nights K-2 and 3-5, staggering the times for different grade levels or placing them in the hall? Not sure about having the Science Fair in March, after Spring Break in April? Putting projects in the hallway would require more volunteers. Clean up is a big task (tables, chairs, sound system), it was going on still at 8:45. Could Mr. A. ask people to pitch in for clean up? Make that part of volunteer sign up? Could we put K-2 projects in the cafeteria? Is it typical for winners to get bags of candy? Could that explain some of the tears we saw this year? There has always been a creativity prize, but hasn't always been candy. Would folks be willing to discuss these idea with Tom? Maggie Zimmerman volunteered to connect with Tom.

How does the date impact NW Como? They lost three nights of programming. When held in April it only impacted TKD. This was the second week of our indoor soccer season and a volleyball team. Science Fair fell right after DI weekend. Some parents shared that they struggled to keep up with regular homework on top of the project. Last year it was on Holy Thursday. The closer we get to Easter, the more likely that is. Are

other religions impacted? Lots of families were here earlier in the evening. Was the start time the same as last year? Thank you to Bob the Pizza Man for helping with judging.

Conferences are March 20, 22 and 23.

We have new hires! Cafeteria staff - Minoka Kitto and new bilingual nursing assistant - Osirius Jimenez. We'd like to include the new hires in the Cheetah Chatter. Sally Bickford has been hired to fill in for Ms. Flaten's leave.

A donation of \$2,100 has been received from Como Park Lutheran Church. They are financing some flexible seating (scoop chairs, etc.) in some classrooms, recorder books for music and an accelerated reader subscription.

2. Rec Center Update

John from NW Como - Thank you for literacy night! We made bookmarks and shared flyers. The Booster Club was there also. Reagan, Darcy and John enjoyed being Science Fair judges. We knew so many kids and were excited to see their work. What a great partnership between Chelsea Heights and NW Como.

Summer online registration begins at 8:00 AM on April 2nd.

The summer Sneak Peek activity listing was shared. Youth summer sports are currently in the sign up stage. Only 6 spots left for t-ball! Sign up soon! We already have enough kids for a 12U team and even possibly a second and a 15 year old team.

New - beginning Spanish camp, flag football camp, Soccer Stars will be on Como High School's new turf, and new teen programming (basketball, teen Thursdays, dodgeball, teen dance).

Outdoor Movie night - the new Beauty and the Beast, with campout for \$5.

-Blacklight Dodgeball: Friday, March 23 from 4-5:30 (7-12) and 6-7:30 (13+) I. Free event - no registration, concessions available.

We average 63 kids per afternoon snack.

Contact John and Darcy if you have ideas for activities.

Don't wait until the last minute to sign up for programming. We have to cancel if numbers are low!

Look for Pop Up spring break afternoon camps:

Monday - Jimmy Lee swimming (ages 7+)

Tuesday - Movie Day at Oakdale \$10 (ages 5+)

Wednesday - no trip

Thursday - walking trip to Como Zoo (ages 5+)

Friday - bowling and pizza at Flaherty's. \$15 (7+?)

The van trips require booster seats like your car does.

3. Conferences - Meal Volunteers

Look for a volunteer sign up through email. People will sign up for fixings for walking tacos and we will get pizza from Davanni's.

4. Club's Choice - Bonus Check (\$460) from Bob the Pizza Man was presented tonight.

Bonus for signing up for a 2 year contract. Bounce houses have been donated for Carnival, cookies for Open House, staff incentives for meetings, and prizes for assemblies. Bob is on the board for Destination Education. He is looking for sponsorships as well.

Charitable gambling contributes to the scholarships. Grant programs have helped out local schools and would like to include Chelsea

Heights. There's a St. Paul 10% charitable gambling operation that

If you know anyone who would be interested in sponsoring a scholarship, let Brooke know and she will be in touch with Bob.

Do we want to sign another 2 year contract? Bob is great to work with and is active in the Chelsea community.

5. Destination Imagination - Maggie from the 2nd grade team shared that the kids worked really hard and could likely field a team next year. We had four 2nd grade coaches.

3rd grade hasn't had a team for two years because we haven't had any coaches available. Is there room within the DI groups to share skits with the school to build awareness? Award winners have presented in the past, depending on the category. Are there videos we could share when the flyers go home in the fall? Do people understand that DI is the new OM? Is PTO able to send videos or text messages? Could that be more effective than a flyer? Could be emailed and added to the PTO Facebook page. Would more excitement help with getting more volunteers? Open House - Could we have a DI table?

The 5th grade group did very well and will compete again at State on April 14th at Champlin Middle School.

6. Silent Auction - April 28th at Gabe's. Join the Facebook event page! Totally Rad 80's Night! We will start at 7:00 which is later than the past. The Rec Center has 23 open spaces for Parent Night Out from 6-10 PM, \$7/kid. If we have a lot of people John can get more staff, but you need to sign up right away. We'll have a DJ this year. \$15 admission with appetizers and drink ticket. If you have ideas for donations from the neighborhood and beyond, let Brooke know.
7. PTO Budget - Julie brought copies of the current budget. \$24,000 in income and \$22,000 in expenses. We still have Carnival and Silent Auction coming up which are big events.
8. Science Night Recap - see principal's report
9. Running Club - Registration through the NW Como Rec Center opens on Monday, March 19th for grades 1-5. We will need volunteers. Your child's fee can be waived if you volunteer. Call the rec center for the family discount or if you would like fee assistance. It begins the first Friday after spring break and will run for 5 Fridays. The only

requirement is that your child wants to run! We will start slow and work our way up to longer runs. There will be a color run on the last day.

10. Executive Committee Openings

-Vice president: meets with the executive committee monthly, does carnival purchasing and planning, maintains PTO website, helps with spirit wear table and other PTO events throughout the school year

-Co-treasurer: one treasurer will remain, tracking expenses and budget, making deposits and getting change for events, volunteers at PTO events throughout the school year

Other: The climbing wall we have used at Carnival has gone up from \$300 to \$500 and it isn't available. Brooke asked Bob from Club's Choice about bounce houses that would be desirable for older kids. John is going to try to get the gaga pit. Are there rentable obstacle courses? We have looked into those. Have we talked to the Boy Scouts about the obstacle course they use at the State Fair? John has seen it out at other events. They have staffed it in the past too. We've seen Velcro walls at other events too. Did we look into Sumo Wrestler

Next month - SCIP and budget and executive positions will be up for a vote