PTO Meeting #3

November 9, 2022

Faye’s notes

1. Principal’s Report from Ms. Biordi

* **Thanks** to PTO and participants for all the efforts in October: Trunk or Treat, clean-up, Chipotle fundraiser.
* Several **field trips** have happened.
* **Student Leadership** report (See video: [Student Leadership Team (Student Report) - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QUV4YS1s5-A)) Students visited each teacher and office to ask what’s happening. Their report mentions the idea box, which is the source of ideas like a winter dance and karaoke party. (Ms. Biordi: *Hearing what they want from them is more important than hearing it from me. The purpose of all of us being here is to execute the things they want*.)
* Upcoming **events and activities**:
  + Thanksgiving luncheon for community seniors
  + 5th grade-oriented events – info coming soon in a letter home. Sharpe trip, moving up ceremony.
  + Curriculum night for parents – Spring 2023. Will explain newer aspects of the curriculum, all the tools and terms – iReady, Fundations, etc.
  + Parent/caregiver-Teacher conferences Nov 21-22
  + STEM Fair – Spring 2023. Building Leadership Team is organizing the structure and application process. May expand to STEAM to include younger kids (A=Art). *“But maybe the younger kids will submit engineering projects too – who knows?”*
  + Holiday Shop. Teachers will help PTO with complimentary shopping table.
  + Open House – date TBD.
    - PTO and Ms. Biordi brainstorm about a possible schoolwide art show during the Open House.
  + Make-up pictures are 9-12 pm – whoever is swimming that day, they should get their pictures taken right away.
* **Clubs**: Idea for new clubs came from the student leadership team.
  + Newspaper club
  + Younger intramurals
  + Art club (over 70 students signed up, so they will find a separate advisor for lower grades)
  + Book club
  + Math club
  + Environment club
  + Lego League (grades 1-5).
    - A 6th grade teacher will be the advisor. Hands-on learning, integrates robotics. Like Odyssey of the Mind – can compete with other teams.
* **Testing**:
  + Mandatory for 5th grades – on the computer. District decided to roll out the 4th graders too so they are prepared next year. 3rd grade is paper-based.
  + Ms. Biordi will do virtual parent meetings to explain the shift.
  + Teachers and the library media specialist are working to make sure kids aren’t limited by computer interface so they can do their best.
    - FYI Kids can practice with “Keyboarding without Tears” at home.
  + Sargent was a “Target School” last year, identified as needing improvement based on NY State data. Now in second year of implementing the school comprehensive education plan (SCEP). Ms. Biordi will do informational sessions about that – explaining the plan, how it’s being followed, what changes we’re making. We do well on the NYS exams, but want more kids to take the tests so the school isn’t penalized for our opt-out rate.
* **Pollinator pathway:** Going in soon. Ms. Biordi met with the pollinator people, who have determined we have a beautiful campus with several options for pollinator gardens, and it’s going to look really nice.
  + Question on how the PTO’s Grounds Committee can help? District is supporting each building to create a pollinator garden – materials and installation labor. But will need PTO help to sustain it – currently no plan for who will water it. Will be located close to the L2L garden and within hose range.
    - PTO mentions that the Grounds Committee has a key and a schedule and is used to taking watering shifts (and we have bluebird houses!)

1. Teachers’ Reports: Mrs. Cervone

* Trunk or Treat was fun & amazing. May want security in the future. Very dark, a lot of people.
  + Ms. Biordi: Agreed. Facilities Dept has floodlights – will bring it over for an event like that in the future – and we will hire security. PTO could have walkies so adults can be in communication in case of emergency.
* Swimming trip is important – talking about supporting each other when we’re afraid.

1. PTO Updates

* **Upcoming events**
  + Turkey Trot
  + Winter Fest: Students have requested a winter dance, and a karaoke party. May not do both at the same time but starting with winter fest/gala in the auditorium. Smores stand, games station, dance floor, outdoor market.
  + 90s dance party in February
  + Parents Nights Out – Trivia Night in March, maybe another one at Happy Valley in May
* **Fundraisers**
  + Boon: the only catalog sale of the year. Orders arrive before winter holidays.
  + Spirit Wear: choosing between 2 companies
* **Holiday Shop**: We need volunteers. Sign-up genius is the way to volunteer for everything from now on.
* PTO VP is going to be the volunteer coordinator and fundraising coordinator

1. Open discussion

* Old tiles?
  + Ms. Biordi: We were 3 classes behind. Class of 2019 was just put up. Ran out of border tile – custodians are putting them up next week on the half days – will all be installed by the end of November.
* Slide?
  + Ms. Biordi: No update but she will check again with central office. Everyone really wants it fixed.
* Desire for PTO to fundraise for playground equipment? Natural playground? Free library and reading area?
  + Ms. Biordi: More recess equipment e.g. a big garbage can filled with balls, and a lock on it.
* Play area for winter?
  + Ms. Biordi and Mrs. Cervone: Issue is not all kids wearing warm enough gear.
  + Ms. Biordi will look into snow toys.
  + Ms. Biordi has been thinking about the rule of staying on the blacktop.

Parent comment to Ms. Biordi: Thank you for the crazy amount of work you’ve put in since you started. Sargent is running the best I’ve ever seen it, the way I’ve always wanted it to – the field trips, new clubs. Clubs before and after school really make a difference for working parents in particular.