

Colfax PTO Meeting
April 10, 2013 - 7:00 PM
Colfax Cafeteria

In attendance: Adam Sikorski, Abbie Campsie, Sarah Sirlin, Ida Simpson, Jenny Ganger, Anne Kurzweg, Kipp Dawson, Joie Conroy, Camille Harris, and several staff and parents.

PRESIDENT/INTRO

Abbie encouraged people to step forward if interested in serving on the PTO board, and to contact the people on the Board for info.

Greg Caliguiri is interested in having a fundraiser for Colfax with Greg's Shadyside restaurant, Up Modern Kitchen. He willing to have family night at his restaurant, and 20 percent of check goes to Colfax, every Sunday for dinner. Camille will send out a blast with details.

Budget discussed. A pool fund is being added, which will be about 25K. We are still not sure if facilities management will pay for the pool renovations, but it will be included in the budget in case they decide not to pay for it. Family fun nights will be changed from 1500.00 to 2000.00. Several other changes will be made to the budget, as reflected on budget handed out at meeting. The PTO typically raises more money than indicated on budget sheet. A vote on the budget will take place at next month's meeting.

A parent asked about teachers making suggestions to students about summer work; supplying summer workbooks, e.g., Joie said that teachers put together packets, such as reading lists, at each grade level. Mr. Sikorski said that this could be a good idea, in terms of preparing for the following year, in accordance with common core standards. Ms. Dawson suggested perhaps providing the students with one of the books from the summer reading list -- e.g., working with Scholastic for inexpensive books.

Plant sale will be coordinated by Carol Luckner and Beth Tiffany. Forms went home in backpacks.

Kindergarten night is on 4/29 from 5:30-7 PM for prospective kindergartners. There will be light refreshments.

8th graders had a successful trip to Costa Rica. 8 of them went. Ms. Scoratow plans to do the trip next year, then every other year.

COMMUNICATIONS

Sarah said that content for the Communicator is due 5/17. She encouraged people to send shout-outs!

EVENTS

Ida updated events. Carnaval is Tuesday 6/11. 4/21 is middle level Coach purse bingo - last fundraiser! Last payment for OH trip is due 4/23, so this is the last chance to get all kids on the trip. Chairpeople for Carnaval are in place, but could use someone to chair food. A parent mentioned the intent to propose use of Zero Waste at the event.

Kipp spoke about the middle level 4/26 dance - student council is sponsoring Spring Fling. Twin day that day, as well - students pay to come dressed as twins. Hat day 4/19 - pay \$1 to wear hat to school.

VOLUNTEERS

Jenny spoke about teacher appreciation week, 5/6-10. If interested in working on it, talk to Jenny. In past, have done catered lunch, and we try to do something for teachers and staff every day - a little treat in mailboxes. We also raffled off left over P4P baskets. Homeroom reps will let people know that it is teacher appreciation week, and try to have something special done for the teachers. Plants arrive May 9, so that, or a memory tile, could be ordered for the teachers. Jenny will think about ways to ensure that teachers without a homeroom are recognized that week.

Letter will come home to people who are cleared, but might not be volunteering. Joie is planning a volunteer breakfast on Friday, 5/3. We have 35 teachers, 48 total with additional staff members.

GARDEN COMMITTEE

Annemarie Kuchera spoke about the first official garden event - Wake up the Garden. Grow Pittsburgh is required to put on a Garden Event. There was hula-hooping, seed planting, salsa, local chef making salad, Frick Environmental with nature activities, Mr. Lee and Allderdice students playing music, etc. 10 kids signed up for Garden Club. Maren has offered to help pull Garden Club together. Garden Club will target 3-8th graders. If interested in helping with Club, contact Annemarie or Rachel.

RUN SHADYSIDE

Saturday, 10/5 - Colfax Run Shadyside event, in partnership with Boys and Girls Club. Last time the event raised 1400.00. It is a 5K run, and a one mile family fun walk. More details to come. This year, Colfax families will be able to register online.

PRESIDENT NOMINATIONS

Abbie Campsie nominated. Shannon Ewing nominated as co-president. Unanimous vote in favor, one person not voting. Everyone thanked Abbie and Shannon for serving.

