

Colfax PTO General Meeting
Wednesday, Feb. 13, 2013
7:00 PM
Colfax Cafeteria

PRESIDENTS

Abbie Campsie opened the meeting. We had two "night out" events with Mr. Lydon. The second was not as successful as first one, but still went well. There will be another one in April.

PTO Board elections are coming up; in April, we will elect the next PTO President, and the rest of the board will be elected in May. If anyone is interested in running for a board position, contact Shannon or any board member. Henry will be Treasurer next year (because he is Assistant Treasurer this year), so that is the only position not up for reelection. All of the contact info for Board members is in the latest Communicator, so feel free to contact anyone.

Darcy Gordon couldn't be here. Darcy and Melanie Weisbord chaired P4P this year. P4P is this Saturday, at the PAA. The price per ticket now is \$50.00 per person. There will be a great menu and lots of good things to bid on, in both the silent and live auction. Over 140 tickets have been sold at this point.

EVENTS

Ida Simpson couldn't be here, so Shannon gave the events update. This month, family fun night is ice skating at Schenley Rink, 2/27, 7-9 PM. Free admission into rink, \$2.50 to rent skates.

After P4P, the next big event is Carnavale, which will be Tuesday, 6/11. Volunteers needed.

COMMUNICATIONS

Sarah Sirlin couldn't be here, so Shannon addressed communications. Sarah apologized for the newsletter being a few days late, but the printer was backed up. Discussed shout-outs, which are \$2.00 apiece; give your shout-outs to Sarah or put them in PTO mailbox.

TEACHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Kipp Dawson discussed student council, which is planning a dance in April after PSSAs. They discussed the option of having a semi-formal; details coming soon. Also, Colfax has between 30 and 40 students participating in the Shakespeare monologue contest,

sponsored by Pittsburgh Public Theatre. On 3/15, students will be going to the theatre for the morning. Students will present scenes or a monologue, in a competition against students in the area. Everyone is hoping that this will become an annual event for Colfax. 4-8th graders just participated in the 3rd annual spelling bee. A 4th grader will represent Colfax in the Spelling bee, because the first place winner is an 8th grader who will be in Costa Rica and cannot attend.

Mr. Wolf spoke about Colfax's science partnership with CMU. They took 25 students to CMU. Colfax 6 first place positions, and other positions in the top three places, and students will be going to Penn State to participate in a national competition. In the front of the building, there is a poster explaining the science partnership/competition. The 6th grade also goes to a lecture/demo series. A couple of students are moving on to other science fairs as a result. There is a link to this info on the Colfax website. No other school in the district matched our registration. All of our students participating took 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place positions.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Henry Willis spoke about fundraising. \$39,000 has been raised so far. The PTO has funded trips to the history center, the Frick environmental program, a Frick art and historical center field trip, Grow Pittsburgh garden program, et al. This year, we are pushing for preservation of the pool, and investing to ensure that the school always has the pool. Mr. Wolf thanked PTO for funding the Romp n' Roll trip. The PTO also funds buses for tutoring program, and teacher supply grants.

Henry encouraged teachers and parents to bring ideas and proposals to the PTO if there are things that they would like to see funded.

YINZERCATION

Jessie Ramey thanked the PTO for acting as a fiscal agent for the Yinzercation rally. Over 320 people came this year; this was the second year of the rally. Colfax PTO did not financially support the event, but the PTO's assistance allowed Yinzercation to receive two foundation grants, which were passed through the PTO. The grant monies have all come through and cleared. Yinzercation is a grass roots movement, not a membership organization. The rally was a huge success. Info is available on the Yinzercation blog.

GARDEN UPDATE

Olivia Wells discussed the garden committee. About 60 parents are involved. The next meeting is here at Colfax on the 18th. There will be a "Wake up the Garden" event on 4/7; not a fundraiser, but a community event. A garden club has been approved; the idea is to get the higher grades involved in the garden and to assist in maintaining the

garden year-round. The Committee is thinking about a fundraiser for the garden, later in the summer - for example, a chef event. Henry suggested that there might be PTO funds for garden-related items, and that the committee could submit a proposal. Adam Sikorski mentioned that he and food services are working to apply for a \$5,000 grant from Lowe's for the garden. The grant will probably go to Colfax, not the PTO, because it's going through the district. Adam has also been discussing the possibility of encouraging collaboration between our students and students from, e.g., Dilworth, to care for the garden.

At its last meeting, the Committee discovered constraints on Grow Pittsburgh's availability. Even if we wanted to pay for full services, our 6-day schedule creates scheduling difficulties.

Submitted by Secretary Anne Kurzweg