

## **General PTO Meeting**

**November 14, 2012 - 7:00-8:00 PM**

### **Colfax Cafeteria**

In attendance: Abbie Campsie, Shannon Ewing, Darcy Gordon, Jenny Ganger, Anne Kurzweg, Michele Levine, Sarah Sirlin, Camille Harris, Adam Sikorski, Kipp Dawson, Joie Conroy, approx. 30 parents/teachers.

#### **President**

Abbie introduced Mr. Lydon to discuss a partnership for a parent's night out, which will benefit the PTO financially as well as Mr. Lydon. Mr. Lydon spoke about the idea. The plan is for him to take care of a group of kids on a Saturday night, perhaps from 7-10 PM. The first half will probably be games, pizza, etc., and then transition into a quiet activity such as a PG or lower movie, and kids could bring blankets, etc. He would likely be able to accommodate up to 50 kids max. Abbie mentioned that we might be able to forego permit because it's a PTO event. Details TBA in backpacks. Rachel Rosenfeld suggested that we might consider some kind of group activity for parents on that night, so that parents can get to know each other. Bimla Schwarz suggested that we plan several such nights in advance.

Abbie thanked Leslie Grodin for getting the directory out. If there is an error in the directory, contact your homeroom rep or teacher.

#### **Communications**

Sarah reminded people that the December Communicator will be coming out soon; content is due this Friday. Send content to Sarah. She reminded people about shout-outs, which should also be sent to Sarah, via e-mail or on paper. The cost is \$2.00 per shout out – you can put the \$ in an envelope, label it "shout out," and turn it into the office.

#### **Fundraising**

Darcy discussed spirit wear. Jen Primack assisted with this project. They asked students to submit artwork for a t-shirt design, and received 50 or 60 submissions. A lower level winner, and a combined middle level winner, were chosen. Each winner will receive a free t-shirt of his/her own design. Flyers /order forms for the shirts will go home in backpacks. Orders will be delivered by the holidays. Info will be in the Communicator, and also on the website. Darcy will e-mail forms/info to the middle level teachers.

Next Tuesday is Colfax shopping night at Ten Thousand Villages. Any sales made between 6 and 8 PM that day will benefit Colfax. Thanks to Sukanya Srinivasan for organizing the effort.

An appeal letter, asking for a contribution to the PTO, will be sent out the Monday after Thanksgiving. Donors will be recognized, without listing the amount donated. We would like 30 percent of families participating. Families should donate any amount that is comfortable; participation is as important as

the amount donated.

Party for Play is our major fundraiser for the year, and will take place on 2/23 at the PAA in Oakland. It is an adults-only evening. We are already looking for donated items for the auction/raffle. Melanie Weisbord will be organizing class baskets. To get a letter to provide to businesses and other potential donors, contact Sukanya by e-mail at [dr.sukanya@gmail.com](mailto:dr.sukanya@gmail.com).

The Pizzeria Uno fundraiser raised 240.00 for the PTO. We just had the Double Wide Grill fundraiser, but the results are not yet available.

The Kidstuff books brought in more than 2000.00 for the PTO. Thanks to Alona Bloom for dealing with Kidstuff.

The Fun Run netted about 1300.00. It also raised money for the Boys and Girls Club. Thanks to all the volunteers who worked hard on that.

Shoebox has raised 213.00 so far. Keep bringing in shoes!

Amanda Godley has signed Colfax up for Name Bubbles. If anyone purchases Name Bubble labels, money will go to the PTO.

Tiles for the entryway are still an option, as well. See Shannon for information about making tiles.

Contact Darcy at [Gordonsrus@verizon.net](mailto:Gordonsrus@verizon.net) with any questions or ideas about fundraising.

## **Events**

Shannon gave an update for Ida, who was unable to attend. The first movie night is rescheduled for Tuesday, 1/22, at 5:30 PM (the initially scheduled time was cancelled due to Sandy). Extravaganza Uno is on 11/27, from 5:30-7:30 PM. It's a Latin dance night that is lots of fun for all ages. Ice skating night is on 2/27, from 7-9 PM.

## **Treasurer**

Shannon gave budget update for Ellie and Henry, who were unable to attend. The PTO has raised over \$7,000.00 so far. We are still receiving \$ from continuing fundraisers like cartridge recycling and Shoebox. Expenses so far have been a little over \$9,000. Contact Ellie or Henry with any questions about the budget. Rachel Rosenfeld asked for information about the \$2,500.00 restaurant fundraiser listed on the budget. Abbie stated that this was a private fundraiser at Mad Mex, and not a PTO-sponsored event. Although it was not an official PTO event, the PTO was the charity. This was an effort to see how that type of event would go, and then they will probably plan a broader school fundraiser in the future, again with Mad Mex. Rachel indicated that there had been some confusion about whether it was a PTO-sponsored event, and expressed some concerns. A parent suggested that the event not be listed on the budget as a restaurant fundraiser, but as a private fundraiser. Shannon will let the Treasurers know to change the name on the budget line.

### **Volunteer Coordinator**

Jenny introduced herself and discussed a new policy on clearances: Mr. Sikorski has determined that parents may volunteer once they have turned in the clearances to Colfax, if they have no criminal background, rather than waiting for the district to process the forms. The office, as well as Joie Conroy (the new FACE person) is compiling clearance forms. If you would like to volunteer, or have questions, email Jenny. Her e-mail address on the PTO website.

### **Talent Show**

Sara Stock-Mayo could not be here, so Abbie discussed the talent show. This will be the third Colfax talent show. It will be held on Thursday, 11/29. Information will be sent home in backpacks. Students who are in the show will stay after school that day.

### **Edible Schoolyard**

Rachel spoke about the garden. She got involved when her son was in kindergarten and all garden info has been coming her way since then. She would like to have a committee, to think about possibly expanding the garden, vision, strategy, and fundraising. The committee could coordinate grant opportunities/applications. Adam and the Grow Pittsburgh people would be on the committee. Annmarie Kuchera will co-chair.

### **New Business**

Ray Obenza introduced himself. He would like to know whether other parents might be interested in exploring options for after school care for Colfax kids. He is interested in looking into options influenced by parents, like a parent co-op, with a hired coordinator, creating connections that would enable people to share childcare, or partnering with another school. He envisions something that would include recreation, homework, maybe a gardening club. He wants to start an exploratory committee to find out what options are feasible. Ray left a sign up sheet. He can be contacted at 4123793259, rayobenza@yahoo.com.

Submitted by Secretary Anne Salzman Kurzweg