

September 2010 PTO Meeting Minutes  
September 7, 2010

Call to order: Paula Heinzmann and Andrea Ginter called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm. Paula and Andrea introduced themselves, as well as Dave as treasurer and Kat as secretary. Paula and Andrea asked that everyone fill out a raffle ticket for \$25 towards our Fall Book Fair. Andrea and Greg Ginter have come up with our new website, and have introduced it as [www.EWPTO.com](http://www.EWPTO.com). On it, you will find all kinds of different information regarding the PTO, as well as being able to submit your directory submissions online. The directory will NOT be available online, due to privacy information. Many great features are available, and we all ask that you check it out.

Teacher Representatives: 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade teachers: Mrs. Davis, Miss Discenza, Mrs. Forrest, and Mrs. Krawciw - all were very thrilled with the new SMARTboards.

Principal's Remarks: Mrs. Catarius stated we had a smooth opening for the year. Thanks to the grade 3 teachers for attending. New Staff: Ms. Nogueira is our new art teacher. We received new art tables, new café tables. The most thrilling news: we got smart boards in grades 3-6, as well as 1 in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. Every elementary school received the same configuration. Money was received from: energy and light, employee account, and health accounts. Letters went home today - new sections were created, new director of technology, CMT's came in - report in October to follow. We won the Green Summit Energy Challenge - we will receive a Cherry tree, to be planted in a location to be determined in the future. Thanks to Paula and Andrea for the PTO orientation, as well as the welcome back luncheon. Tech committee - Martin Malicki and Mrs. Krawciw talked to Mrs. Catarius about projection/document cameras (IPVO) and/or ELMO's over the summer. They also talked about ELMO carts. Money has been set aside for this purpose. The website is great - Dr. McDowell had agreed for us to have the website. A number of events are coming up. Mrs. Catarius is looking forward to the school year - we have about 40 less students than prior year. Thank you for all of the Nutmeg books.

Paula asked for everyone to go around and introduce themselves and what grade their children are in.

Secretary's Report: presented by Kat Zapor. Changes made: Andrea Ginter also nayed the \$4000 for art tables, and art tables actually were paid for by the town. PTO paid nothing. Motion to accept made by Martina Cacioli, seconded by Amber Kiniry. Motion passed, minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report: presented by Dave Schroeder. We currently have \$24,000. A balance sheet was submitted. Strawberry fest made about \$2300, a bit under budget. 6<sup>th</sup> grade came in with a surplus of \$600. Dave would like as much time as possible if you need reimbursement or cash boxes.

Paula thanked the teachers for coming, and asked if they had any input. Mrs. Forrest thanked us for everything we do. She also wanted to introduce Mrs. Davis - our newest member. Mrs. Forrest wanted it noted that years ago it had been very hard to get PTO funds. Now, for the past few years, PTO has made it so much more convenient and easy to be reimbursed. Mrs. Krawciw also thanked us.

Committee Reports:

Paula stated wanted to keep committee reports down to a few minutes - just to keep things moving to get everyone out of here in a timely manner. 3 minutes tops, please.

Address Directory - Andrea Ginter - we are gathering info on the website, as well as sending out fliers home this week. Directories should be put together in the next few weeks.

Beautification - Janet Vasel - hasn't started anything yet. We usually do a little cleaning up before school starts, but she needs to speak with Mrs. Catarius about what we want to do in the front. Courtyard is done, wants to get 2 more trees, but for the most part, nothing else on the agenda.

Board of Ed - George Bashura - would like someone to back him up in case he needs to travel for work. Martin has volunteered to help out.

Birthday Board - Darka Jara - it's done!

Cheer/Teacher Appreciation - Martina Cacioli/Lauren Barbara - has one coming up at the end of September. Volunteers are always appreciated!!

Community Outreach - Phoebe Ostergren/Martina Cacioli - they are welcoming anyone who wants to step in. Martina will be sending out fliers for things they need as they come along.

Creative Arts - Martina Cacioli - if nobody else signs up, Martina will chair. A program called Sticks and Stones is coming up in September - a show about social responsibilities, bullying, etc.

Enrichment - Michele Lavoie - Potential author - Mordicai Gerstein, check out the website - [www.mordicaigerstein.com](http://www.mordicaigerstein.com). Hi Touch Hi Tech, more to come.

Fall pictures - Michele Livingston - September 23<sup>rd</sup>. This year they are going to have more background options. No sibling pictures. More info to be sent home.

First Grade Lunch Helpers - Darka Jara and Paula Heinemann - went smoothly, but a little bit of confusion. By the 3<sup>rd</sup> day, first graders had the routine down.

Grants - Paul Laperriere - field trip grants and toolboxes for Lowe's - both being worked on. September 30<sup>th</sup> for the field trip, and October for the Lowe's one.

Kindergarten -  
    Bus Monitors - Paula Heinemann - no volunteers - flopped!  
    Handprint Project - Kim McGrath - moving along!

Media Center Coordination - Kim McGrath - Mrs. Corsair will be in contact with Kim to finalize a schedule.

Membership - Michele Livingston - pushed during open house. Forms will come home about a week before. \$7/child and \$10 family cap. Open for negotiation. Forms will be available online coming up. Monday the 13<sup>th</sup> is open house for younger grades, and the 15<sup>th</sup> is for upper grades. Need volunteers.

Publicity - Janet Vassel - first time doing it, will get the folder from Paula.

Room Parents - Michelle Bosco/Kim McGrath - Kim will be sending out letters.

Sixth Grade - Michele Livingston/Kat Zapor - Letters will go out. Pine Acres is set, pie dates are set. More to follow once we have a meeting.

Tiger Topics/Copying - Andrea Ginter - submissions by the 10<sup>th</sup>. Other submissions due the first Friday of each month. Submit to tiger [topics@ewpto.com](mailto:topics@ewpto.com). We need volunteers to make copies.

Welcome Back Lunch for Teachers - Phoebe Ostergren - fantastic job, as always.

WSPC - Martin Malicki - Nothing to report yet. Hasn't started yet. First meeting is next Tuesday.

2 hour power pledge - asking each parent/guardian to volunteer to pledge 2 hours to help the school. There is a form for ideas/submissions. May be registered online, or will send home hard copies.

#### Family Events -

Bingo - open -

Dinner on the Lawn - September 16<sup>th</sup> - Paula Heinemann - 5-7 pm. Great opportunity for families to get together. Book Fair will be open during this time.

Cornfest - September 18 - Paula Heinzmann/Andrea Ginter - held on the Broad Street Green - we will have a tent - may be selling tickets for Comedy Night, and the Golf Tournament. Sign up sheet was passed around.

Harvest Fair - Kelly Weinberg - may not fly this year - need volunteers - thinking about a Friday night, October 22<sup>nd</sup> from 6:30-8:30. Limited refreshments - utilizing things we have in PTO closet - donations for prizes, Halloween musical chairs, mummy wrap, scarecrow contest, face painting, nature center to bring creepy crawlies, maybe having the bat lady come and talk, estimation jars, and pumpkin weight contest. Jen Derrick - stated Target may be utilized for volunteers/money. Costume contest may be incorporated. Contact Kelly at [kelly324@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kelly324@sbcglobal.net) by Monday the 13<sup>th</sup> of September.

Holiday Store - Amber Kiniry - is a family event that kids can do their holiday shopping. Gifts are \$2 each, gifts are wrapped. Lots of work - need volunteers!! Lauren has about 100 shoeboxes she just volunteered for the store to use. Andy volunteered bags full of boxes from Lenscrafters to use to box up gifts. Will be November 30<sup>th</sup>.

Holiday Vendor Night - Open - Janet wanted to note that the tables needed to be sorted through and the old tables had to be thrown out. Vendors come with their merchandise, people come in and do some Christmas shopping.

Movie Night - Open - TBD.

Open House - September 13 and 15 - already discussed.

    Hospitality - Michelle Bosco - sign up sheet is with the other sheets.

PTO Orientation - Paula Heinzmann/Andrea Ginter - held the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of school.

Rita's - Paula Heinzmann/Andrea Ginter - Paul Laperriere - is offering September 21<sup>st</sup> from 6-9 for us to

serve custard, and we get a profit. Mrs. Catarius has volunteered. Teachers will also be asked to serve.  
Softball Game - September 25 - Open - Michele Lavoie - Vs. Highcrest. Need a coordinator to sign up.

#### Fundraisers -

Box Tops - Amber Kiniry - everything has double box tops right now. Stop and Shop is having a promo - please check out the flier. Check Freecycle.org. Also, if you have extra food, please donate to Wethersfield Food Pantry - they're pretty empty.

Book Fair - 9/10 - 9/17 - Andrea Ginter - cases of books are arriving Thursday. Class visits are Monday and Friday. NO electronics/video games.

Comedy Night - November - Michele Lavoie - Jim Spinnato - comedian/hypnotist - Friday November 12<sup>th</sup> from 7-11. Tickets available now. \$18 each or 10/\$150 - negotiable.

Scrip Gift Card Program - Open - gift card program. Several retailers.

Entertainment Book - Open - Andrea Ginter will undertake if necessary - will be doing it again this year. Need volunteers - Sales start September 30<sup>th</sup>.

Friends/Family Restaurant Night - Open - Friendly's possibly?

Golf Tournament - Paul and Jackie LaPerriere - Saturday, Oct 2<sup>nd</sup> - Paul showed a picture of the new plays cape. Estimate is about \$80,000. Right now Paul has 4 paid 4somes. \$1200 in sponsorships - JetBlue, gift cards, free massage, etc. Still need sponsors - \$75-\$150. \$110 per person. \$25 for dinner option only. It's on the website. Another email will be sent each week as a reminder. Need volunteers!!!

Misc. Fundraisers - Big Y, Target - Kelly Weinberg - \$186.08 for Target. Currently 25 redcard holders.

Big Y is doing it every 2 years - we earned 10 electric pencil sharpeners!!! Yay!

Restaurant Discount Cards - Open -

Scrap booking - October 24<sup>th</sup> - Michelle Bosco - more info to follow - \$25 10-5 includes lunch, raffle prizes, bring your stuff.

Wrapping Paper - Darka Jara - stepped up!! Already rolling - brochures have gone out. Starts tomorrow until September 22<sup>nd</sup>.

#### New Business:

George Bashura - we should have a recycle program where everyone brings their 5 cent returns and uses the proceeds for the playground - maybe on a weekly basis. Per Mrs. Catarius, the 4<sup>th</sup> grade has traditionally gone around the building and collected recyclables. Mrs. Catarius also had concerns about storage, etc. George would like to put together a committee to discuss.

Mrs. Catarius would like to also bring attention to the fact that Mr. Discenza worked VERY hard to get the school spotless for the start of school, and would like his input before making any commitments.

Committee sign up sheets - Paula Heinzmann.

New PTO Website - Andrea Ginter

Closing Remarks - Paula thanked everyone for coming and welcomes everyone back to the October 14<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Drawing for \$25 Gift Certificate for Book Fair- winner is Kelly Weinberg.

Congratulations!!