

PTA Meeting - November 7, 2017

Thank you to all of you for coming out in the rain! Approximately 14 parents were in attendance with Ms. Shanks and teacher Mrs. O'Connell.

We approved the minutes from the October meeting.

President's Report - Jen said that we will need a nominating committee. All of the board positions are open for next year.

Jen reminded chair heads that if they need something put into the Forerunner, they need to get the information to Tangie by Tuesday.

We will have a speaker coming from the Howard County Department of Family and Child Services for our January meeting. (Everyone present wrote down ideas on what we would like to speaker to discuss.)

Principal's Report - Next week is American Ed Week. Parents are welcome all week, but each grade is giving a specific invitation for a good time to visit. Please stay for lunch and recess.

November 10 - Forest Ridge received a grant to have Playworks come to give our staff and parents a workshop on how to handle recess. Playworks is an Oakland-based national nonprofit that supports learning and physical health by providing safe and inclusive play to low-income students in urban schools. We would love to have parents join us for this! We would also like to have parents volunteer to help at recess.

November 15th is ESP Day. Educational Support Personnel include our para-educators, nurse assistant, Ms. Eye in cafeteria, and secretaries. - Please say thank you!

November 17 - Report cards will go home with MAP reports.

Parent Teacher Conferences - Teachers thanked the parents for having dinner for us on Monday night.

We were reminded that the Howard County Privacy Policy must be done by all chaperones.

It was mentioned that parents couldn't get on the conference sign up, so Ms. Shanks will check with the front office.

Teacher Report - Angel O'Connell - 5th grade team leader reported that the Student Congressional Hearings would be Wednesday, May 23 and that the 5th Grade Closing Ceremony would be June 11.

PTAC - There is a link for a survey about the Homework Policy. Lauren will give the link to Tangie to put on our site. There was a presentation from HC Drug Free and they just had a "Drug Take Back Day." It was a drive-through event. They collected 1,212 pounds of medications in three hours. They also have focus groups who talk to high school kids about drugs.

Redistricting had their last meeting tonight. Public work meetings are available on webcasts. After November, they will make a decision on redistricting. The final plan of redistricting will be decided by the end of November.

Dr. Martirano sponsored an event where he talked about bullying. You can search the HCPSS website to access it.

School start times - BOE voted for no school to begin before 8AM. Look for more information at the next Board of Ed. Meeting. There has been no action or movement on this.

Treasurer's Report - All membership dues is in. We have 280 members.

If anyone has expenses from Halloween Dance, please submit soon.

Cookie dough fundraiser - all the money has been deposited.

Audit for last year was done and it has been sent to Maryland PTA and it was accepted. Working on the state and federal tax forms.

PTA will write a donation to Ed. C for a donation for Halloween Dance.

Committee Reports

Dad's Club - Lady Terps - February 25, Sunday noon game, \$5 a ticket. Ed will get that order in before December break.

Wizards - March 17 - Saturday against the Pacers, \$29 a ticket. Ed will need \$290 down to reserve tickets. He will start selling these tickets after break. It was suggested that we cap it at 100 tickets. It adds to our gross income and has to be reported on the tax forms.

Fundraising - Cookie dough fundraiser went well. The winner of Ravens' tickets was Lucas Ferguson. We made \$5,300,

Cookbook info has gone out. Make sure you are submitting your recipes and kids are submitting drawings. We also want recipes from the teachers.

Membership - We are still accepting new members!

Directory - This should be done by the end of this week. Let's attempt to do it by Thanksgiving. - Only giving directories to PTA members.

Someone suggested we send a half sheet out telling folks that if they want the directory, they should become a member of the PTA!

Halloween Dance - Everyone had a great time, and we thanked Penny for her lead. She reported that we had lots of volunteers. Perhaps that was because we gave the volunteers a free ticket - or perhaps late ticket requests were told if they wanted to come, they had to volunteer.

Some suggestions for next year are to get a real DJ who promotes more dancing instead of children running around the gym and make sure that we are aware that there will be an announcement in the middle perhaps by printing it on the tickets. The face painters did a great job, but they were a little slow. This was due to the fact that they were the apprentices. Someone suggested we include refreshments. We also need to make sure we have communication in place if younger children are entering the Haunted Hallway.

Holiday Shop - This is to take place during the week of December 4 - 8th. After some discussion on the difficulty of getting volunteers, it was decided to make it a three day event with one night, Thursday, included. It will take place on the stage. Penny will be there all day on Thursday.

25th Anniversary - The children are making a special project, which is our gift to give the school to celebrate 25 years. Every child and teacher will be making a tile to put on the wall of the school. It is based on the book, The Dot. The students will be making the tiles during their related arts classes in December.

5th Grade Committee - The fifth grade will be taking a field trip to Mount Vernon on June 7. As of now, the cost is around \$35 per child. Dec. 12th and Feb. 13th will be Chick-Fil-A nights to help raise money for both fourth and fifth grade field trips. This committee would like to add another fundraiser in the spring. In the past we have done bunny grams and rubber ducks. This year we were thinking of a fun eraser sale. It may also include key chains. Whatever is delivered to the children would go right into backpacks. Kids will buy these for others, but we would also get the word out electronically and encourage parents to buy one for

their child. - Teachers will let 5th grade committee know if there are sad kids who didn't get any and the committee will hook them up.

PTA will give them the start up money and all money brought in will come through the PTA.

The committee will be working on t-shirts for the Class of 2018, with hopes of the children deciding on the final design. This will be a free shirt.

We will get kids to brainstorm and then vote on theme for their dance.

After School Activities - Kidz Art starts next week. There are still openings for the musical, *Beauty and the Beast Junior*.

Restaurant Night - LEDO's in Fulton on November 28

December 1 - Skate Night

Spirit Wear - Orders will go out by December 1, with a new eagle on the spirit wear.

Don't forget to sign up to help with the teacher dinner on their conference night. November 20 - 4PM to 5PM.

Movie Night - December 8th

Holiday Bazaar - December 2, 11AM-3PM - We have 15 vendors and have 10 more spots. - We are looking for volunteers to set up and spread the word and advertise.

Yearbook - Pictures are being taken, but we need to let parents know to put pictures in on the website drop box.

Box tops - We had less than usual, only 3,950 box tops. We should be getting a check for around \$1,200. Anyone who turns them in now will be in the next contest. Perhaps they are offering fewer box tops on products now. Winners will be announced soon.

Please come to Math Night this Thursday.

Reading Department - Ms. Darden and Mr. Vaughn-Smith have started a program to get 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders to help the younger kids with the sight words each morning.

Next Meeting - December 5 - For the second half of the meeting, we will have Bess Altwerger, Howard County Board of Ed., here for questioning.