

February PTO Meeting Notes

Our meeting was held on February 17th and was attended by about 15 members, as well as Mr. Strasnick and several teachers.

After introductions, the following topics were discussed:

- ❖ An update was provided on mini-grants: applications have been reviewed and awards are expected soon, pending verification of a few outstanding details.
- ❖ The district will be painting two of our classrooms over the February break. This is great news, as in the past, painting was done by parent volunteers.
- ❖ The Rollerworld event was once again very successful this year, with about 130 kids in attendance. The PTO earned a small profit from the event of \$342.
- ❖ Sub Night was discussed; in the past this was an event run by the teachers, led by Mr. McDermod. Since Mr. McD's retirement, it is uncertain if we will be able to continue to hold this event. Since this is a traditional favorite, we are researching several options to continue the event, but no final decision was made. The idea of a pancake breakfast and community yard sale was also discussed as a possible alternative or additional event.
- ❖ The Garden Committee provided an update on their recent sale of Valentines roses and handcrafted pins. Between both products, they raised about \$1000, which will go toward the start up costs of the new community garden. They are considering a similar fundraising effort around Mothers Day.
- ❖ The Wine & Beer Tasting event for parents is tentatively rescheduled for Friday March 25th. Notices will be distributed as soon as all details are confirmed.
- ❖ Math-a-Thon information was sent home right before vacation with instructions for all grades on how to access the online content. Paper packets will be available to any student who does not receive electronic notices or otherwise does not have computer access. A decision was made to extend the Math-a-thon for a week after vacation to ensure better participation. A special treat will be awarded to the class who has the highest percentage of students participating.
- ❖ The Golf Tournament has been rescheduled to May 13th. The Golf Committee will be at our March PTO meeting to present more details about this great event.
- ❖ Update on Dine Arouds – The results from our January Dine Around (Breuggers) were still pending. February's event is at Kelly's on 2/21. The March event will be run by the 5th Grade Committee and will be held at Fuddruckers...watch for more info coming soon.
- ❖ The co-treasurer reviewed the monthly budget report. Reminder that the budget is always available to be viewed online. Details to access this info can be found on the "from the treasurers section" of the HM website.
- ❖ Mr. Strasnick provided updates on some new items in the curriculum, such as "Writers Notebooks" being used in all grades to allow students an opportunity to more freely express their ideas and gain confidence as writers. He also spoke about several programs being piloted for ELA and math.
- ❖ Mr. Strasnick provided copies of the School Improvement Progress Report, which was recently presented to the school committee. This document will be available on the HM website.
- ❖ Ideas for more communication between parents and teachers were discussed.

Thanks to all who participated. Our next meeting will be held on **Wednesday; March 16th**, when we will be joined by Pat Muxie, Director of Curriculum for Melrose Public Schools, as a guest presenter. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.