

**Museum Alliance for Science and Technology
P.S. 154 PTA – General Membership Meeting
Friday, February 13, 2009, 9:00am
Multi Media Room**

Welcome

Deb Capone, PTA President welcomed everyone and began by informing us that the playground is out to bid as scheduled. The following announcements were also made:

- Annette Tacconelli announced a reminder for February 25th Afro Cuban percussive dance music assembly. All parents are welcome. PreK – 2nd grade starts at 1:10pm and 3rd – 5th 2:00pm.
- Jane Rennert is heading a sponsorship committee with different corporate sponsorship packages of \$250.00 and up.
- Art Card booklets went out and should be returned within 3 weeks. 50% of proceeds go back to PS 154
- At the next PTA meeting, March 10th, a presentation on the Middle School application process will given by Joyce Szufliita (NYC School Help/Private Co.).

Upcoming Events

- Bounce U Feb. 19 explained layout and process. 1/3 of admission comes back to PS 154
- Movie Night Feb. 27th will be The Shaggy D.A.
- Brief mention/reminder re: read-a-thon
- 100th anniversary April 3rd. Jane will be donating wine for wine tasting. All the proceeds from wine purchased at the event will go to PS 154.

PTA Budget Update

Bottom line is that fundraising is on target, with a 1k overage of what was projected for this time of year. There are no corporate sponsors as of yet this year but other events held so far this year have been successful enough counter this.

Eva Lewandowski asked about the craft fair being held in the spring. Dara Oshin said that she is waiting for approval of fee waiving from the Parks Dept. in NYC to see if we can proceed. This will be revisited after approval. Definite interest on the part of vendors exists.

Louise Simon asked if there was appropriate funding for biodegradable lunch trays. Her main concern was that money was being spent that wasn't allocated specifically for the trays. Gina de la Chesnaye has ordered for the next 3 months and is actively seeking sponsors. Deb and Jane have already done 2 months but will do another if need be. The new website potentially being

launched in March will have banner advertising as potential incentive. The only monies being spent on the trays were those that were indicated for the trays.

Two items put to vote for a budget increase for the 100th Anniversary Celebration:

Vote on creating a 16 page, black & white activity book and/or 2x3 color poster commemorating the anniversary. Suzie Treinen can design. Printing costs were discussed. Brenna suggested that if we did the activity books and they didn't sell, we could still use them throughout the year. The poster might not be practical. It was discussed that each class will be doing their own individual projects focused on the anniversary. When voted on, there were no votes in favor of the posters and a majority for the activity books.

Teacher wish lists discussed. In the future, there will be an opportunity to earmark donated funds specifically to a teacher's wish list.

Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS)

Kristin Muscatella, PS 154 Guidance Counselor, Christine from PBIS, and Eric Havlik, Assistant Principal presented the Positive Reinforcement program. It is a program that puts an emphasis on teaching the children by modeling positive behavior and rewarding them through acknowledgement and recognition. The main focus decided on was 1) Be respectful 2) Be responsible and 3) Be Safe. A question was raised as to how to encourage students to acknowledge other students' good behavior. This will be covered in the program as it is about building character and community with lesson plans that will incorporate role playing. The goal is to roll out the program at the start of 2009/2010 school year. If the program is not finalized by then, it can still be rolled out sometime in the school year. Marnie Tetzlaff will be communicating to PTA/parents monthly as to the status of the program.

Science Curriculum Presentation by Eva Giamboi (Science Teacher)

Ms. Giamboi explained the Department of Education scope and sequence which presents the state standards along with the aligned material that goes with the program. Upper grades 3-5 get kits provided. The kit comes with a binder that has the lesson. Every lesson builds on the previous. After 4 investigations and readings there is what is called, "I checks". These are assessments of the modules covered. There are point values assigned for specific actions on the assessments. Ms. Giamboi assesses as the students do the work instead of at the end of the module. Typical class procedure: come into class, she posts a focus question on the smart board (which the kids can notate (they are not graded on their notebooks)), review new words for the day, set up investigation using the vocabulary. By the end of class they should be able to answer the focus question.

K-2 curriculum is set but kits have not been sent. Ms Giamboi prints them out, has them copied and implements them with the children. 2nd graders take notes in their notebooks more often using pictures than writing. The 1st graders come to the science room with the focus on investigation and worksheets:

Introduction to properties, solid, liquids, etc. K is doing hands on experiments and concepts.

Ms. Giamboi was asked for her thoughts on the kits. She expressed that they were well planned on concepts and that the core curriculum and state standards were being met. In regard to creativity and imagination, Ms. Giamboi expressed that within the short time she has with the students, she must address the state standards. She feels that the creativity and imagination comes through the way that she presents the materials and through the experiments.

In response to what makes our school more innovative, she feels that having a science room and the smart boards puts our children at an advantage. She said that using the smart boards motivates the children and allows them to all interact and participate in the experiments. Eric discussed that one goal for the school next year is to realize name of the school "Science and Technology" and to make things better in terms of creativity and spontaneity.

Ms. Giamboi proceeded to discuss that motivation is the key to her presentations. She does her planning weeks in advance and the program has fun activities built into it. She provided an example regarding owl pellets. Upper grades have Ms. Giamboi twice a week, lower grades have her once a week and Ms. Rosen on another day.

Follow up information will be provided on the class trip sleep over at Liberty Science Theatre or Natural History Museum.

She then discussed that grades 3-5 grades are based on the I Test, workbook, lab book and her observed assessment of their lab work. She will be readily available at the parent teacher conferences for discussion.

Update from Parent Coordinator, Shikah Dalal

Shikah Dalal, Parent Coordinator, updated us on the gathering of a group of parents that meet on Wednesdays and Thursdays to do quilting and cooking. If you have any questions regarding these or would like to join, please contact Shikah.

The meeting ended at approximately 10:20am.

The next PTA meeting will be on Tuesday evening, March 10, 2009 at 6:00pm.

Minutes taken by Marnie Tetzlaff

Respectfully submitted by Carolyn Altman