

CP Smith PTO Meeting Minutes

Monday, September 12 – scheduled 5:30p-7:00p

Present: Officers (Karen, Sue, Keri, Shy, Michael), Staff (Amy Mellencamp, Beth Lane), Don from Very Merry Theater, and 16 other parents. Total: 24

Handouts: Agenda, PTO Calendar

5:38pm Meeting convened by Karen
Introductions

5:47pm What We Do – Karen
Provide opportunities for all kids to do activities together regardless of economic status/parent involvement level
PTO Calendar Handout referenced
Conduct fundraisers which are also community building

5:51pm Open Discussion
Question: Are funds raised to support classrooms?
- Answer: yes, each classroom can get reimbursed up to \$150 for classroom supplies/needs, and larger requests are considered on a case by case basis.
Question: Are there any fundraisers that target the community outside CP Smith?
- Answer: Not currently.
- Suggestion/offer to help: something music related. Silent disco (Mikey)
. style of music, venue, dates needed
- Suggestion: Corporate sponsors (Megan). Doubled funds raised for play last yr
- Suggestion: need grant writer

6:00pm School Play – Guest speaker Don from Very Merry Theater
How it's been in the past
- 9th or 10th year here
- Very Merry original adaptation – saves licensing fees
- Rehearsal times varied but does best when at least 30% done during the day
. allows Don to direct (instead of employee)
. lunch rehearsals difficult because of staggering
- Typical cost is \$4,000
. Very Merry Theater does their own fundraising for schools/students in need
. Last couple yrs have been pro bono for CP Smith
- Started being grades 3-5
. Last year added grades 1-2 to bring parents in earlier
What is needed from parents?
- Need parent volunteers. The more the better but we'll take whatever we can get.
How is the play chosen?
- Options are presented. Most schools choose one of those, some have Don choose.

- Choices are:
 - . Frontier Express (comedy)
 - . Wind in the Willows
 - . Pinocchio
 - . Where the Wild Things Are

Who is the liaison for the play, on the school side of things?

- Ideally 2-3 parents are production managers

Parent support for working with Very Merry Theater

- Provides network for production support
- Great to work with

6:19pm Treasurer's Report – Karen

Do not have detailed info yet, but basically

- Have around \$7,000 to start the year
- Would like to raise more \$ this year than last

6:21pm Principal's Report – Amy Mellencamp

Field trips will begin in the next couple weeks (funded by school budget)

Plan to have 1 featured item at each Friday Community Meeting

Lunchroom

- 1 additional para this year
- Volunteer lunch monitors would be welcome but not necessary
- Parent suggestions:
 - . Blue (calming color) added to cafeteria in some way
 - . Sound dampening using egg cartons behind picture/bull. board

Newsletter going out on Wednesdays this year

6:30pm Idea for Cookbook Fundraiser – Amy K.

Will research cost/investment/workload

Committee: Beth B., Megan, Keri.

Suggestions:

- Feature recipes from local chefs
- Collect recipes at the International Dinner

Will report findings at October PTO meeting

6:32pm Committee Updates

Four Winds Science Program – Beth Barhenburg

- Sign up sheet was sent around for interested volunteers
- Meet 4 Weds per yr for ~1hr to go over lesson plans, then teach classes
- Meeting on Sept 21st
- Will look into grants/fundraising

Box Tops / Labels for Education – Shy

- Box Tops
 - . Last yr raised \$1200; \$600 from students & \$600 from online promos
 - . Sign up sheet sent around for Box Top accounts
 - . Discussion of prize changes (choices) to discourage hoarding

Yearbook – Shy

- Cover art contest for 5th graders
- Possibility of Yearbook Club (4th-5th graders)
- Buy yearbooks for entire 5th grade class

Scholastic Book Fair – Shayne Galloway

- Has been full week in the past, will shorten this year (11/2-11/4)
- All \$ raised goes to library; some in Scholastic Dollars and some cash held by PTO
- \$2,000 for library last year, of \$5,000 gross sales
- 50-60 kids “topped off” or won raffle for free book last yr

Square 1 Arts – Karen

- “Fun in VT” theme
- Normally makes \$1,500

Room Parents – Christine Harris

- Room Parent is go to person / liason for teachers. Teams are great.
- Plan parties, good for those who can't be in class
- Will send out something in folders

6:56pm Existing Fundraisers/Events that Need Leadership

Extravaganza

- Ask for donations, set up Sunday, sell Monday
- Held during school day
- Pricing is \$0.25-1.00, lower prices at end of day to sell off the rest
- Ask Susie about shed storage

Pumpkin Raffle (Kristin Fontaine volunteered)

- Teachers decorate pumpkins, students buy raffle tickets for each pumpkins
- Tickets sold before school for 1 week, winner announced Friday 10/28

Science and Engineering Fair

- Last year had maker bots, other community members, provided kits for students
- Need 1 other person to help with school-based portion
 - . Christine Wright requested more info
 - . Beth B. & Beth Lane can be involved

Math Night

- Last yr had math games, 1 adult at each table
- Need a leader to organize volunteers/games, get info out

7:08pm General Discussion

Jenny: Member worker program at City Market possibility to get volunteers

- Need to keep track of member hours (Amy M), get CP Smith set up in program
- Free advertising as request is sent to all member workers

Need volunteers to read to kids

- Please offer to teachers directly
- Amy M. will get info together from teachers

7:12pm Meeting closed by Karen