

PTO MEETING MINUTES

November 10, 2009

PTO Team Members in Attendance: Justine St. John (President), Laura Howrey (Vice-President), Denise Donovan (Secretary), Ginger Gargas (Treasurer), Robin Koskinen (Member at Large), Bernadette McLaughlin (Administrator), Ann Duddy (Faculty)

- **Special Guest** (Mrs. Santillo) - Mrs. Santillo made a brief presentation regarding the inclusion of the new Apple computer funded by the PTO into the Art program curriculum. She began by expressing her appreciation for the funding which enabled her to purchase the laptop computer as well as a digital camera. She mentioned that with both purchases she received free gifts, an iPod Touch and a digital keychain, both of which will be donated to the Spring Auction. Mrs. Santillo used the computer to show those present the Art program's newly designed website: www.maynardschools.org/gms/art which is a showcase of current students' work as well as a source of information for parents to assist in cultivating their children's love of art. In the interest of safety, there will be no last names of children used on the website. Also, all art work will be listed by students' year of high school graduation. Mrs. Santillo's goal is to incorporate technology skills into the art curriculum at each grade level. Kindergarten students have been working on paintings related to the children's book *Quick as a Cricket*. Upon completing the project, students will learn how to scan their pieces onto the computer. First graders are busy making puppets and working on a Blue Dog project. They will be recording their voices onto the computer as a way of creating personalities for their puppets. The second grade will spend much of the year working on pieces for the second grade art show. After the show, they will conduct interviews related to the process and record their stories onto the computer. Finally, grade three students are working on projects related to their hands and will be incorporating digital photography and photo shop on the computer into their work. Mrs. Santillo will notify Mrs. McLaughlin when new projects have been uploaded to the website so that she may in turn notify parents. Everyone is encouraged to visit the website often.
- **Treasurer's Report** (Ginger) - The \$274.89 in the Magazine Drive account represents income from the magazine drive for FY 2008-09 that has come in over the last few months for renewals. Holiday Shoppe donations have started to come in. Ginger has received \$55.00 and Jill has collected a total of \$230.00 thus far. There is currently a negative balance for the Spirit Sale which represents the difference between the expenses for the JetTek order and the sales to-date. The Mobile Grant for \$750.00 came in and we applied the expense of \$55.40 for wooden attribute blocks against it. The \$641.00 in Enrichment Expenses is for the Kindergarten Audubon Ark Animal program. The science orders received from each grade level to-date have been submitted. In addition, Kindergarten has another \$802.91 and first grade has another \$600.27 in science expenses that have been ordered but we are waiting to be billed for them. The negative amount showing as a credit in third grade field trips is for the Plimoth Plantation field trip. It is showing as a credit because we have not yet

received the bill from Dee Bus Service for the trip. Finally, the teacher start-up fund reimbursements are at \$789.15 to-date.

Justine thanked Ginger for all of her work in organizing the science equipment orders. In the future a procedure will be put in place to streamline the process.

- **SafeHooks** (Denise) - Denise placed an order last Friday for the SafeHooks which will hang in the hallway outside the Art and Music rooms and the gym. There will be four eight foot sections of hooks for a total of 68 hooks. The total cost of the hooks including shipping is \$750, which brings us in under budget. The hooks will be shipped directly to the school in the next few weeks and will be installed by the custodians soon after.
- **Enrichment Committee** (Lee) - Lee McDonagh, one of the new co-chairs of the committee, presented the current calendar of events scheduled for this year. There will be more events added to the calendar as presenters are confirmed. The current calendar includes several exciting activities for all grade levels including Greg Wenzel, a paleontologist who will present to grade 2, African drumming and Paul Revere for grade 3, the Birds of Prey for Grade 1 and a performance by Chinese acrobats for all grade levels in June, 2010. The committee is working to have links set up on the Enrichment tab of the PTO website which would direct parents to the websites of scheduled performers. The next committee meeting will be held either December 1 or 2 at 7 PM in the conference room by the principal's office at GM.
- **Fall Fundraising Events** (Justine) -
 - a. **Spirit Sale** - There is a loss so far on the sale but it is not a concern as there is still considerable inventory to be sold. The sale will be opened up to parents again before the holidays.
 - b. **Magazine Drive** - The drive officially ends Friday but there will be a link on the PTO website so that people can renew subscriptions throughout the year. Lee McDonagh volunteered to help run the drive next year and will contact Lois Reilly this week to discuss details of the event.
 - c. **Picture Day** - It went well. The retake day has been scheduled for next Thursday, November 19th.
 - d. **Scripps Fundraiser** - Tracey Fowler has agreed to organize this fundraiser. A flyer will go out the first week of December describing the gift card service. Parents will have one week to return their orders to school. On December 10 we will place our order for the cards. We expect a seven day turn around and parents should receive the gift cards by December 17th or so. Further discussion is needed to determine how best to distribute the cards to parents.
- **Winter/ Spring Fundraising Events** (Justine) -
 - **Holiday Shoppe** (Denise) - Donations of items and gift wrap are steadily coming in. Jill Jacques has collected \$230.00 in cash donations to-date. Some people mentioned that they are waiting to donate items until we see what types of gifts we are most in need of. Thus far, we have 30 volunteers for the week of the Holiday Shoppe. Next

Wednesday, November 18th, some volunteers will meet to clean up the stage at GM, which will be the location of this year's Shoppe.

letters **Spring Auction** (Laura) - Plans for the event are going well thus far. We have at least 25 items already secured for the auction. Volunteers are still needed to send out to potential donors and to follow up on donations. The next auction meeting will be held in early December.

- **Family Directory Update** (Laura) - Laura Grundstrom now has all of the necessary data from GM and is in the process of sorting through it and preparing the directory. Once it is ready, we will submit it to Minuteman Regional High School to be printed. It should be ready in the next few weeks.
- **Other Issues:** The subject of busing at GM was discussed at the meeting. One parent whose child did not receive a slot on the bus this year raised the question as to what can be done in the future to alleviate the busing problem, particularly in light of the increase in population GM faces annually. The primary issue is the lack of available funding needed to bring in another bus. Each bus costs \$42,000 per year, most of which must be covered by district funds. Currently the district is facing a budgetary spending freeze. In response to the question of what is the best forum in which to address such topics, the suggestion was made to take up the issue with members of the school committee.
The issue of parking safety was also raised at the meeting. The suggestion was made that prior to the start of spring sports, the high school baseball coach should be reminded that members of the team may not park in the Crowe Park lot until 3 PM, once GM parents and students have departed.

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NEXT PTO MEETING: Tuesday, December 8, 2009 at 7:00 PM

Our website is www.gmpto.org. Please come visit!