

PTO MEETING MINUTES

February 2, 2010

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

- **Treasurer's Report** (Ginger) - We received \$85.00 in contributions income representing a non-auction related PTO donation. We have received \$590.00 to-date in donations for the auction classroom projects. Total expenses to-date were \$557.29, leaving us with a surplus of \$32.00 thus far. We have received a \$100.00 auction donation from ASC Mechanical.
Another \$31.60 came in from the magazine drive representing renewal income. Library expenses to-date are \$1,541.98. We received a credit of \$597.71 from Scholastic for a duplicate payment on an invoice. Enrichment expenses since the last meeting include \$1,800.00 for "Artist-in-Residence" Naomi Halpern and \$1,152.00 to the Discovery Museum for the Magnets Program scheduled for 2/9-2/10. The balance in non-cap computer equipment represents \$6,846.00 for five teacher laptops approved last fiscal year. And finally, the teacher start-up fund reimbursements are at \$1,089.06 to-date, with a balance of \$310.94 still available for start-up expenses.
 - **General Information** (Justine) - We have received a few very nice thank you notes recently, including one from the first grade teachers as a team, Mrs. Mully for the teacher start-up funds, and from the VanderVeen family.
 - **Enrichment Update** (Justine) - Naomi Halpern came in to school last week to work with Mrs. Santillo and the Kindergarten and first grade students. It went very well. There will be pictures of the "Artist-in-Residence" event on the GM website. Lee McDonagh is working on a full calendar of Enrichment events to post on the PTO website.
 - **General Updates** (Justine) - A flyer will go out next week regarding the Free Movie event at the Maynard Fine Arts Theater to take place during February vacation. Thank you to Laura Grundstrom for organizing the event. The movie "Up" will be shown at 10:30 AM on Wednesday, the 17th.
The subject arose of ways the school could show support for the Sterns family. One suggestion was to have a donation jar present during the free movie event. Mrs. McLaughlin mentioned that the staff had decided to do their "Casual for a Cause" fund raiser this month for the Sterns and to open it up to all GM families who wish to make a contribution.
- Box Tops** - The new Box Tops representative will be Kathy Gargas, who is taking over for Sharon Ray. Thanks to Sharon for her years of service! Vikki Denaro will continue as the co-representative.

· **Upcoming PTO Events** (Justine) -

Hoops-a-Thon - This second grade event will take place on March 4, 2010. Ginger Gargas has agreed to organize the event. Donation sheets are currently being put together. Donations will be collected ahead of time and turned in the night of the event. In addition, those who participate will pay \$5.00 per person that night. All proceeds will go towards funding the Vernal Pool program for next year's second graders.

Worcester Sharks Night - This event is being organized by Jill Pierantozzi. GM night at the Worcester Sharks will take place on Sunday, March 14, 2010 at 4:15 PM. The Sharks will provide flyers to be distributed at GM.

Spring Auction - (Laura) - So far, we have 145 items committed for the auction. We may not end up with the number we usually have (approximately 300) but so far we are doing well. We are going to do some ads in the program, but this year it will be one page of business card-sized ads, available for \$50.00 each. In terms of the program, the PTO logo will be the cover design and will run from the front to back cover. Judy Gerardi is working on the design for the logo on the tickets. They will be printed on card stock paper. We are going to print less tickets this year as the thought is that many people who purchase tickets will choose to receive an email confirmation instead.

The next auction meeting will be held at Laura Howrey's house on February 8th. The raffle for the classroom projects will use an order form procedure. Those interested in purchasing tickets will complete a form stating the number of tickets they wish to purchase for each item. They will then receive a confirmation via email or hardcopy. That number of tickets will then be placed in the appropriate basket(s) on the night of the auction.

For the class projects, which are being completed in the next few weeks, Denise will take photos of all of the projects and then forward the photos to Tim O'Neil and Laura Howrey. The photos will be posted on the PTO website as well as distributed to parents via email in order to advertise the raffle prior to the auction.

"Read Across America" Program (Ginger) - This event, organized by Mrs. Coppola, will take place on Dr. Seuss' birthday in March. Many activities are planned for the event. Last year, the PTO proved \$300.00 in funding for prizes. This year, a request has been made to increase the funding, since the program was so successful last year and will be expanded. A vote was taken to increase the funding to \$500.00 and to earmark this amount each year for the foreseeable future. The vote passed unanimously.

Staff Appreciation Luncheon - Lee McDonagh and Tracy Fowler are the co-chairs for this event, which is scheduled for May 7, 2010.

Third Grade DVD/ Ice Cream Social - Kathy Gargas has agreed to put together the DVD this year - thanks so much! A request will go out soon for photos. The

suggestion was made to make the request via Constant Contact. Also, volunteers are still needed to go into the classrooms and get the students' signatures for the t-shirts. We would like to get the signatures and the sizes of the t-shirts earlier this year.

Contact Information:

Justine St. John: jweezy@hotmail.com
Laura Howrey: laura_howrey@yahoo.com
Denise Donovan: margo.paris@verizon.net
Ginger Gargas: ggargas@aol.com
Robin Koskinen: rkoskinen@comcast.net

NEXT PTO MEETING: Tuesday, March 9, 2010 at 7:00 PM

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