

PTO MEETING MINUTES

December 8, 2009

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

- **Treasurer's Report** (Justine) - The \$325.00 in the Holiday Shoppe account on the monthly report represents parent donations for Holiday Shoppe items. All receipts for reimbursements for purchases will be submitted after the event concludes. The check for \$1,912.91 from Lifetouch for school pictures came in, which is \$121.40 higher than last year's check. The \$366.09 in the Magazine Drive account represents income from the magazine drive for FY 2008-09 that came in over the last few months for renewals.
Enrichment expenses since the last meeting include \$500.00 for the Healthy Choices Program, \$800.00 for the Paleontology Program for grade 2, and an installment of \$297.50 towards the \$595.00 due for the Mother Goose presentation in March. The negative amount showing as a credit in the Grade 3 field trips is for the Plimoth Plantation trip, and is showing as a credit because we have not yet received the bill from Dee Bus service for the trip. The bill has been paid for the safety hooks in the specials area for \$750.48. The teacher start-up fund reimbursements are at \$939.06 to-date. And finally, we just paid the first half of the expense for the Vernal Pool program at \$1,290.00. The other half will be due in the Spring for a total expense of \$2,580.00.
- **Enrichment Committee** (Lee McDonagh and Robin Koskinen) - Recent events include the Audubon Ark for Kindergarten and the Healthy Choices Program for grade 3. Both were very successful. Most grade specific events are booked for the current academic year. Two more Kindergarten events need to be confirmed. Local author (and former Maynard teacher) Naomi Halpern has agreed to participate in an Artist-in-Residence program at Green Meadow, working with Mrs. Santillo. The three day program will run for Kindergarten and Grade 1 and will focus on Halpern's children's literature. Mrs. Santillo will later continue the curriculum with Grades 2 and 3. Ms. Halpern has agreed to return at the end of the school year to participate in a parent's night event. The next meeting of the committee will occur in January.
- **Fall Fundraising Update** (Justine)
Picture Day - We are in the process of registering with Lifetouch for the next school year.
Magazine Drive - We are still awaiting final information on fundraising amounts for this year.
- **Winter/Spring Fundraising Events Update** (Justine)

Scrip Fundraiser - This event is underway. We are working with a one week turnaround. We had \$1,500.00 in orders in the first two days so it appears to be a success thus far.

Hoops-a-Thon - The event will take place in early March. All proceeds go towards supporting the grade 2 Vernal Pool program. We will begin coordinating this event in January.

Spring Auction (Laura Howrey)- This fundraiser will take place on March 27, 2010 at the Stow Acres County Club. We have 40 confirmed donations thus far. We want to have all donations confirmed by mid-February. The auctioneers are confirmed. Work on the class gift projects will begin in early January.

· **Community Events** (Justine)

Holiday Shoppe - The Shoppe is underway now and is going well thus far. The event will conclude at the end of this week.

Movie Night - We are looking into hosting a movie night event for GM families. We could potentially partner with the Maynard Recreation Department on this. A similar event was held last weekend at the old Fowler Gym. Price may be in the range of \$500.00. Suggestions were made of possibly combining with a clothing drive of some sort. One parent suggested involving the high school community service classes for assistance.

Grade 3 Ice Cream Social/DVD - We need to begin planning for this event in January. A few grade 3 parents are needed to assist with the event. A coordinator is needed for the DVD project. The suggestion was made to mention this in the Grade 3 newsletter.

Ongoing Fundraising Activities -

Boxtops and the Target Visa card programs are ongoing. The account at Stop and Shop is now set-up. Customers can designate Green Meadow to receive a percentage of their sale each time they use their Stop and Shop cards by logging onto the Stop and Shop website.

- **Miscellaneous Business** (Justine) - The Safe Hooks are in! Special thanks to Jamie for the installation. Denise is looking into ordering a few replacement hooks to have on hand should any break.

The PTO will be selling Spirit Wear at GM on Monday, December 21 from 8-10 AM and 3-6 PM. If you need anything for the holidays, come on by! You can still order items (youth sizes) from Justine at jweezy@hotmail.com. We have the items in stock, so they ARE available. We will also be distributing the gift cards ordered through the Scrip fundraiser at this time.

Mrs. McLaughlin mentioned an idea the school put in place for the School Improvement Plan of 2007-10 for a Lending Library for parents. The purpose of the library would be to offer parents resources on topics ranging from parenting techniques and skills to educational resources, learning disabilities, etc. Thus far, the library has not been established. The question arose as to whether we want to create such a resource. Those present agreed it is an idea that should be explored now. One question discussed is who should manage the library? One suggestion is to have space cleared in the GM library for a parent section. The books could be checked out under the child's name. The GM teachers present agreed to develop a list over the next month of potential books and to price them. Information may be solicited from the school social worker, SPEDPAC, and other resources at GM. The topic will be addressed again at the January meeting.

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NEXT PTO MEETING: Tuesday, January 12, 2010 at 7:00 PM

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