

## PTO Meeting Notes

November 5, 2008

Attendees: Colleen Morrissey; Gena Rider; Shilpa Pherwani, Amy Revene, Catherina Latz, Vivien Luo, Tracy Joyce, Angie Roering, Laurie Eck, Wei Shi, Rose Martin, Sue Tretter

### Enrichment

Our PTO goal is to fund one Event for each grade level prior to the end of December of 2008

- **Rainforest Reptiles** contacted by Colleen Morrissey. We voted yes for this event. We are planning to have this show the week before Thanksgiving. Colleen will speak with Teachers/Margie for approval. This organization will bring several small reptiles – alligator, bugs, etc for an educational overview and interactive session. Three sessions are planned to be booked.
- **Smart songs** – we voted yes, for this event. Smart Songs makes quality music that inspires learning, keeping kids (and even adults) bobbing their heads. With catchy hip hop beats and rhymes, interwoven between skits and stories, our songs explore themes in education - covering topics in History, Social Studies, and Science. Vocalists Shoeless Jeff and Scott Free rhyme back and forth in energetic fashion on every track, bringing to life important academic lessons. Play Smart Songs anywhere: the songs are not only rich in knowledge and adventure, but full of modern-day bounce. Colleen will follow up. In the interest of disclosure, one of the members of the group is Colleen Morrissey-Levins' nephew. We are trying to arrange for this to coincide with the Presidential Inauguration in January. One of the most popular songs they perform is all about the past Presidents.
- **Jazz Concert** to be discussed as a possible winter event. Cost and timing are being researched. We will discuss once details are in order
- **Circus Smircus** is an organization that teaches, usually in a 2 week course, skills in balance, juggling, etc. we discussed perhaps it could be an offering at the end of the school year for a 'camp' type arrangement , not PTO sponsored but parent funded. We will discuss further. Catherina Latz will be looking into this group for us.
- **Human Body Day** - It was brought up by Laurie Eck that we might be able to have a visit from her husband, Jason, who is an Orthopedic Spine surgeon, for an overview of the body's bones. We expanded the entire idea to open up our connections to coordinate with the many Doctors we are affiliated with to combine efforts and support a Human Body Day for all grade levels. We are shooting for February for this event, and will continue to research availability and interest.

- **Spring Musical** – we are working with area schools to see what performances might be available for our students to attend. Currently we have Bancroft School offering the musical “Once upon a Mattress” in March. Still await feedback from other area schools. Gena Rider is working on this. This will be an ongoing discussion based on availability, times and dates.

## **Community Service**

- **Coats for Kids** – This program goes hand in hand with the Scholastic Book Fair. Each year Tracy Joyce has organized the funds from our bake sale during the fair to go to Coats for Kids.
- **St. Anne’s Turkey Baskets**- we would like to support this again this year. Generally the Teachers send home lists of items from each student and we make baskets for St. Anne’s Church in Shrewsbury. Colleen will be speaking with Margie and the teachers for confirmation on this.
- **Friendly House**- beginning in December we will take up a collection through Newsnotes for gently used household items that can be donated. These will be collected in the office and delivered directly to Friendly House. Also, Tracy Joyce will work with the Girl Scouts to lead the Toy Collections for the Holiday Party also in December. This will be new toys to be sent along as gifts for the party.

## **Scholastic Book Fair**

- Char Willingham will chair this event this year with Tracy Joyce’s help. We will need approximately 8-10 people to help set up on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving. (November 26<sup>th</sup>) – Tracy will confirm we will be allowed into the school as there is no school that day. A sign up sheet will be posted and a newsnotes announcement by Tracy/Char will be posted as well. Staffing for the 5 days will be necessary in 2 hour increments, to help with sales, wish lists and bake sale items. Breakdown of the fair will take place on Friday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at 2:30pm. Volunteers will be needed for this as well. Sign up sheets and newsnotes will also be posted soon.