

PS 9 PTO 2015-2016
January 19, 2016 Meeting

Opening and Welcome

Emergency Preparedness (Ms. D'Avilar)

Ms. D'Avilar did a presentation on emergency preparedness, which the administration is required to present to the PTO once/year.

Four Types of Emergencies (All instructions for these emergencies are made via the school PA system.)

- *Lock Down*: Teachers and admin take all children into classroom and lock the doors.)
 - *Soft Lock Down*: Drill; there is no actual danger.
 - School must do these twice year
 - The administration informs parents of younger children (Pre-K, K and 1st) when these take place but not parents of older children as they are more familiar with the process.
 - *Hard Lock Down*: There is actually an intruder intending harm in the school.
 - *Shelter In*: There is danger outside of the building.
 - Doors to school are locked.
 - Children are moved from any windows where there is potential danger.
 - Teachers try to keep class routine in progress.
 - *Missing Child*
 - *Fire Drill*
 - Children are evacuated to their assigned places.
- ❖ It is important to have the blue cards on file (one in office and one in classroom) so that families can be contacted with updates in case of emergency.
- ❖ All of this info is put into ATS (DOE computer system), but the ATS system does not have all info like doctor and names of pick up contacts.

Committee Reports

Lunchroom Volunteers

- Volunteers going smoothly, but more help is needed in winter as kids need more help with getting dressed for recess.

Communication

- Communications is working on website, February Newsletter and At-a-Glance Calendar for Feb/March/April.

Garden

- The Garden committee received an \$800 grant. Vivian Epstein will get more info. on what this is earmarked for when she picks it up.
- The Garden committee will do professional development with the teachers on garden education.

Wellness

- The Wellness Committee URGENTLY needs a chair as Liz Solomon has stepped down!!

Diversity

- This committee will meet soon to determine their goals and target activities.
- One item to be explored is a translation service.

Green

- Carol Clouse is heading this committee.
- They are looking for organizations other than GrowNYC to head up a recycling assembly for all kids.

Potential New Committee - Parent Advocacy/CEC parent working group

- This committee would be headed by Maggie Spillane.
- There is a call by the DOE and CEC for schools to create these working groups/committees to address issues related to zoning (and in some cases - rezoning).

Fundraising

- Alicia and Melissa wanted to brainstorm ways to increase volunteerism (as opposed to strictly financial contribution so that there are more people to manage events.
 - Direct outreach
 - more clearly outlining event schedule in start of year to make involvement seem less overwhelming

Events

Science Fair is March 17

- 2nd through 5th graders participate as individuals
- Younger grades participate through classroom projects.
- Ms. Codrington needs volunteers.
- This year, parents will vote on projects to determine winners.

Community Housing Forum

- Saturday, Feb. 6 from 1-4PM in the Auditorium
- This is co-hosted by the Prospect Heights Neighborhood Council and the PTO and sponsored by the offices of Jesse Hamilton, State Senator.
- Community Officials and housing advocacy agencies will be present.
- The focus will be on helping families from Prospect Heights and neighboring areas understand tenants rights, housing lotteries etc.

Third Grade Movie Night Fundraiser

- Friday Jan. 22

Craft Fair

- moved to Saturday, May 7
- Melissa Hile will coordinate the vendors via her Etsy community/connections as well as the activities for kids.
- Alicia will manage the raffle tickets sales for the donated items from each vendor.
- Krystal Linton will coordinate and supervise the 5th graders doing day care for smaller kids.

Black History Month Celebration

- Monday Feb. 22
- Jesse Hendrich and Raul Rothblatt to coordinate with Charmaine on this event
- details to follow

Community Updates

Putting the T in PTO

- This group is meeting at Stocked on Friday at 9:30AM.
- This group will go to each classroom to meet with each teacher during Family Engagement Time (Tuesdays from 2:40-3:30) to find out what is important to the teachers and how we can help them.

Lice Report

- A parent, Todd Huffman, is heading up effort to bring back the 'lice checkers'. These were people who would go through classrooms spotting lice.
- We used to have these but budget for this was cut when Title 1 funding was lost.

Schoola

- Each class has a trip coordinator assigned.
- Trip coordinators have been informed that they need to reach out to Dominick or Ivana to request the Schoola funds allocated to their class.

Financials

- Dominick presented the financials.
- Marquis came in at \$3000 over budget.
- We are \$8000 behind where we were this time last year on Direct Appeal. We are at \$108K currently.
- We also have fewer unique donations than last year. This year we have 140, and last year we had 160.