

# Cunniff School PTO Meeting

September 10, 2019

## Welcome and Introductions

This year's officers are: Co-Presidents are Tina Brisson and Jackie Airasian, Treasurer Amanda Quaranto and Secretary Jen Nicholson.

## Principal's Update

The past 5 days have been about establishing routines with a designated morning meeting and building relationships with students. Benchmarks and assessments are taking place in grades K-5. Preparations have begun for next week's Open House. Today the principals met and have decided to pilot the Food For Thought program at the Cunniff. Families in need of meals over the weekend will be given a bag of food packaged from food services. Leadership would like to have older students participate in packing up the food as a learning experience. The Rotary Club has given \$5,000 to support the program. More details to follow.

## Upcoming Events

Open House/Back to School Night is scheduled for Thursday, September 19. The PTO will have a table at the event. There will be two sessions at the Open House to accommodate families with students in multiple grade levels.

The Fun Run is being held on Friday, October 11. Lee Haley, Amy Vitale and Denise Rooney will be taking on this event. Lee will be meeting with Mike Tempesta (P.E. teacher, grades K-5) to discuss more details. The event will be similar to last year with grades being assigned to different times and Warren Street being shut down, but we're hoping to increase family involvement at the event. A flier should be ready for next week's Open House and to distribute to students.

Our Halloween Party is set for Friday, October 25 and we are looking for volunteers to help run the event. It is held from 6-8pm. The basement is transformed into a haunted house and games are set up in the gym with a cake walk in the cafeteria. Lee suggests that 3 chairs be named to lead 1 - food, 2 - games, and 3 - haunted house. Maura will lead the haunted house portion of the evening. Each ticket costs \$1 and everything will cost one ticket each (entry into the haunted house, game, and item of food or drink). Using tickets will allow volunteers to not have to handle cash. Last year, we spent \$950 with \$450 of it for the face painter. The haunted house ticket sales raised \$2,700, however it is important to note that the Lowell canceled their event for the same night and that likely increased foot traffic at our event. We had more than enough pizza, but we were under on water. It was decided that we will purchase or look for donations of

extra waters and not use juice pouches again. An email will be sent out to look for volunteers who are able to help set up and run the event.

## **New Business**

Homeroom parents and 5<sup>th</sup> grade representatives are needed.

The PTO sponsors one field trip with bus ride per grade level, in-house enrichment, teacher appreciation, and Field Day. 5<sup>th</sup> grade has separate representatives along with a separate bank account to pay for the additional expenses for graduation, t-shirts, yearbook and other 5<sup>th</sup> grade specific costs.

Safe Routes was started last year to teach students how to cross streets safely. A representative comes to reinforcement the rules and practice with students. Last year, it was held with 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and each classroom attended during their gym class. The sessions were approximately 40 minutes each. We are aiming to hold it mid-October. Jackie will confirm dates and times.

October 2<sup>nd</sup> is our registered "Walk to School" date. There will also be two other dates, one held in February and the last in May. It's a state-wide program to promote walking to school. We are looking for volunteers to hand out stickers to children as they arrive.

## **Fundraisers**

Meadow Farms – Julie Weeden is heading this fundraiser. It is a catalog-based fundraiser. Julie will reach out to her contact.

Picture Day – Friday, November 1 and we will be looking for parent volunteers to help.

Box Top Contest – The entire format of collecting box tops is changing and now will require scanning receipts. In the past, we've hovered around \$1,000 of profit. Lauren Stefano had taken over.

Scholastic Book Fair – It will be held sometime before the holiday in November or December.

## **Event Recap**

We held Coffee in the Cove and Courtyard for the first two days of school and it went really well. Teddy Bear Picnic was well attended and families seemed to enjoy it. We collected a good amount of emails.

## **Treasurer's Report**

We are starting off \$1,000 more than the prior year with roughly \$7,000 in the bank after a great fundraising year.