

## PTO Meeting notes for Tuesday, November 1, 2016

Cristina DeFrabritis, first grade teacher, is Mena's guest tonight. She is here to talk about homework, a topic discussed during a fall faculty meeting.

The faculty's task was to reevaluate current homework assignments. In first grade, this resulted in monthly packets instead of weekly ones. The first grade teachers wanted work to be meaningful and important, so there is now a bingo board that includes more choice and more interactive, fun homework. There is also nightly reading.

As a school Cunniff is truly looking at homework. If parents are interested, Mena is hoping for parents to serve with a group of faculty to further discuss this topic. It is likely that this group will meet during the class day.

A huge thank you to Lee Haley for organizing the Halloween party. It was an enormous success!

Dr. John Brackett is our new interim Superintendent; he officially starts tomorrow, November 2.

The evacuation drill on Friday, Oct. 28 went well despite the wind and rain.

A new monitor was installed at the front door which allows the main office to see the person at the door close up. This is a nice security feature. On Friday, November, 11 two doors will be replaced (the one at the Cove and the middle front door).

Conference scheduling is open. These begin on Monday, November 7  
Picture retake day is Friday, December 2.

Staffing at Cunniff: Three teachers will be out on maternity leave this year, replacement for these teachers is in progress.

5th grade reading volunteer tutors will begin one morning a week. They will be matched with 1st and 2nd graders in need of more reading practice.

School Site Council will meet next week.

Enrichment opportunities related to music will be discussed this month.

Weather bug update: The installation of a weather station on our roof would cost \$9,000.00. Elaina Griffith is planning to look for grants to help cover the cost, and Cunniff will also contribute. The STEM learning opportunities would be worth the cost.

Budget Report: Tina Brisson

Began with \$3,000 and now at \$3500. PTO took in \$1100 for cake walk, pizza and haunted house during the Halloween. Made \$800 for the party--great job!

Meadow Farms took in about \$1600, but we suspect on line sales have not yet been included. Should we continue this next year? Is there another fundraiser that is similar? Should we switch off every other year? Further discussion will follow during future meetings.

Annual appeal has brought it about \$2,000. There will be another email appeal sent out soon.

Old Business: Color run brought in \$800; it was a low turnout (due to poor weather?).

Box tops have netted \$827.10--check coming in December. Could these be counted at after school or by classes?

Sadly, Cunniff is out of the top 5 contenders for the Watertown Savings Bank Customer Choice Award. They will be at school the week after next during the school day to work with the 3rd grade classes.

New Business:

Launch: hoping to have a fundraiser on Friday, November 11, perhaps a 1-7 time frame? Tickets will cost \$20 for 2 hours of jumping. Donna will follow up. We could also sell jump passes after this to make money. Donna will purchase 50 tickets that will go on sale shortly after the fundraising night.

Scholastic Book Fair is December 6-9. Nancy Dicker is coordinating. There will be evening hours on Wednesday or Thursday. Should we consider having students attend during the class day? Is there a more suitable location than the stage? It gets very crowded. Mena will look into the availability of the multi age swing space.

5th grade update

Raised \$360 from the Halloween raffle. Election Day bake sale hours are 7AM to 7 PM at Cunniff in the main lobby. Dunkin Donuts is donating boxes of donuts and coffee.

There will be an informational session in January for Sargent's Camp. Upcoming events will include a Chateau fundraising night.

There was discussion of a potential sweatshirt sale that would not require purchasing sweatshirts upfront. Britt Days will make up a few designs and present them next month. Perhaps students could vote on two or three designs? Discussion to follow next month.

Lindi DeLorio will look into a Fun Run that could serve as a fundraiser. Other money-making ideas may include babysitting during evening conference hours, perhaps in the spring.

Next meeting is Tuesday, December 6.

In attendance:

Mena Ciarlone  
Donna Driscoll  
Cathy Williams  
Nancy Dicker  
Britt Days  
Tina Brisson

Cristina DeFabritis  
Julie Weeden  
Nicholas Nitschke  
Lee Haley  
Lindi DeLorio  
Carm Bruncati

Lauren Stefano  
Milton Contreras  
Erica Villiotte  
Jackie Airasian  
Rodolfo Garzon  
Kate Croft