

Tuesday, October 6, 2015

Mena's report

October 30 school will host an executive functioning coffee at 8:15

Terry , our school secretary will retire on November 7. She has been in the district for over 20 years. Cunniff will be sad to see her leave.

Field trips: Grade 5 is going on Project Adventure on Oct. 26 (rained out previously) Grade 3 will go to Plimoth plantation on October 28

There will be an emergency drill at Cunniff in early December. On Monday Nov. 23 at 7 PM with the Watertown Police department there will be an informational meeting about ALICE a new evacuation drill. Students will be encouraged to either leave the building or barricade against an intruder in the event of an emergency.

Wed. December 2 the police dept. will be training the faculty on this new procedure. This will include supporting students about the drill. Other schools in the district will also be training. Hosmer has already practiced this drill.

Teachers will be receiving an updated booklet on the new emergency procedures on Wednesday, Oct. 7 in faculty meetings. K-3 teachers will be reading the booklet to their students in class. The booklet will then be posted on the Cunniff website.

Thank you to Carolyn Pippatone and Lauren for publishing the New Parent Survival Guide. Extra copies will be placed on the PTO bulletin board

Teachers are looking through Young Audiences for traveling programs to visit Cunniff. A group is currently looking into mask making.

Picture day is Friday October 9. Erica will be our new picture volunteer

Color Run was not well represented for the Cunniff due to a conflicting fundraiser, but we did earn about \$ 600.00 In the future there will be more changes made, like a walking lane.

Kickball was also a success and earned almost \$400

Treasure's Report:

Gift from 5th grade 1000

Field trips have started

2200 balance as of today

Lowes grant is not included in the above amount

Hope to raise 20,000 to fund all that we would like to fund. Please consider giving to the PTO. An appeal letter was sent home this week.

It is not too late to buy online from Meadow Farms, a good fundraiser for the school. The deadline for paper orders was Thursday, October 8, but online orders until December will still generate funds for our school

Halloween is confirmed for Friday, October 30. The committee will meet to continue planning . The budget is \$300. Last year there was a charge of \$1 per visit through the Haunted House which help to offset costs for the janitor (\$150)and food.

Discussion of Comedy Night and Spelling Bee

In the past the Ed foundation has sponsored an all district spelling Bee. This year, after much debate, they will not be sponsoring it. There is a question of whether we should (with Hosmer and Lowell) take over this fundraiser and change how we do Comedy Night. Spelling Bee would take in about \$5,000. We could work with an event planning company who might work pro bono. There is one in Newton that works in conjunction with BU. Maria will look into this and let us know by next month if they would work with us. Other ideas for fundraisers are Book Sponsorship, Family skate/Launch Halfway Café, \$10,000 raffle. If you have other ideas, please send them to Elaina.

Scholastic Books (coordinated by Nancy) will be in November or December. November 16 are evening conferences and 17-20 are half days. We will compare profits and decide whether to have the fair the week of conferences or during December

Recycling Committee

In the past we have been recycling Capri sun and Honest kids drinks. This is time consuming and challenging, so it will be officially disbanded

Other announcements:

Watertown Savings Bank customers can vote for Cunniff!

If you have an account, please vote. This nets about \$ 2000

5th grade earned \$980 from the dunk tank at the Fair on the Square

There will be a bake sale on November 3 to benefit 5th grade. Please consider baking.

On Nov. 7 or 14 plans are in the works for an adult only evening out. Details will follow

Display board for outside of the building is also in the works.

Wednesday, November 4 is our next meeting.

Tuesday, September 15, 2015

Judy Fallows attended the meeting to give an update on gardening.

Her position is a funded intern position; she has been trying to incorporate what students are studying in school with the garden. She is currently working on gathering an advisory group with all 3 elementary schools so that we can learn from each other and gather curriculum resources (like Seeds of Science).

She spoke with faculty at opening meetings and will be doing professional development programs. She is hoping this will become a school-funded part time position paid for by the town so that students will have authentic outdoor experiences.

There is a Watertown gardens Facebook page that shows gardens from all three schools. Judy updates this page and also visits faculty meetings, PTO meetings, enlists parent volunteers, and she also works with directly with children. Our students are seeing food from seed to plate on school grounds. Judy will also be running an afterschool program with kids in extended day.

She is looking to grow new gardeners in the school community. One of her hopes is to see the community service program at the middle school be involved with work in the garden, too.

Currently there is no budget for her program. All materials come from fundraising (like perennial plant sales, and from PTO. Long-term funding of the gardens is an issue. There are plans for a fall workday in the gardens.

Mena's Report

Hands-on experiences are the main goal for the year--91% of 5th grade scored proficiently on the part of MCAS that corresponded to their experiential learning unit on soil

The Square One art project is hanging in the library, it will change with the seasons (three times per year); it was made with all students (PK-5)

Open House date is Tuesday, October 6 (PTO will have a table at this event in place of a meeting)

School Photo Day is Friday, October 9

Project Adventure (for 5th grade) is September 30

A project-based friendly competition for the year is in the works for participating in a project using the new Maker space (with 3-D printer) at the High School. Thinking about a contest for a new sign for the Cunniff Cove that would be printed in this lab; the hope is that each grade and class would create a collaborative design; the current thought would be to post each design and have the community vote

Space at school is very tight--ELL services and special education services have increased; current enrollment is 304 (last year was 309); there are very large 3rd(24)4th (25),5th (23)grades. Currently these larger grades have co-teachers who are watching and re-teaching concepts in class and in the co-teaching rooms

There are still air conditioners in windows of rooms that were used for the summer program, they will remain in place until October 1; there is talk of adding air conditioners to the second floor; the PTO will work on this project

Treasurer's report

if you need reimbursements, find the paperwork in the Treasurer's (Tina Brisson) box near Mena's office

\$3500 is our current balance; there is also \$2500 for the gardens (the remainder of the grant from Lowe's)

We can no longer use Eastern Bus Transportation; we are currently using Locomotion with whom we need to pay in advance; we are also in need of a new Bus representative, please contact Elaina Griffith if you are interested

PTO will continue to pay for one field trip per grade (there are typically two per year); PTO also funds in-house activities and traveling enrichment activities (tide pools, museums, magicians, Young Audiences); we hope to keep the shows equitable so that all grades are benefitting from PTO funds

The sound system is still unreliable, some funds will be used for a new one

Hopefully Laura Gately will continue with box tops, Stop N' Shop, and Target; we are waiting on confirmation from her

We also need Kindergarten grade reps --grade reps are the point people for gifts, activities (like Halloween, Comedy Night, etc.). If you are interested in volunteering, contact Elaina Griffith (elaina.griffith@gmail.com)

Color Run is October 4, the 2nd Annual Kick ball Tournament is the same day at 1:30. Last year we earned \$600.00. Volunteers are needed.

An appeal letter to support Cunniff PTO will go home this week.

Meadow Farms will happen again this year; This is a profitable fundraiser for the PTO. Please consider purchasing a few items. Purchases can be made online and checks will also be accepted. Information will go home in children's folders soon.

We need a volunteer to build a Haunted House for our annual Halloween celebration (Friday, October, 30). If you have any ideas or contacts, email Elaina at elaina.griffith@gmail.com.

Elaina will be in touch with about a Book Sponsorship (Parents donating books to the library from a Wish List written by the Cunniff librarians.

Other ideas:

Family Skate? Launch?

We will not be selling pies this year and there will not be a Winter Wonderland

