

Wheelock PTO Meeting - Friday, March 17, 2023

Attendants: Holli Caulfield, Sophia Viglas, Katie Lynch, Jill Werner, Seema Patel, Diane Frascella, Beth Rumul, Meg Cabezud, Darcie Robertson, Katherine Weisse, Katie Briedis

Welcome and Introductions:

Principal Report- Holli Caulfield

- Wheelock's 100th Day celebration was awesome! Custodian Ryan Spence volunteered to create some entry way magic—a large “100” sign to welcome kids as they walked into the building as well as a neat interactive counting machine that was so fun for the kids. Students pressed a button when walking in and the machine tracked the attendance numbers. The 100th student was recognized with a confetti gun celebration. 100th, 200th, 300th..students were also given small prizes.
- Board votes to put \$150 line item in budget to support annual 100th Day Celebration—this can help cover costs of any materials bought or used for building as well as student prizes. Big thanks for Mr. Spence for all his efforts in making this day special for the kids.
- The Tanglewood Marionettes came to visit Wheelock again and they were a huge hit. In addition to performing an engaging story, the puppeteers also showed the kids how the puppets worked. Students and teachers both really loved the performance.
- The library departments have teamed up to bring back a Guest Author Visit across the elementary schools. The Wheelock PTO approved a grant to bring local children's author, David Biedrzycki, to Wheelock for 2 days of classroom visits. He will also be visiting Memorial and Dale as well.
- Lunch update: Lunches are big with 120+ kids at each lunch. 3 big tasks the kids need to work on in the lunchroom: **Quiet Down, Clean Up after lunch, and Line Up.** Wheelock is trying a new incentive program where classes can get points for doing an exemplary job with these 3 tasks. There will be a “Table of the Week” that gets recognized for modeling these behaviors
- Wheelock has also built some fun theme days into their lunch week rotation: BINGO (with little prizes), Storyline, and Dance Party Friday. These fun activities are in place to also help support positive lunchroom behaviors and experiences.
- On 3/17/23, local Irish Step Dancers will be coming to visit Wheelock.
- Keep an eye out for an upcoming grant for more dynamic and creative shelving systems for the library space. Sarah Heavey will be submitting a grant request.
- MCPE approved the grant for a Book Vending Machine, so that will be coming to Wheelock!!
- Marissa Keleher submitted an MCPE grant for an interactive white board for the small gym space.

Treasurer's Report: Beth Rumul

- Remaining field trip funds are going to help cover the 2nd grade field trip to Natick Farm in May

- Last minute 3rd grade field trip –touring Medfield- to take place. Bus cost is \$1800–families will need to cover this amount
- Beth proposes increasing field trip budget next year to include this 3rd grade Medfield Tour
- Overall, good job staying on budget this year
- The Author Visit is \$2800 which is significantly more than budgeted.
- Beth recommends revisiting some of these new costs that will likely need to be factored into the budget for next year.

MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

READ ACROSS AMERICA

- Parent volunteers decorated the school and helped set up a great storywalk in the Wheelock hallways

HUG PROGRAM UPDATE- KATIE BRIEDIS

- No new families at Wheelock in the past 2 months
- Katie would like to plan a spring meet up for families at a local playground

HOSPITALITY UPDATE: KATIE LYNCH

- Oat cups/snack bar for conference days were popular.
- There was an extra luncheon from Cutlets last year–may try to do this again this year. (Possibly tied into week before April break)
- Teacher appreciation is May 8th-12th. The hospitality team will map out their plans to make this week special for the staff.

LITERACY NIGHT- JILL WERNER

- Is scheduled for Tuesday, March 21st, 5-8 PM
- We'll be pushing for attendance these last few days.
- We'll also be continuing to encourage wishlist donations through the end of the month of March

TALENT SHOW- MEG CABEZUD

- Meg Cabezud will be running the 3rd grade talent show on Friday, 3/24 from 5-7PM
- The show will be held in the high school auditorium–sound equipment and the lighting are a good set up over there
- Holli will be the MC for the night—there are 38 acts set to perform!!
- The talent show has a \$500 budget to help with decorations and concessions. It is currently not a fundraiser because there is no admission fee. However, in support of the “Setting the Stage” fundraiser (which is raising money towards a rehab of Wheelock’s stage area)-- there will be posters with QR codes present for donations toward the fundraiser. Meg is also going to try to implement a “Broadway Buckets” pass-around type of donation option as well.

THIRD GRADE VIDEO-

- Rick Fink is heading this project. He made a folder for every 3rd grade class. There is access for photo dumping there but it hasn’t been communicated to room parents yet.
- Heading into an important photo collecting period. Room Parents will need to verify that there are pictures of every third grade student

- Third graders will watch the video on the 2nd to last day of school and all 3rd grade families will get a link
- Rick and volunteers will be coming in to gather video clips of 3rd graders answering some “favorites” questions. Will need to set up a time block and a system for grabbing kids to participate in this video interview.
- The third grade would also like to organize a whole grade picture for this special commemorative project

ICE CREAM SOCIAL- Beth Rumul

- Will be held 4/26 from 4:30-6:30 this year
- DJ costs are way up this year so have decided to eliminate the gym/dance component and instead will provide a speaker in cafeteria for ice cream portion of the night and then encourage movement out to recess area.
- \$5 a bowl. Receive a ticket upon check-in and then hand the ticket in to get ice cream.
- Parent volunteers will run the ice cream toppings area—they will be handing out toppings, rather than self-serve

FAMILY DANCE

- Save the Date: June 2nd—dance being held for 3rd graders only—1 student plus 1 parent/adult.
- The team has secured a reasonable DJ/Photo Booth company for just under \$1000
- PTO can cover a portion of this cost (up to \$500) if admission costs don't cover it
- Black lights, glow party.
- Important that we review all these special springtime events to make sure there is appropriate budget funding set aside to support these events should they continue.

FUNDING REQUESTS

- Author visit and field trip support—mentioned and approved earlier in the meeting.

OPEN BOARD POSITIONS:

- Beth Rumul is open to maintaining her role as Treasurer as her current first grader will be entering Wheelock next year
- The Wheelock Board will then need a 2nd Grade Co-President and a Vice President—ideally a 2 year commitment from each
- Seema Patel will move to 3rd Grade Co-President and Jill Werner will stay on as Secretary

COMMUNITY DAY

- Will be held Friday, 6/2 (with a rain date of 6/5). Planning is getting underway.
- Burgers, hot dogs and salads on the menu. Popsicles for a treat.
- PTO to provide coals and starter fluid
- Many volunteer roles to fill (40 or so volunteers needed across the day): Volunteer leaders (to manage/oversee all the volunteer roles), Photographer/Videographer volunteers, Recess/Lunch coverage, volunteers to work the grills and water stations, flag runners
- Marissa Keleher will create a SignUp for volunteers
- There will be small prizes for awards (3 Sportsmanship Awards)
- Matching shirts to be purchased by families—\$5 per shirt—encourage kids to help out with chores to earn money

OTHER BUSINESS

- MCAS for 3rd graders will be taking place the week of April 10th—Looking to create an extra recess-like break on Friday, 4/14, for 3rd graders. Parent-supported fun and games to be scheduled after lunch/recess (after completing testing blocks) This day is also “Crazy Hat” day
- The HS Jazz Band will also be visiting the morning of Friday 4/14 to share a sampling of musical instruments that can be explored at school starting in 4th grade.

UPCOMING WHEELLOCK PTO MEETINGS: Weds. May 10th @7PM

TOWNWIDE PTO MEETING: June 7th @ 7PM

All schedules, forms, and contact form at www.medfieldk8pto.com