

Wheelock PTO Meeting - Wednesday September, 28, 2022

Attendants: Sophia Viglas, Holli Caulfield, Landi Heyns, Katie Lynch, Beth Rumul, Seema Patel, Jill Werner, Becca Stefanik

Welcome and Introductions

Principal Report

- Amazing start to the school year
- The first month has included some special theme days at Wheelock, like DOT Day and Constitution Day. Also some great whole school assemblies.
- School-appropriate behavior is the expectation and students are working hard at it.
- Kids are walking in line order this year, so each student is assigned a number in their classroom—this helps eliminate racing to be first.
- The in-person Family Information Night was a success. There was good feedback from staff and families.
- Students are reunited at lunch—there are 6 classes at each lunch period, three 3rd grade classes and three 2nd grade classes. The lunchroom teachers are introducing fun themes—Dance Party Friday and Trivia Tuesdays.
- 3rd Grade Student Job Applications went out —applicants will need to list their top 3 job choices, answer “Why would they be a good fit for the job?” and included 3 references in their application.
- 3rd Grade Student Council elections will be taking place soon. There can be up to 3 student council members per 3rd grade classroom. Candidates will give a speech to the whole 3rd grade class.
- Rob Surette will be delivering some really neat Lego murals to the library soon that incorporate the standards of behavior
- The Rocky Woods letter has been sent. Dates for Rocky Woods are Nov 1, 3, 4 (with a rain date of the 7th.) The letter gives information on Tshirt purchases and the volunteer experience.
- There are plans for a visit from a new enrichment program called “Peoples of the Dawn.” This program for 3rd graders will share a view of native life during the early colonial time period. Grant proposal is coming

Treasurer Report

- We are still awaiting Wheelock’s fundraising check from TownWide for the Rainbow Run
- Bus prices are extremely high this year, meaning costs of field trips will increase. Busses will be needed for the 3rd grade Plimoth Patuxet field trip, the 3rd grade Rocky Woods experience, and the 2nd grade Roger Williams Zoo field trip.
- To keep field trip prices reasonable for families, the PTO will need to increase their contribution to the Plimoth trip.
- Beth will run field trip cost numbers and will reach out to the board seeking approval for an increase in the field trip expense line item as needed.

Matters for Discussion

- HUG Program Update: Katie Briedis is overseeing the program here at Wheelock. There has been good volunteer interest in supporting the program. 6 Wheelock families have been matched up so far and they held their first playground meet-up recently.
- Hospitality Update: Katie Lynch confirmed dates for a November “Falling in Love” event on 11/9 (during one of the conference days) and the December Holiday Luncheon on 12/21.
- Recess Volunteers: The outdoor recess help has been running smoothly. Lots of interest on SignUp Genius. There was a discussion about starting a Rainy Day On-call list for indoor recess coverage, and maybe adding a few extra volunteer spots on those days.
- Volunteer Needs: Town Wide PTO will be sharing the volunteer forms with Wheelock volunteer interest. The Walking Club may return and parent volunteers would be needed to support this during outdoor recess blocks on certain days. Stay tuned for more details.
- Room Parent Update–Wheelock is all set with room parents–emails should be coming out from room parents soon.
- Upcoming Events- volunteer help will be needed for all these events
 - Victory Garden–October 17, 19, 20, 21-Volunteer sign ups come from teachers.
 - Plimoth Patuxet Museum Field Trip- October 11,12, 13
 - Rocky Woods- Nov 1, 3, 4, (Rain Date 7th)
- The Holiday Shop will be returning this winter. Dates are 12/15 and 12/16. Last year, ordering and running of this event was done with a specific company. This year, we will do it on our own. Volunteer leaders and purchasing teams needed to get the work launched soon.
- Additional Fundraising ideas explored: Movie night or Family Dance here at Wheelock. More discussion to come.
- 3rd Grade Yearbook: Rick Fink has volunteered to take lead on the 3rd grade yearbook. Discussion on the best way to organize photos to ensure all students’ photos are included.
- Literacy Night/Book Fair–Jamee Callahan is looking to secure a date in the second half of the year for this event.

UPCOMING WHEELOCK PTO MEETINGS-Friday, Nov 18th @ 9:30AM, Wed Jan 4th @ 7PM, Friday, March 3rd @ 9:30AM, Wed May 10th @ 7PM

TOWNWIDE PTO MEETING: November 2nd @ 7PM