

John Marshall PTO Meeting

November 28, 2016

Agenda Items:

Principal's Report

- Ms. Patterson talked briefly about the Title I School Report and Yearly Goals. The report provides a method for delivering Title I services in eligible schools.
 - 55% of John Marshall students receive free or reduced lunches.
 - The Title I report lists school wide goals for literacy, math and behavior
 - Math competency is measured per the AIMS exam. Currently, 57% of our students are at or above average per AIMS testing.
 - Literacy competency is measured differently and is based on a Moment in Time Assessment. Currently 63% of students are at or above the average.
 - John Marshall Goal is to have 80% of students be at or above the set targets for Math, Literacy and Tier I PBIS behaviors.
 - Universal assessments are completed during the Fall, Winter and Spring to monitor students progress.
 - Students flagged as having deficiencies in one or more areas are monitored weekly to ensure that they are responding to advanced methods to help promote their success and growth.
 - Parents can become involved by:
 - Signing and understanding the Parent Compact that you and your student signed at the beginning of the school year
 - Read Bi-Weekly Newsletters
 - Contact Parent Partnership Coordinator Sandy Wawrzaszek
 - Complete annual spring survey
 - Reach out to teachers or Ms. Patterson
- Every class is now equipped with an apple TV monitor
- Annual John Marshall winter concert is Thursday, December 1 @ 6:30 in the Wausau East Auditorium. There is to be no video recording of the event due to copyright laws.
- 4th Grade Food Drive was a great success. Students as well as many parent helpers sorted the donations and as a result 4 local food pantries benefited from your donations, Thank you.
- The PTO funded assembly-featuring author and artist David LaRochelle was a hit. The kids loved him.
- Ms. Patterson is looking for photos from the parent lunch and book fair. If you have some photos from this event that you would like to share, please email them to Ms. Patterson.

Treasurer's Report

- Current balance in the PTO account is \$5,737.78
- Heather S. reported that a check from last year's box tops in the amount of \$805.70 is coming. This is not included in current balance and wasn't included in the budget, so we should over deliver our budgeted revenue for box tops this year.

Event Recaps

Fall Book Fair

- Fall Book Fair was very successful, and we had lots of volunteers, thank you.

- The school goal was to make \$2500 in order to reach the scholastic threshold where we would achieve 50% of sales back in scholastic merchandise to support the school library. If we reached \$3000 in sales we would gain another 10% back.
- We sold \$3783.39 through the book fair and as a result we are able to receive 60% of that amount back in books and resources to add to the school library

South East Side Group

- Alexander Park Update, the airport park themed upgrade is going to become a reality very soon.
 - The South East Side group aligned with Becher-Hoppe and created a layout with an estimated cost for the upgrade to be \$578,000. The park was on Wausau's park list for an upgrade in the near future and they were going to spend \$37,000 for the upgrade. The difference is \$541,000 that needed to be raised in order to create the park the South East Side Group and Becher-Hoppe had envisioned. Through fundraisers such as the Run the Runway event and donations from local businesses and charitable foundations, the group is now only \$7000 short of their goal. Ground will be broken for the park upgrade the day after the completion of next year's balloon rally and will go through October 2nd.
 - Joan J. from the South East Side Group mentioned that they are looking into a paver or brick fundraiser to help raise the remaining money for the park. This would be similar to the bricks at the square, recognizing donors. This is a way that neighborhood families could have a lasting memory at the park.
 - The plane that is currently located at the VFW will be moved and permanently displayed on a platform at the park.
- The South East Side Group is having a neighborhood entry in the Wausau Holiday Parade. The theme is Walking Snow People and the PTO donated white garbage bags for the entries to decorate in the form of snowmen. They are seeking more participants.

Fall Spiritwear

- 41 pieces of clothing were ordered for the Fall Sale
- The apparel is expected to arrive the first week of December and will get sent home with your student. If this merchandise is a surprise for your student, please contact your students teacher to make other arrangements for picking up your order.

Box Top Battles

- Heather S. estimates that the classroom battles will begin at the beginning of the new year.
- The winners each month will get to display the Traveling Trophy in their room for the month.
- Heather S. will draft an informational note to parents for the bi-weekly newsletter and Sarah W. will communicate via email, PTO web page, and Facebook.

Popcorn

- Kellie M. spoke about the extra money that was donated by parents for the monthly popcorn for the students. A concern was recently brought to our attention re: kids who do not get popcorn because they are unable to pay. We had tried giving popcorn to all students in the past, but some kids were abusing the system. Currently, Kellie supplies 2 extra bags of popcorn to reach room for teacher to distribute as they deem fit. Moving forward, she will allow teachers to request as many extra bags as they want so that that they can discreetly make sure that no kids are left out of this tradition. Thank you for your generous donations so that more students can enjoy popcorn Thursdays.

Winter Wish Store

- The link has gone out to volunteers to sign up to help students at the Winter Wish Store.

- The Store will be open to students during school hours only Wednesday and Thursday December 7th and 8th.
- Just a reminder that parent shopping is not allowed. This is an event to allow the students to purchase gifts from them for their family at reasonable prices.
- We are looking for donations of brown paper bags for the students to carry home their gifts. Please send any bags you may have to school with your student or contact a member of the PTO.
- We received (1) \$250 donation and another \$20 donation from South East Side members to benefit students in need at the winter wish store. These donations are greatly appreciated. Ms. Patterson and the school counselor will identify students that would otherwise have not been able to participate in the Winter Wish Store event and provide them with portions of the donations so that they can also buy gifts for their families.
- Donations for these students can also be made during the days of the event. Students can donate their change to the donation jars that will out on the tables. Thank you in advance for your generosity.
- PTO committee made and approved a motion to donate up to \$350 to allow all students to be able to shop at the Winter Wish Store. We anticipate that we will have enough in donations to cover this full amount, but if they do not, PTO will cover the remainder. The goal is to have all students to be able to give gifts from themselves to others for the holidays. Money will be given to Amanda Patterson who will work with teachers and staff to discreetly distribute to children who might otherwise not be able to shop in the store.

Future Fundraising Goals

- A motion was made and approved to fund the Library Lego wall. PTO will donate \$500 to this initiative.
- Jessica P. made a motion for the PTO to do another fundraiser to raise money to create a permanent fixture at Alexander Park from JM School. Ideas included a bench with a plate recognizing the school's donation or sponsorship of some of the educational structures. Much discussion was had. Group recognizes that this isn't a normal type of expenditure for our PTO, however this park upgrade will benefit our neighborhood and students for years to come, and that partnering with the SES group needs to go both ways. Motion was passed to approve up to a \$2000 expenditure on a permanent fixture. Options for that fixture will be brought back to the full PTO board for review and approval. If the fundraiser does not cover the full expense, balance will be taken from PTO funds. Possible fundraisers to include a Penny drive and Bingo night.
- Caitlin L. recommended that the park have a Little Library box and maybe the PTO could donate the cost to erect that. Mrs. Frame mentioned that we could call the Boy Scout Office and request the one of the troops do a service project to create the neighborhood library.
- PTO is looking at doing another family Sconni's night in February. Perhaps we use the money raised from the Sconni's event to fund the monument for Alexander Park.
- We are looking for alternate locations to have the Family Fun Night. Horace Mann does not have any Friday night openings for us to reserve the pool for the event. Parent Partnership Coordinator Sandy W. anticipates that the cost of having the event at the Wausau YMCA would be \$170. PTO approved the expenditure. We are looking at having the event in the evening of January 27th from 6:30 – 8:30 pm. More information will be forthcoming.