



## **Cedar Grove ES PTA Meeting Tuesday, November 3, 2015**

In Attendance: Michele Tregoning, Chris Jansson, Anita Young, Lori Andrus, Jen Coakley, Karina Hirschhorn, Nicole Shulman, Heather Schrider, Lori Marshall, Lauren Birrer, Jodi Wilbanks, Katya Shterenberg

### **Presidents Report (Michele Tregoning):**

- Michele Tregoning called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.
- There was a cluster meeting with all of the PTA Presidents 2 weeks ago. There was a lot of talk about the Boundary Study, which Anita Young will address during her committee report. Also, Mr. Derby has put in a request for a new gym floor and a divider in the gym, but now we'll have to wait and see if that gets approved. There is a new Clarksburg Elementary School that is scheduled to open in 2019. Also, the new Middle School that is opening next year will need a new PTA, so keep that in mind if you would be interested in working to form that new PTA.

### **Vice Presidents Report (Annie Karp & Chris Jansson):**

- Membership - so far we have 174 parent members and 38 staff members, for a total of 212 members.

### **Treasurer's Report (Anita Young):**

- Anita reviewed the Profit & Loss statement for October 2015. She then also reviewed the working Budget for this current year, from July 1, 2015-October 31, 2015.
- Mrs. Hirschhorn brought up that the money we have raised so far for the Feed the Bears Fundraiser is about \$5,000 short of our goal, and asked what we are planning to do to make up that shortfall. Anita Young indicated that she feels that some of our expenses will come in below what we originally projected, so that will help. Michele Tregoning also said that from the get go we had said that if we don't raise enough money with this Feed the Bears fundraiser, that we will have to add a Spring fundraiser. If you haven't contributed, this fundraiser has been extended by 2 weeks, so PLEASE contribute! 100% of this money stays within our school, for our children!

### **Secretary's Report (Lori Andrus):**

- There was no correspondence this month.

### **Staff Liaison's Report (Karina Hirschhorn) & Principal's Report (reported by Karina Hirschhorn):**

- Ms Jackson wanted to give a reminder that the in school concert is on Thursday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, and that the evening Instrumental and Chorus concert will be on December 9<sup>th</sup>, at Clarksburg High School. SGA Elections went very well - we have 4 new officers and they will start their first meeting next week. Look for upcoming announcements about SGA sponsored Spirit Days which will be held the third Wednesday of every month.

- Mrs. Jones, our Assistant Principal, had her baby on October 25. A baby girl named Madelyn Grace.
- The canned food drives will begin on November 9<sup>th</sup> and go through November 25<sup>th</sup>. There will be two drives at CGES this year, one that supports Damascus HELP and another that is being hosted by Kindergarten and first grade members of Girl Scout Daisy Troop 2953.
- Field Day was absolutely unbelievable – the weather was perfect and the kids, staff, and parents all had a great time!! Thank you to the parent volunteers – you help make it all possible!
- The Bear Way program is going very well and the kids are very motivated to do well. We focus on good behavior in the hallways, at lunch, recess, and during specials.
- Parent Teacher conferences are slated for next week – please make sure you are signed up for a conference with your child’s teacher.
- Thank you to Mrs. Terhune for sponsoring the staff appreciation lunch.
- The Heavenly Hats program went very well – thank you to all who donated – we collected \$419.00 for the cause.
- Open House was great – thank you for coming out to the Open House.
- The Science Expo is Wednesday, January 13<sup>th</sup> at RHMS. The PTA has generously volunteered to co-chair the Science Expo this year. We have moved it to RHMS so that kids of all grades can participate. This is a voluntary, non-competitive event. Ideas for the Expo and how to fill out the application will be discussed during the morning TV show. The application for the Expo will go home on November 20<sup>th</sup> and they are due by December 4<sup>th</sup>. This is a FIRM deadline for applications. The kids can then work on their projects over the Winter Break, after they have received approval of their testable question.

**Committee Reports:**

**Feed the Bear’s Campaign (Anita Young spoke on behalf of this):**

- \$10,108.07 has been raised so far. Our budgeted goal is \$15,000.00. We have extended this fundraiser for 2 more weeks. PLEASE donate today – 100% of your money will stay at our school, to benefit our school & benefit our children. If you have already donated, but would like to make a second contribution, that would be very much appreciated. If we do not make our budgeted goal, we will need to come up with a Spring Fundraiser.

**Fall Harvest Festival:**

- Was on Friday, October 30th at the school. The event went well and the kids seemed to have a great time. Thank you to all of the volunteers who ran this event and helped make it a success! There was some discussion & suggestions for next year that we have someone emcee the event, so the parents & kids will know when things are happening, such as the time for the costume contest. There also needs to be more games & things to do for older (4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> grade) kids – the games seem geared more for the younger kids. We also discussed trying to make this a bigger /more exciting Halloween themed event next year, since it was decided by Mr. Derby and the school to not have a Halloween parade or Halloween themed class parties.

**Spirit Wear:**

- Our Spirit Wear shop is open and available online until November 8<sup>th</sup>. Ordering is very easy. Please check out the store, and buy some CG spirit wear in time for the holidays!

### **Holiday Shop (Anita Young):**

- December 7<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup>. This year the CG PTA is not using a company for the Holiday shop. Instead, Anita Young is pre-purchasing all of the merchandise. Because we are not going through a company, we are hoping to raise a lot more money this year. This is an event for kids to come shop for their family members. It teaches them how to budget their money, and also the spirit of giving. We definitely need more volunteers this year, to help run this event & make it a success. The Holiday Shop will be in the Media Center this year. During that week, the Media Center will be closed for circulation – lessons will continue in the classrooms. If anyone knows anyone that has a cash register that we can borrow for that week, please contact Anita Young.

### **Cultural Arts (Lori Andrus):**

- Our first Cultural Arts assembly will be held on Friday, November 20<sup>th</sup> for grades K-5. It is an anti-bullying assembly by licensed counselor, Mr. Paul Hadfield, called Taking Care. This is actually a follow-up, or the 2<sup>nd</sup> part, to an anti-bullying assembly that we held 2 years ago. This assembly will reinforce the concepts that were taught in his first assembly – reducing bullying, teaching bystander skills, and the importance of empathy. It will also address more specific issues including peer aggression, teasing, rumors, and cyber-bullying. As a follow-up to this assembly, we will also be hosting a Parent Night, during our PTA meeting on Tuesday, December 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Paul Hadfield will be conducting a special Anti-Bullying presentation for parents where we will learn the components of bullying, how to eliminate bullying from our schools, how to teach our kids empathy & what to do if you witness bullying, and what we as parents can do at home to help children deal with bullying. The PTA meeting will run from 6:30-7:00pm, and then Mr. Hadfield will begin his presentation. Childcare will be provided during this special PTA meeting & presentation, so please plan on attending.
- Mrs. Andrus has also scheduled our Earth Day assembly for Monday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, which will kick off the beginning of our Earth week instruction & celebrations. This assembly is call greenEWit, and it will teach the kids about the long-term benefits of energy efficiency, and help them identify potential opportunities for reducing consumption and for saving our resources.
- Mrs. Andrus recently attended the latest Cultural Arts Showcase and found some great new acts, such as Authors, Musical Groups, Theatrical Groups, Motivational Speakers, etc that that we are hoping to bring to Cedar Grove this year, and in years to come. (If you and your children enjoy having these wonderful assemblies & events at our school, please remember to donate to our Feed the Bears campaign!! 100% of your donation will stay in our school and help pay for so many great PTA sponsored events, such as these assemblies!!)

### **Old/New Business:**

- Mrs. Birrer - Girls on The Run is looking for Parent Volunteers to help Coach this program. You do not need to have running experience to be a Coach, just a willingness to work with the girls and help with this wonderful program. Please contact Mrs. Birrer if you are interested in helping out. The program begins in March.
- Boundary Study Update – Anita Young – The new middle school will open with 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> grade. The superintendent's recommendation for the boundaries for Clarksburg/Damascus MS were released today, however all students from CG will be going to this new middle school. The next meetings for the Board of Education are as follows: November 9<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> – BOE public hearings, and November 16<sup>th</sup> – BOE action.

- The next PTA Meeting will be on Tuesday, December 1<sup>st</sup>. Please note that the meeting on this date will be from 6:30-7:00pm. At 7:00pm, we will have a guest speaker, Mr. Paul Hadfield, who will be doing an Anti-Bullying presentation for parents. Mr. Hadfield will have already put on an assembly for the students on Friday, November 20<sup>th</sup> called Taking Care (see notes under the Cultural Arts section). The presentation at our PTA meeting will be a follow-up presentation for the parents and will focus on the following topics: Mental health components of bullying, eliminating bullying at school, building empathy & bystander skills at the elementary level, building resilience in our children, and things for parents to do at home to help children deal with bullying. Please be sure to mark your calendars and attend this very informative meeting. We will have SSL students to provide childcare during this meeting.
- December 11<sup>th</sup> is Reading Night at the school. More details and flyers will be coming home soon for this event. . It will be a three session event, allowing students to attend more readers. The Holiday Shoppe will also be open that evening.
- Parents were questioning the decision about not having the Halloween parade or Halloween class parties. They were upset that we are the only school in the Clarksburg/Damascus cluster to not have these events. They were also saying that they would like this topic re-addressed & discussed before next year. It was also brought up that Kindergarten parents are very upset that they were not a part of the survey, and they felt that their voices should have been heard. Parents also want to know what happened with the ALL SCHOOL celebration that was going to take the place of the parade. Since there was a survey taken by the school, why wasn't the data from the survey used in helping to make the decision for the Halloween parade? The survey data showed that parents were in favor of a Halloween parade. We said that we would put this in our notes and bring it to Mr. Derby's attention.

Michele adjourned the meeting at 8:15pm.