

# Devon Elementary PTO

## October 11, 2017 Meeting Minutes

- Attendees: Beth Fogarty, Dr. Parker, Raquel Murphy, Kelly Myers, Kara McMahon, Jan Gallagher, Christa Bialka, Michele Seeger, Christine Jones, Emily Bernstein, Shweta Siavarman, Meredith Cumby, Tracy Viola, Tricia Jennings, Christina Arnault, Mary Ellen O'Donnell, Jeanne Braun, Amy Cava
  
- Dr. Parker's update
  - Thanks to community for Hurricane Harvey recovery effort
    - Ms Rohner collected diapers and wipes to send
    - Mr. Axel coordinated a school match to collect and donate supplies to Little Cypress Elementary School
  - Field Trips
    - 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade trip to Churchville Nature Center, Lenape Village
    - 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade trip to Franklin Institute to see the Terra Cotta Warriors exhibit
  - Halloween
    - Breathable, identifiable costumes, nothing scary or inappropriate
    - Parade will be in the back on the turf
      - Maybe use Fall Festival and Spring Fair model for parking
  - Greener Partners
    - Mission is to create healthier communities through food, farms and education, power individuals to make healthier food choices
    - Farm Explorer (food truck) to teach kids about food from seeds to plate, and use those foods to cook and taste
    - Dr. Parker talked to teachers about how to incorporate Greener Partners
      - They will come in the week leading up to spring fair and do a lesson with the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade classes.
      - Have the Food Explorer come to the Spring Fair to share the food that was talked about
      - Cost for 2 days of education is \$600, having the Farm Explorer at the Spring Fair is \$1,000 – Approved by PTO

- President's Report – Raquel Murphy
  - Little Cypress service project
    - Mr. Axel headed the project, everyone involved from kids writing cards to janitorial staff saving boxes
    - Linda Huffman opened school store so kids could buy things to donate
    - Michele and Beth worked to get a paypal button on the website
    - Lindsay Hagerman and mother helping with a significant discount for shipping
  - Community Events
    - Conestoga High School putting on the Crucible
    - Stoga Showcase of Sound – a play on battle of the bands with multiple high schools participating
    - BUILD – Better Understanding of Individuals with Learning Differences
      - Great resource if your child has any type of learning disability
      - Having an event on Oct. 25<sup>th</sup>, 6:30-9:30pm, at Valley Forge Middle School
  - ARCH – Tricia Jennings
    - Community based organization
    - Stands for Area Residents Caring and Helping
    - Mission is to help parents help their kids make healthy choices regarding drugs, alcohol and mental health issues (stress, anxiety)
    - Meetings once a month at the T/E Administrative Offices, West Valley Rd
    - First Event on October 18<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 at Easttown Library, The Teenage Brain
    - Doing more planning for ARCH
      - Bringing back T/E's Got Talent, where teachers are showcased
      - Looking into doing a program for Elementary aged kids in the spring
  - Jeanne Braun – Coordinator of Community and Volunteers Services
    - Liason at the district for all of the PTO's and the parents
    - Runs the Senior Internship Program at Conestoga
    - Work with outside community groups (Flight, T/E Care, ARCH, BUILD, Dental Clinic)
    - Thanks the Devon and PTO parents for their hard work and volunteering
  - Children in 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades can ski free in PA through Ski PA
    - [www.skipa.com](http://www.skipa.com)
  - Gratitude Corner
    - Received more thank you notes from teachers for school supplies and checks
    - Thank you from the district for the turf

- Thank you to Kara McMahon for the mother/son event
      - Received some checks back from restaurants who participated
        - Christopher's \$250
        - Goat's Beard \$54
        - Waiting for amounts from the other restaurants
    - Thank you to Shweta for the school beautification
    - Thank you to Jen Gallagher for launching the school clubs and attendance
    - Thank you to Kate Miller and Gaby Evers for bringing Spirit Wear back
    - Thank you to Wendy Cook and Michele Seeger for all their help, and being the backbone for the PTO
    - Thank you to Kim Sylvester, Marisa Campbell and Megan Hillier for putting together the directory
- Vice President's Report – Kate Miller
  - Got a Minute Forms
    - Everyone should have gotten an email from Lisa and Kate with instructions on how to get information from the Got a Minute Forms
    - Kathy Reigns figured it out, should be easy to use
    - Shweta mentioned she's gotten a lot of response from the Got a Minute forms, and has gotten a lot of volunteers
- Treasurer's Report – Beth Fogarty
  - Received the last of directory ad sales - \$580
  - Mother/Son event
    - Broke even on the ticket sales
    - Getting money back from restaurants
  - Paid deposit for 4<sup>th</sup> grade year book
  - Paid a lot of cultural arts deposits, and the balance for Ball in the House coming up
  - Paid for Real Cinemas
  - Paid for visiting author
    - Mr. Stever's is buying books from the visiting author for the library, on his own
    - He will be reimbursed
  - Year to date, we are at a loss because of paying for the turf
- Communications Report – Wendy Cook, Michele Seeger

- Continuing to stream line information and emails going out
- Everything is on the PTO website, if any information is needed
- Idea to add the Devon PTO website to all emails going forward
  
- Cultural Arts Report – Christina Arnault and Mary Ellen O’Donnell
  - Sold about 100 books for visiting author
  - Franklin Institute came for the 1<sup>st</sup> graders on Oct. 10<sup>th</sup>
  - Young Audiances – agency for a lot of acts that come to schools
    - Was a fun experience to see what kind of performers are available to come to the school
  - Arts Go To School – Christine Jones
    - AGTS – National group that takes a traveling museum to schools
    - Will be coming to Devon March 19-23<sup>rd</sup>
    - In addition to Devon and schools in the area, they go to inner city schools and gives them an art experience they might not get in school
    - They meet every Tuesday in someone’s home and are looking for volunteers from Devon
  - Arts Express Week – Tricia Jennings and Kate Miller
    - Arts Express Week is a week long experience where artists come in house and work with all grades. All grades will have a workshop throughout the week. 4<sup>th</sup> grade will have a show at the end of the week.
    - Themes – Music, art, dance, circus and theatre
    - This year’s theme is dance
      - Arts Express week is the first week of May
      - Met Contempra and are waiting on a contract
      - Have a photographer set up
      - Kick off planning meeting beginning of December
  
- Fundraising – Kara McMahon
  - Auction on Feb 24<sup>th</sup>, at Valley Forge Flowers barn
    - Need volunteers
  - Charleston Wrap fundraiser low this year
  - Sweetheart Dance – Amy Cava
    - Sweetheart Dance is April 28<sup>th</sup>
    - Tentative theme – April Showers Bring May Flowers
    - Will chat with Margo again after holidays to go over details
    - Beth will email budget

- Social Functions – Shweta Sivaraman
    - Fall Festival – Tracy Viola
      - Trying to make the games move along faster this year
        - Adding 2 rows for certain games
      - Quality decorations not quantity
        - Balloon ladies are setting up decorations, and come to take them down
        - Balloon decorations will be raffled off
      - Have 30 out of 100 volunteers needed; need more
        - Suggestion to contact the Key Club at Conestoga
      - Prize table will be as you leave, everyone gets one, so grab as you leave
      - Need help for clean up
    - Oct 16<sup>th</sup> kick off meeting for 4<sup>th</sup> grade year book, meeting with previous chair
    - Inviting people who hosted tables last year to Cultural Conversation Coffee
      - November 10<sup>th</sup> at 9:30
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- Issues, Affairs and Programs – Jen Gallagher
  - ISC Meetings – 7-8:30pm at the T/E Administration offices, room 200
    - October 11 : World Languages Review (Middle School & CHS); Electronic Report Cards
    - November 8 : Demographer’s Report – K-6 Technology Review
    - Jan 10 : Redistricting transition plan, enrollment & facilities update; Middle School 1:1 Initiative
    - March 12 : Special Education; Review of Business Curriculum
    - April 11 : ERB & Winter keystones; Update of College & Career Transition Course: Strategic Planning
  - School clubs starting week of 10/16
  - Mileage club – Brooke Goldstein and Lori Messina
    - Mileage club goes from 10/16-10/20
    - Possibly need help putting the keychains together
    - Would like to incorporate a fundraiser next year
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- School Services – Emily Bernstein
  - Book Fair is on track
    - Waiting for class schedules and request for volunteers will go out
    - Looking for volunteers to man the cash register

- Publishing Center
  - On track, having meeting soon to get organized
  - Will need lots of volunteers

\*\*The time for the Fall Festival is wrong on the PTO calendar. The correct time is 6-8:30pm.

\*\*\*NEXT PTO MEETING NOVEMBER 15<sup>TH</sup> AT 7PM