

NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOL

The Parent Teacher Association of The Neighborhood School General Meeting

Date: Thursday, September 20, 2018

Time: 8:30 a.m.

Location: TNS PTA Room

Type: Monthly General Meeting

Notice Provided in Advance: Yes

Agenda:

1. Intros of everybody present
2. Farm trip for 2/3s
 - a. Manhattan Country school has a working farm. Grace took her kids last year. We are planning to take our four 2nd/3rd grade classes this year. One class will go at a time. Teachers will accompany, but there are also experienced farm educators on location.
 - b. The camp provides a very intimate feel, more structured and purposeful than other camps (e.g., kids milk cows for milk for breakfast, take turns cleaning up after meals, etc.), but there's also lots of downtime. This is especially great for city kids who don't get to play out in nature much. (Several parents shared stories from last year's trip, which was very memorable for those kids.)
 - c. The challenge is that this trip is much more expensive.
 - i. Approximately 250-270/child, not including bus.
 - ii. We need to charter 6 bus trips as opposed to 3. PTA is looking into best options.
 - iii. PTA needs to fundraise 9-10k. Grants committee is looking into this. But families will be asked to contribute as well.
 - iv. Accurate breakdown of costs to come.
3. Committee updates
 - a. Garden
 - i. Meeting the first Friday of every month.
 - ii. Goal: Support growing and env ecology activities for school.
 - iii. Need people to help maintain and plan but also in classrooms to support teachers.
 - b. Diversity
 - i. Meeting the third Tuesday of every month.
 - ii. Rhythm and Rice: In May, we want to organize a Rhythm and Rice event like last year. We want to build an event that's inclusive. Plan activities around where rice comes from. Different ways to use rice, instruments. Belly dancing, salsa lessons. Celebrate all cultures.
 - iii. Border crossers: We want to bring this back for parents and teachers. Looking to change from 2 4-hour workshops to longer format. ps.
 - iv. Potlucks: Purpose is to build community. Space where we can all come together and have meaningful conversations.

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- c. Eco
 - i. Last year's lead moved to Seattle. If you want to lead, let Jenny or Rene know.
 - ii. Biggest event is earth day. Usually out in courtyard. We'll bring in lots of neighborhood non-profits to do demos: insect eating, relay racing with recyclables, etc..
- d. Website
 - i. Moving from current website to Wordpress.
 - ii. If you have tech or design skills, please get in touch with Matt.
- e. Get involved
 - i. If you want to be involved in any committees, sign up sheets are in the lobby.
- 4. Upcoming events (all on school calendar)
 - a. Monday: Curriculum night. After, in garden, will be cheese and lemonade. Chance for families to hang out and meet and talk.
 - b. Tuesday: Parents' night out. Big fundraiser. Please come and have fun and support the school. Anyone is invited (not just current families). Can get tickets through eventbrite link.
 - c. If there's any event you want to attend but it's difficult to attend, please reach out to someone on PTA, Dyanthe, or Noemi.
 - d. Friday, Oct. 19 is movie night. Will be Halloween theme.
 - e. Wed, 31st, is Halloween parade.
 - i. If you're interested in leading, let Rene or Jenny know.
- 5. Treasurer's report (Theresa)
 - a. We have new bank account.
 - b. Theresa shared updates. Will try to make copies online. Budget can be made available as well.
 - c. How much we have to raise this year: 99k.
 - d. Important to not conflate curriculum night and fundraising.
- 6. Library update
 - a. The library is a shared space between TNS and STAR. Sheryl is shared employee. Historically, each school has paid 50% of salary.
 - b. Due to changes on STAR's end, Cheryl is now fully an employee of TNS, but she'll continue to support STAR: On Tuesdays, STAR kids can check out books and use computers. Also, family events will be for both schools.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30.