

## **Parker Woods Montessori PTO February 2016 General Meeting Minutes**

**Date, Time, and Location:** Wednesday, February 17, 2016 in the Parker Woods Montessori cafetorium

**Meeting called to order by** Co-President Angela Asselin at 6:08 p.m.

**Attendance:** There were 40+ in attendance, including Principal Simmons and several staff members

**Officers in attendance were introduced**

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **PARENT ACADEMIC COMMITTEE (PAC)**

Jodi contacted Dr. Isidore Rudnick, CPS Fine Arts Coordinator. Dr. Rudnick coordinated with Dater Montessori, who donated 3 large, musical keyboards to Parker Woods Montessori. Dr. Rudnick is working on getting 3-4 more keyboards donated. The keyboards will be used for 9-12 level classes. The goal is to buy 25 small keyboards.

Jodi has been working with Littlefield Cafe to coordinate PWM getting a percentage of proceeds from sales on a particular night at Littlefield Cafe. Littlefield Cafe can also have a drink named after our PWM fundraiser & PWM would receive \$1.00 for every one of those drinks sold during that month.

**March Reading Madness:** The feedback from last year's March Reading Madness was to make the event more visible this year. So this year we will have reading logs on paper, in the shape of the hat from "Cat in the Hat". Reading logs will be collected weekly on Fridays at 9:30 a.m. from each class. At least 2 volunteers per each age level are needed on Fridays in March. **March Reading Madness Kickoff is March 2nd**, on Read Across America Day, and Dr. Seuss' birthday. Spring Break (March 28 - April 1) falls during the March Reading Madness. A small budget was requested to purchase paper for the reading logs, and to make copies.

#### **GREEN & HEALTHY COMMITTEE**

Kate Demske gave a "Healthy" report: Kate Demske is again coordinating the **Flying Pig Incremental Marathon** for participating PWM students. Flying Pig Kickoff was Feb. 16th. Participating PWM students will meet after school on Tuesdays, 3:45 - 4:20 pm (or Thursdays, before school, 8:40 am - 9:00 am (parent must accompany their child on Thursday mornings.) Children can jog, walk, or wheelchair 25 miles incrementally.

**The kids (& their fitness buddy) can be part of the real Flying Pig Marathon by finishing their 26th marathon mile on Saturday, April 30, 2016 during the Flying Pig Kids' Marathon 26th Mile event at Cincinnati's Riverfront.** The kids will cover their final mile on the actual Flying Pig Marathon course and cross the real "Finish Swine." They get a finishers shirt, a marathon medal and all the goodies of the finish celebration (\$15 registration). You can register for this between now and April 29 either online or you can pick up a paper form in the office. Here's a link to the registration website:

[https://secure.getmeregistered.com/get\\_information.php?event\\_id=122112](https://secure.getmeregistered.com/get_information.php?event_id=122112)

**Specials Fundraiser:** Kate Demske reported that Art Teacher, Ms. Nall's wall mural self portrait project began this week. Each age group at PWM will create a self portrait. 9-12 level will integrate technology into their self portraits. Original Works Company will transfer the self portraits onto a wall tile. A wall tile mural will be made and grouted onto a moveable board for display in our school.

Each tile costs \$12.00; PWM will make \$5.61 per tile purchased. If we sell 500 tiles, we will raise \$2,805.00. The tiles stay at the school. The company will only make the tiles that are paid for, but in an effort to have every child represented in the wall mural, we will seek donations for those PWM students unable who are unable to purchase a tile. More information is expected to be sent home to families in about 5 weeks.

### **END OF YEAR CELEBRATION**

Liz Kitchell, EOY Chairperson, discussed plans for EOY:

Ms. Beth (3-6 level teacher) and Nuria Lopez-Ortega will work on a **dance-a-thon**.

**Bounce Houses**-- we'd like to have at least 4 at EOY. Rental cost is approx. \$400-\$500 for each bounce house).

**Dance Lessons** (perhaps hip-hop)

**Skateboard Lessons**

She is **in the process of soliciting businesses for donations**. If anyone has business suggestions, please contact Liz at [lizkitchell@yahoo.com](mailto:lizkitchell@yahoo.com)

**We would also like to sell Raffle Basket tickets in advance** -- any ideas on how to publicize?

Looking for a co-chair for the Games Committee

**SCIENCE NIGHT: April 7th, 6pm-7:30 pm**

Judy Ganance, Missy Maxfield, Angie Asselin are coordinating.

Emphasis is on experience, rather than competition. Need volunteers for setup, cleanup, food, communications. Flyers will go home in approx. the next week, to ask for parent volunteers.

### **FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE**

PWM received a check of \$257.62, proceeds from the popcorn fundraiser. Remember, you can still order at popcornfactory.com, enter 10PW & receive a 10% discount (product ships to you or the gift recipient directly), AND PWM gets 10% of each purchase amount.

The PWM Swag Shop (Online Apparel Store) is open online until the end of the month (the online store is open 4 times per year, and orders are processed and produced during the shop's "down time". You can purchase items using cash, check, or credit card. Cash and check orders can be made using the paper form that was sent home. Checks should be made out to "PWM Foundation." Credit card orders can be made online at the PWM Swag Station: <http://pwmpo.org/swag>  
Items available for purchase include T-shirts (short and long sleeve), performance shirts, sweatshirts and hoodies, blankets, beanie hats, tumblers, and cinch bags. Some items can be personalized with names and/or our selected Montessori quote on the back.

**Funding Requests:** Approved

**Old Business:** In order to recognize positive student behavior, we are still seeking non-candy incentives: stickers, pencils, erasers, bookmarks, etc.

**PRINCIPAL'S REPORT** by Principal Whitney Simmons:

PWM enrollment has grown immensely over the last 3 years. We're showing an upward trend of continuing to grow. As a result, we will have six 9-12 classrooms next year total.  
3-6 level has 24 children per class.  
6-9 level has 25 children per class.  
9-12 level classroom sizes go up to 32.

Classroom allocations are not usually made until September, through the Teacher Allocation Committee, so being able to get these additional classrooms earlier is very helpful.

### **Calendar Dates**

CPS Teacher Job Fair is Saturday, 2/20/16

In an effort to address questions about enrollment for current PWM families, Principal Simmons reached out to Asst. Superintendent Bill Myles. He will attend the **Wed. Feb 24th, 6pm Family Information Meeting**. Some topics will include enrollment and staffing.

### **Friday, Feb. 26: Black History Program**

The 9-12 classrooms in Team E, Bockstiegel & Best will perform.

Principal Simmons reminded everyone to use her email address that ends in [cpsboe.k12.oh.us](mailto:cpsboe.k12.oh.us)

PWM does not have a formal method for parents to request their child's classroom for the next school year. PWM has highly qualified teachers and we make the best decision possible.

At the last PTO meeting there were letters addressed to Principal Simmons, CPS Safety Director, etc. regarding the PWM parking lot & concerns surrounding traffic flow & safety at pickup in the afternoons. Asst. Superintendent Bill Myles is working with the CPS Safety Department to look into increasing parking spaces in our lot.

A shout-out to Kate Demske, Ms. Beth & Alyssa!! In a short period of time, steps have been made to help make our parking lot, dropoff & pickup safer. Kurt & Kate wrote a letter to the District Officer and both received calls within 30 minutes, and the "speed limit truck" was put up on Tuesday! The police officers will report to the city traffic engineers on their findings.

We are also looking at getting crossing guards.

Someone questioned whether PWM has received any of our Book Fair Money. Principal Simmons explained that the money that was already deposited into CPS cannot be withdrawn to be given to PWM. **However, PWM can apply that money towards buses for field trips, etc.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

There were a number of Parker Woods Montessori ELL (English Language Learners) families in attendance at the PTO meeting (an interpreter from CPS Education Center assisted them during the meeting). After the PTO meeting adjourned, the PWM ELL families went into the media center for a meeting.

Minutes compiled by Angela Jones, Co-Secretary.