

Nichols Elementary School PTSA Meeting

Tuesday, Nov. 15, 2016

Officers:

Co-Presidents: Megan Gallant & Ally Taccogna

Co-Vice Presidents: Cyndi Hill & Amanda Delise

Treasurer: Sharon Zajac

Co-Secretaries: Amy Bracco & Jen Briganti

Principal's Report: Diana Dilorio

- Differentiation - Nichols is very open. Parents are welcome in the classroom, etc. There is nothing to hide. Our ears are open. Very proud of the staff - really good job.
 - Growth Mindset - our staff does have a growth mindset. People are getting more comfortable
 - Met with all teachers about their goals
 - Attendance and Tardies - Trying to help get people here on time which helps in instruction
 - Nov. 21st walk-on for differentiation
- Veterans' Day: Classroom visits - 3 veterans came (K, 2nd and up) The kids walked away with a lot from it.
- Cultural Arts tomorrow - Irish Dancers
- Conferences coming up Nov. 29th and Dec. 1st: Come ready to ask questions
- Winterfest: Dec. 16th
- Mr. DeCesare: Washington D.C. for administration conference on Responsive Classroom. Overview of RC for schools across the country looking at what has been effective. Very beneficial. Focus on discipline side - work through issues in schools and how do we tackle. Restorative Practices goes hand in hand with RC.
- Resource Teachers: Jillian Grabowski , Nicole Terribile, Nicole Anderson, Kathryn Giordano
 - Working within the Whole School Goal: very close collaboration with general education teachers
- Student Council:
 - 2 members take turns being filmed - discuss things that are going on at Nichols
 - Review of Author SKYPE on Oct. 28th with accompanying "football day", Open House with good turn-out, Whole School Meeting on Oct. 26th, Harvestfest and Trunk or Treat
 - Nov. 21st - Carnation Sale
 - Attendance and Getting to School on Time - School Goals
- Operation Candy Cane: Santa will write a letter. Email notice and Facebook Notice. Send \$5 in a sealed envelope labeled "Candy Canes". Letters go out Dec. 15th. SPREAD THE WORD!! Going on Stratford Ladies Page, etc.

- Harvestfest: It was awesome! Having it in the field is actually so much better. We made \$1,500 (\$500 more than last year)
- Coupon Books: Runs for next 2 weeks. We get 50% profit. Forms will go home this week. We're not sending books home because they don't always get sent back. They will be available at Turkey Bingo, Conferences (we made \$650 last year)
- Turkey Bingo: Filling up nicely with about 40 more spaces left.
- Holiday Boutique: Penguin Patch (#1 Mom mugs, "Dad" keychains) - Kids can buy folks things for Christmas. Parents can write in how much a child can spend on each person, etc. There is also a free bin for kids who can't afford the Penguin Patch items. First Wednesday in Dec. 7th. Will need volunteers.
- Holiday Mitten Tree: Kids donate mittens, scarves, hats to donate to Southend Community Center. Fliers will go home next week.
- Holiday Luncheon (Mr. Butz): Dec. 21st - Looking for \$ donations.
- Ring the Bells: Week of Dec. 12th - Collect change and write a check to Southend Community Center for whatever their needs are at the time.
- Barnes & Noble: Book Fair from 12 - 4 on Sat. Dec. 3rd. Staff comes out, crafts, scavenger hunt. "Reindeer Games" - minute to win it games, raffles done every half hour. We'll also have a staff raffle for \$15 gift card at B&N. Teachers get 25% off. Wrapping station. Their Starbucks has "Nichols-themed" drinks and snacks. IF you can't get to B&N, you can order online until the 8th - put in our pin number and we get credit.
- "Winners" - will be announced tomorrow AM
- Merchandise: Flier will go home next week (Monday) will be for sale at Conferences
- Box Tops: 3 winners were announced - \$5 giftcards to school store
- School of Excellence: Extending the deadline. Until Dec. 2nd - We really need a BIG response because it lets us know what we need to improve.
- 6th Grade Committee (John Butz): Yankee Candle just finished.
 - Vendor Fair (Bottle & Can Redemption that day - next one Dec. 10th)
 - Delizioso Dinner Night - didn't go very well
 - Raffle Baskets and selling candy at Turkey Bingo
 - Poinsettias
 - Cheer Gram: similar to carnations, but doing that with pencils
 - Mohegan Sun bus trip (50/50 raffle on the bus) - about 20 people have committed to going
 - Breakfast with Santa: Mr. & Mrs. Claus are ready, trying to get high school students to come help. Reindeer Food, other crafts, gift from Santa - Dec. 17th
 - T-Shirt contest for 6th Graders - Produced later in the year. Prizes for the Top 2

END: 7:45