

## **PTO MEETING MINUTES: January 16, 2019**

### **Board Members in Attendance:**

Judy Jones, Radha Rajiv, Claire Josephson

### **Opening of Meeting: Welcome address by Judy Jones**

The PTO meeting minutes of November 14<sup>th</sup> meeting was voted on and approved. We have been sending out weekly PTO updates via email so that everyone are informed with the latest updates even if they are unable to make it to the meeting. Please send an email to [president@pto-nvrp.org](mailto:president@pto-nvrp.org) if you don't receive the weekly PTO emails.

### **Director's report: Kathy Vouncino:**

#### **Update on the Building purchase in Norwood**

We are just waiting for state's approval for the building purchase. We are hoping to finish everything by spring.

In the month of July school is going to be closing a little early at 2.30 p.m. so that teachers can get trained and new things can be added to the program.

We are also trying new things in the program like swimming at the Closter Goldfish, some classes are doing Bounce u, bowling, basketball etc and these are specially for kids who don't do the typical field trips.

For the older kids we updated our pre-work room so that we can simulate working in a cubby. We have lots of visuals and staff sitting behind them and slowly fading away so that they can be more independent and do their jobs successfully.

Demarest High School has been very helpful to our students in so many ways. They help us with the prom every year and this year it's on May 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup>.

We just found out that the little tikes playground is not in the property of the church. Its owned by a private owner. We got a \$10,000 anonymous donation to the Board of Ed for this playground, so we are going to move it and have a preschool playground next to the regular playground.

## Treasurer's report:

- a) **Membership:** We exceeded our proposed budget for membership. We had a lot of new families joining in. Several classes have more than 80% membership in the PTO and some classes are at 100%.
- b) **Rudy's community fundraiser 1/23:** 10% of all the food or proceeds that day will be donated to the Valley PTO. They have been very supportive. You don't need to show a flyer or visit an app. Please tell everyone about this.
- c) **Blue Moon fundraising** didn't do that well in the fall but we are hoping the numbers increase in the spring. Some of the teachers at Harrington park school also said that they will order through valley for the blue moon or Rudy fundraiser so that will increase the numbers. We encourage all the families to go to Blue Moon and Rudy fundraisers. It could be a nice family night without any cooking.
- d) **Movie Night:** This year we are doing movie night on March 9<sup>th</sup>. We are doing it a little earlier than last year when the weather is still cold so that families can use it as a nice outing for their kids. We will have pizza, hot dogs and popcorn. It will be about \$20 per family. The license that we obtained for the movies are valid for a year.
- e) **Photography:** Apart from Gennaro photography we are also planning to venture into the digital world and have some vendors like Rebecca do a photography session and give parents digital images. Rebecca lives close by in Northvale and she has a degree in fine arts. It will be \$150 for 5 to 6 digital images. \$50 of that will go back to the PTO. She will do it in spring and Fall. Its not only for valley families but also everyone in the nearby community.
- f) **Great Lakes Scrips:** This is when we sell the gift cards and PTO gets a % of the value of the cards. We had a successful year with the fall sale, and we exceeded our goal of \$1000. We are going to do another one in spring which can be used to purchase Mother's Day gift cards, teachers gift cards etc.
- g) **Amazon smile** You can support the PTO by naming it as your charity in Amazon smile. Then Amazon donates a small percentage of your purchases to the PTO. It doesn't cost you any additional amount.
- h) **Stop and Shop A+ School rewards:** We signed up to participate in this amazing program in October which helps raise money for our school (at no cost to you). Each time you shop in stop and shop and use your rewards card, our school makes money. All you have to do is register your card to Valley Regional Programs or sign up for a card and register if you don't have one already.
- i) **Box tops:** Top classrooms get a pizza party and the next two classrooms get a cupcake/ice cream party. It's a fun motivator for the kids. We exceeded this year's budget on this because of a mail mishap and last year's funds had to be deposited this year.

## **President's report:**

### **Upcoming events:**

**1. Family Fun day:** It will be conducted this year by Radha Rajiv, Madhuri Kondapalli and Charles Neher. Join us on Jan 26<sup>th</sup> for a Hawaiian Luau Party from 1.00 p.m. to 3.00 p.m. It's for grades pre k to 3<sup>rd</sup>. Volunteers please sign up in the allforgood website. This is for Disney World. They have this new process for deciding how many free tickets to give an organization. It's based on the event, volunteers and an after action report from the PTO. They can give up to 20 park passes. If we don't get it in time for the casino night we will hold a separate auction for this later on in May or if the tickets don't expire then we can even use it for next year's casino night.

**2. Valentine's day Dance:** It's on Feb 8<sup>th</sup>. 4<sup>th</sup> grade and up participate in this dance. It's also another fun night for the kids. Flyers are going out soon.

### **3. Casino Night: -March 29<sup>th</sup> at the Rockleigh**

All hands on deck for our biggest fundraiser of the year. We are aiming to raise at least \$30,000 to \$40,000. It's a fun night with awesome food, gambling, tricky trays, silent auction, dancing and raffles.

- a) Sponsorship and advertiser outreach: Sponsorship and advertisement letters have gone out but we are always very happy to have your help with this. Our honorary this year is Sandy Alexander Inc. Their family Mike Strauss have been a huge supporter of our program for several years. They print an excellent program book free of cost for the casino night. They even do all our signage for the event at no cost.
- b) Parent Pages: Parents can purchase a page to send a message to their teachers or school or about their child
- c) Raffle/silent auction donation outreach: If you have any items for our raffle and silent auction please reach out to Judy Jones Valley PTO President at [president@pto-nvrp.org](mailto:president@pto-nvrp.org)
- d) Gift wrapping will start in Judy Jones house at the end of January/February. Parents please help out if you can.
- e) We are still going to continue pop/break the balloon during casino night as it was a huge success last year. Our goal is to raise at least \$1000 for the TIP program. It helps to fund the school store.
- f) Class Baskets: The parent coordinator for the class baskets is Jen Donde. Class Baskets are minimum \$100 in value.
- g) If you have any brand-new items that are not being used or unused gift cards, please donate it for this fundraiser. Several ideas were discussed for orange ticket items or raffle or auction like police car ride, parking spaces, island vacations etc

- h)** We are planning on increasing the cost of the ticket for the casino night. We are estimating it to be about \$100 and \$125 at the door because of increases at the venue. We offer a discounted ticket for the teachers.
- i)** Flyers will be going to all the parents this week and will also go in the weekly PTO update. Wherever you shop please ask for donations
- j)** For \$1100 you can reserve a table with 10 seats. This is something that we are doing new this year. It will be first come first served.
- k)** You can purchase tickets via PayPal or you can send in checks. PayPal does have a surcharge. Cash is not accepted.

Our next meeting is on March 5th, 2019.