

Melrose Elementary PTO General Meeting

November 10, 2015

Meeting called to order at 8:14 am.

Treasurer's Report

Gina Viola-Peake, PTO Treasurer:

- \$63,806 has been committed, with monies in of \$41,173.27
- We paid off our debts (loans from beginning of year for \$17,000 towards the 4th grade computer purchase and \$4,200 for spirit wear).
- We now have about \$35,000 in the bank
- The Harvest Festival generated \$2,700
- We sold \$2,400 in tickets for La Noche Latina, with catering costs of \$1,800.
- School spirit wear/merchandise has already generated about \$3,000.

Harvest Festival

Novelyn Aquino, Co-Director:

- We had a wonderful event, but Novelyn is interested in receiving feedback on how we can make improvements for next year. Please email Novelyn at roomparent@melroseelementarypto.org for a form so you can share any comments/suggestions.
- We may adjust the time of the Harvest Festival next year so students who ride the buses can also enjoy it, perhaps scheduling it from 1:30 to 4:30pm.
- If you have any photos of your booth, please forward them to Novelyn. These photos are very helpful as new parents take over a booth the next year.
- If you have any receipts to turn in, please contact Novelyn.

Grant Update

Christine Montes, Co-Director, PTO Grants:

- The \$25,000 Lowe's grant application has been sent it and we are waiting for their response.
- The Grant Team is working on a Honda grant that is due on February 1.
- The team is also researching a grant that could benefit the library.
- Please email Christine Montes or Robin Walsh.

STAR Party/Family Fun Night

Krys Grant,

- The STAR Party and Family Fun Night have joined forces again for a double celebration tonight, November 10, from 6-8 pm.
- Chipolte and Tatsu Ramen will donate a percentage of the Melrose orders to the school.
- We'll all enjoy STAR party telescopes, Astrolab, and other activities planned by the LA Astronomical Society and Melrose teachers.

Beautification

Gabbie Leone, PTO Communications:

- The Fall Beautification event will take place this Saturday, November 14, from 9am-12pm.
- Come Make Melrose Clean, Green and Gorgeous! A Mural Artist will be on campus to create with the kids. We will be planting and working in our gardens, making some yard improvements, tidying up the schoolyard and more.
- If you would like to DONATE plants, please e-mail gabriella.alicia.leone@gmail.com.
- Bring your gloves and any small garden tools such as spades or shovels.
- The next Tree People meeting will be on December 3 at 2:45pm.

Book Fair

- The Book Fair is scheduled for November 16-20.
- Last year, the Fair raised over \$3,000 for Melrose.
- Volunteers are needed throughout each day. Please contact Patti Espinosa, School Librarian, to help.

Spelling Bee

Noé Montes, Spelling Bee Director

- The 7th Annual Melrose Spelling Bee is happening soon. Study word lists and opt out slips will be going home in the next couple of weeks. Please fill out and return the opt out slip if you do not want your child to participate. You can also find the study word list on spellingbee.com.
- We need pronouncers for the classroom bees, which will be held Tuesday, December 1st through Friday, December 4th. 13 classes need coverage each day.
- 1st and 2nd place winners of each grade level will advance to the school-wide bee on January 21. The school-wide winner will go to the regionals on March 13.
- Prizes will include trophies and an online subscription to Encyclopedia Britannica.
- If you are interested and available to help please contact Noé Montes at noe@noemontes.com.

Jog-a-thon

Alan Hysinger, Technology Director:

- Alan has been working on an eblast/link program for Jog-a-thon that will help us get the word out about the Jog-a-thon to our friends and family quickly and easily.
- Each Melrose parent will receive an email that contains a link go to their child/children's dedicated page. The page contains a photo and a short bio.
- One page will be available per family.
- Parents can forward this email with the link to friends/family, or post it on Facebook.
- Soon parents will be sent info on how to set up the dedicated page.

Big Sunday Canned Food Drive

- We are to partnering with Big Sunday again for its Thanksgiving Food Drive. They have requested that donations be limited to canned green beans, stuffing mix, and gravy mix. Collection boxes will be in the school lobby until 11/20.
- The Big Sunday HQ is close to Melrose, and they will need help filling Thanksgiving bags. This is a wonderful opportunity for parents and kids to give back and learn the value of community service. Find out how to get involved at bigsunday.org.

Ongoing Fundraising

- **Ola May** shared the following current totals:
 - Amazon: Over \$1,000 since July 1. Don't forget to use the link on the school and PTO websites when you do your holiday shopping!
 - Target: \$600
 - Ralph's: \$300+
 - Box Tops: \$300
 - Recycling: \$770 (not including today's totals)
 - Shutterfly: Also use the link on the PTO website for your holiday orders. They give us 13% of your purchases!

STAR classes

- Enrollment in STAR classes is down. They want your ideas for classes.
- Ideas shared were dance, music, and song writing. Please email Lynda von den Steinen at lyndav@starinc.org with your ideas.

Tea with the Principal

- **Mr. Needleman** will be hosting Tea with the Principal on November 30 from 3-4pm.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:12 pm.