

Melrose Elementary PTO General Meeting

March 8, 2016

Meeting called to order at 8:35 am.

Mr. Needleman

- Sandy Mitchell is the new Parent Rep at Melrose. She is on campus Monday afternoons and Tuesday mornings. Sandy is fluent in English and Spanish. Contact the office for more details.
- Melrose has been recognized as having a Highly Rated LAUSD Arts Program.
- Melrose was also recognized by Magnet Schools of America as a Magnet School of Distinction. We were one of only eight schools (and one of two elementary schools!) in the LAUSD to be awarded this national honor for the 2015-16 school year.
- We will be receiving a tech grant from the District. We don't know the amount yet, but the max would be \$60,000.
- The "x-ray" that was done on the proposed tree-planting areas was successful—we discovered where we should not plant the trees from Tree People. New areas will be chosen.
- There is also a new date for planting—October 8. Planting in the Fall is better for new trees since watering is easier when school is in session.
- There is a new attendance incentive. The class with the best attendance will get an ice cream party and the teacher will also receive a gift.
- Please keep in mind that each day your child is absent, the school loses about \$30. Last year, we lost \$88,000 due to absences.
- Of course, sick kids should be kept at home, but please be mindful of this policy as you plan vacations, schedule filming work, etc.
- Ms. Valera's 4th grade class is doing a project about reducing waste at Melrose. Expect more project-based learning this Spring.
- There was a serious car accident at the corner of Melrose and Formosa about two weeks ago. Thankfully, no one was hurt.
- The PTO officers met with Mr. Needleman and Wendi Smith-Harris, Valet Director, to share ideas to improve traffic safety around the school.
- A wish list was created that included: a crossing guard, increased police presence (especially in the morning), and increased school zone/turn restriction signage.
- Mr. Needleman will meet with OSHA reps on Thursday, March 10, to present these ideas.
- Please be safe. It is better to be late than to speed or practice other unsafe driving methods as you drop off your children.
- Try to avoid using the alley to the west of Formosa as a cut through to the Valet. Parents entering the Valet line from this alley have almost caused accidents.
- Remember that the parking lot is only for teachers and staff in the mornings and during school hours.
- Look for a switch soon on Formosa for the loading and parking areas. Keep an eye on the signs.

Treasurer's Update

- **Gina Viola-Peake, shared the following:**
 - Funds in: \$102,491 (about \$80,000 in bank after we paid off loan)
 - Pledge Drive: 58,000 (another \$6,000 coming)
 - Jog-A-Thon: \$31,269,50 (includes 5th grade)
 - Ongoing: \$5,791
 - Family Fun: \$1,900
 - Harvest Fest: \$2,600
 - Merchandise: \$3,200

Ongoing Fundraising

- **Ola May** shared the following update:
 - Amazon: Over \$3,172
 - Target: \$823
 - Box Tops: \$525. They are due again on April 8. You can just put the trimmed box top stamps in a ziploc bag with your child's name.
 - Recycling: \$1,500
 - April is Kinder's month and volunteers are needed to collect on Tuesdays from 7:30-8 am at the Valet.

Melrose Neighborhood Association Contribution

- **Sarita Singh** shared the following:
- A gentleman from the Melrose Neighborhood Association was invited to a Melrose Community Breakfast. We found out after this breakfast that he had city-sponsored funds that he had to distribute to beautify the Melrose Ave. neighborhood.
- After Sarita's continued communication over the past two years, he decided that the entire \$20,000 would go to Melrose.
- The money will likely be used for façade/fence beautification on the Melrose corridor since the community must benefit from this effort, as well as the school. If there is money left over, we may be able to improve our irrigation system as well.

Spring Fling

- The Spring Fling (formerly the St. Patrick's Day Dance) will be on April 8.
- Laura Mazur and Karen Steyr are the leads on this event.
- The focus of this event will be community building, not fundraising.
- The dance will include an international potluck and a Teacher Fun Auction and a raffle, along with games, face painting, and a photo booth.
- A sign up for volunteer opportunities will be coming soon.

Breakfast in the Classroom

- **Julie Marsh** has been working to find a way to donate extra, unopened food from the Breakfast in the Classroom program. Announcements will be coming soon on how you can help.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:18 am.