

**Melrose Elementary PTO  
September 2016 General Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday, September 13, 2016 at 8:15am in auditorium.

Meeting called to order by President Joyce Quirch at 8:21am.

**Joyce Quirch, President**

- Safety: During morning drop-off, **DO NOT drop off in the middle of the street!** Use the crosswalk.
- At 8:06am the gate is locked. Please be nice to Ms. Evelyn (who is at the gate). If you are late, go to the office, child must get a late pass.
- School wants kids here by 8:00am. 8:00-8:06 is the grace period.
- In valet: only let your child exit your vehicle to an adult volunteer. Wait in line until a volunteer is able to escort your child out of the car.

**Gina Viola-Peake, Treasurer**

- We are 1/3 way through Pledge Drive.
- As of 9/13/16, we had 65 kids participate. Total is \$19,000. This # is ahead of last year at this point.
- Our goal is \$90,000.
- Everyone who donates gets a Melrose card wallet.
- You can spread out your donation in monthly payments.
- Ms. Grieving's class is the first to reach 100% participation!

**Ola May, ongoing fundraising**

- Please go online to re-link your Ralph's account to Melrose. (must be done every year at Sept 1)
- Last year 22 families participated in Ralph's and we received \$900!
- Amazon tally from July 1- present = \$637 to Melrose. **\*\*Always enter Amazon website through the link (portal) on the Melrose homepage.**
- Download the "benefit" app. You can buy e-gift cards from many stores including Gap, Vons/Safeway, Target, Staples, etc

**Sarita Singh, beautification**

- We are in the process of implementing the grant from Tree People. It has a value of over \$10,000. Includes 16 new trees for our campus.
- Thank you to Kara Newmark and her sister for procuring the grant.
- Trees will be planted at our beautification day Saturday, October 8, 2016 from 9am-12pm. **\*\*We need volunteers!**
- This event is also in partnership with Home Depot (soil donation) and LA Beautification Team. We are the labor.
- We need about 4-5 people per tree (16 trees).
- Breakfast and lunch will be provided by the PTO.
- Tree People will provide the tools.
- Each classroom will adopt a tree.
- One mulberry tree will be dedicated in memory of Mr. Hananel.
- After this tree planting we still have \$14,000 in Beautification budget.

**Novelyn Aquino, Rebecca Hobbs, Mary-Rachel Foote, Coach Monse: Harvest Festival**

- Harvest Festival will be Friday, October 28, 2016. 2:30pm-5:30pm.
- Harvest Festival parade will be during school hours (1:30pm-2:30pm), so all children who wish to participate, can.
- We need volunteers for booth leads.
- If you can volunteer, or have any suggestions, please contact Rebecca (rebeccahobbs@me.com) or Mary-Rachel (afootaway1@gmail.com) or Novelyn (novelyn@neighborhoodcasestudy.com)
- First Harvest Festival meeting will be in about 2 weeks, exact date/time tbd
- Any new ideas for the harvest festival must go through the harvest festival leads (Rebecca, Mary-Rachel and Novelyn). They will then get approval from Mr. Needleman

**Mathew Needleman, Principal**

- Lunch apps/Title 1: We're missing 24 lunch applications. We are at risk of losing our Title 1 funding. If we lose it, that means losing \$25,000 of our budget next year and possibly \$50,000 for the year after that.
- Attendance/Tardiness: Last year we improved our attendance by 1% which = \$13,000 addition to our budget, which gave us our own librarian. So far, attendance is down 1% this year. Please try to have your child miss no more than 6 days for the entire year. But if they are sick, they should stay home. We are required by law to report the time each child arrives. That is why your child needs a slip from the office if ever tardy.
- Security: always sign in if you are arriving on campus. This is district policy.
- Water: Melrose adheres to LA guidelines of flushing water for 30 seconds to remove any possible lead build-up from possible soldered attachments in pipes. Teachers & custodians flush all water that is for drinking every day. After morning flushing, the water will remain fine for the day's duration. If parents remained concerned, please send your child with his/her own water from home.

**Marina, Melrose parent, LA Civil Engineer**

- The water in your home is the exact same water at school.
- Flushing is the best method for removing impurity build-up. It is even better than a filter, as a filter acts like a sponge and can possibly put the captured lead, etc, back in the water. No filters "remove" lead. They capture it, and perhaps only temporarily.
- Taste nor appearance have any bearing on the quality or health of the water.

**Alysen Cho, Korean BBQ**

- Korean BBQ is Friday, Sept 23 from 5pm-7pm.
- Advance tickets: \$10 adults/\$6 kids.
- Tickets on day of event: \$12 adults/\$6 kids
- We need help in setting up the event starting at 4pm. If you can volunteer, contact Sarita @ saritajs@sbcglobal.net
- There are no "refills" or "seconds"
- We will be showing a movie outside, so bring blankets!

**Joyce Quirch**

- We need volunteers!
- Go to [www.Melrosetars.org](http://www.Melrosetars.org) and sign up online.
- We need help with gardening, copying of chorus/music sheets and help to clean the recorders.
- We also need ceramic assistants to help Gabbie Leone. No experience necessary. This will be 1 afternoon/week (in the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester) for 10 weeks. If interested contact Gabbie at [gabriella.alicia.leone@gmail.com](mailto:gabriella.alicia.leone@gmail.com)
- We also need painting assistants for Kinder

**Meeting adjourned at 9:39am.**

**Minutes compiled by Katie Weber, Secretary**