

Champlain PTO Meeting
PTO Work Session
August 20, 2008

Jessica received an email from Karen Flynn about a PTO Healthy Lifestyles Award. Deadline for an application is September 5th for a November

Parm talked about the monthly meetings organization – use these meetings to plan upcoming events.

I. Open House – we need a PTO table to welcome families. Half hour slots for PTO members greet and inform. Melissa suggested a “tri-fold” board to advertise what the PTO provides for the school.

II. Welcome Breakfast – we need baked goods to be brought for everyone. PTO provides coffee and bagels. Sandie will bring the bagels and coffee. Announcements will be made about Apple Fest, Silent Auction items.

III. Parent’s Night - Sept. 17th.– PTO will have a table for this event. Child care has traditionally been provided for this event so parents can go into the classroom for teachers’ presentations. Parm reminded us that Champlain is scheduled to host the PTO Council meeting that night. Jenny will call to see if we can reschedule this. We discussed staggering the teachers’ presentations so that parents with multiple children can attend multiple classrooms.

IV. Apple Fest planning. Chris will contact Renee Allen to see if she has a partner for the Silent Auction. We do not have the popcorn, cotton candy or hot dog rolling machines this year. Colleen suggested caramel and candy apples. Gwen has contacted City Market and Shelburn Farms to run harvest “events”. Should we get a dunking machine? Bounce castles are expensive but they are money makers. Jenny will email the council for resources. Do we want Champ here? Balloon guy??? Sandie will contact a Fortune Teller. Colleen talked about baking apple pies in classrooms for selling – bake sale. Can we use the classroom parents to help facilitate. Colleen reports that there used to be meetings devoted to Apple Fest to help enrich the activity.

V. Walk to School – keep on the radar –

Parent Enrichment Meetings

We had discussed having Barb Frankowski come in to educate parents on her program with 4th and 5th graders. Melissa will follow up and check about scheduling her. Another topic that may be of interest is internet safety. A math curricular night may be of interest as well.

Dawn Bates offered to check car seats.

This is a year to evaluate the regular PTO events – are they working for us? Perhaps a more objective evaluation of the events is needed. Kristen Devoe-Talluto has worked on an evaluation form to help facilitate this process. Who should fill out this form? How would we use the information we’ve gathered?

Fundraising

* Innisbrooke again – the first week of September. We made over \$2,000 last year. We talked about incentives to try to generate more money.

* Selling mums this fall. Claussons ships at the end of September so we need to get the information out quickly.

* Vermont Coffee Company – Jenny has researched their coffee club. 50% breakdown.

* Colleen talked about a craft fair – rent out booths and folks sell their crafts.

* Perhaps we could coordinate with restaurants to generate money for us.

* The musical cost \$8,000 last year. Now with the changes to After School program we do not have the money to pay for it. We need a musical subcommittee to figure out how to manage this. Perhaps there is a grant? Perhaps there are people in the community who can help direct? Jenny would like to talk more about switching to Ambient Photography.

We need volunteers to help get Apple Fest off the ground. Please sign up for helping out with this event so we can continue to make this a fun, creative event.

At the June meeting we discussed bridging the gap between parents and teachers with technology. Parents have access to all teachers' email addresses. Colleen talked about the lack of technology at the school. There was a discussion about how to facilitate better communication through technology. Can we use the school's web page to post items from the classroom? Could we use the Learning Center volunteers to help teachers make use of the web page.

We need a volunteer to do the Parent Directory!!!

PTO Meetings are the Second Wednesday of each month.
Parent's Night is a time to hear about your child's classroom curriculum. If you want to talk to your child's teacher, please schedule a meeting.