

**Homestead Elementary School PTA
General PTA Business Meeting
September 1, 2009 7-9PM**

- I. Call Meeting to Order and Welcome**
- II. Pledge of Allegiance**
- III. Reading of Minutes**
- IV. Report of Officers**
 - a. Treasurer's Report**
 - i. Purchased this year so far - Agendas, Spirit Wear samples/sale items for Preview Night
 - b. Membership Report**
 - i. Goal for the year is 343 members, which is a 10% increase over last year
 - c. Principal's Report**
 - i. First few days of school smooth despite construction
 - ii. Teachers present at meeting: Amy Manuel (K), Krista Egeland (3rd)
 - iii. Enrollment this year as of the first day of school:
 1. 638 students total
 2. 95 Kindergarten (some Homestead Kindergarteners are at full-day Kindergarten)
 3. 133 First Graders (largest class)
 4. 94 Second Graders
 5. 127 Third Graders
 6. 100 Fourth Graders
 7. 89 Fifth Graders
 - iv. Staff/program changes:
 1. New 1st Grade teacher - Gretchen O'Shea
 2. New 5th Grade teacher - Jen Adams
 3. Mary Walker moved from 2nd Grade to 1st Grade
 4. Casey O'Connell moved from 5th Grade to 3rd Grade
 5. Tara Phillips formerly Academically Talented Teacher, now Vice Principal
 6. New AT Teacher - Amy Masske
 7. New program - ISP (Instructional Skills Program) for 2nd-4th Grades which covers materials at a slower pace with more repetition and in smaller groups.
 8. New ISP - Mary Fondriest
 9. New Speech Pathologist - Tandra Caldwell
 10. New ISP TA - Margaret Filicicchia
 11. New Diagnostic TA - Maria Schraeder
 12. New F/T Reading Specialist - Michelle Huber
 13. New TAs - Janine Anderson, Kristine Kime, Karla Dannheim
 - v. Construction Update:
 1. Construction is over for the most part, but there are still a few things to work out, such as the air conditioning system and technology.
 2. Site should be completed by 9/2.
 3. Grass may be weather-dependent
 4. Playground is in storage. It's supposed to be put up, but probably won't be until next spring.
 - vi. Events:
 1. 9/02 - Character Counts day. September's theme is all pillars. Students dress in a pillar's color.
 2. 9/10 - Early Dismissal. One of three 5-hour days added to the calendar for staff development and initiatives. AM Kindergarten 8:40-10:40, PM Kindergarten 11:40-1:40, 1st-5th Grades 8:40-1:40

3. 9/14 - 10/2 will be MAP testing (Measure of Academic Progress) for grades 2, 3, 4 and 5. Results will be sent out around conference time in November. These tests help the teachers better address the individual needs of students.
4. 9/21 - Curriculum Night beginning at 6:30. This evening is for adults only, please, since there is no childcare available. Each classroom will hold 20-25 minute sessions to go over the curriculum and expectations for the year.
5. 9/22 - Fall Pictures. All children have their pictures taken and receive a free class composite whether the family orders an individual picture package or not.

V. Report of Committees

a. Reflections

- i. An arts program for students to submit various forms of artwork. This year's theme is "Beauty is..." More information will come home in October/November. The deadline for art submission is after Winter break.

b. Newsletter

- i. Monthly newsletters are distributed to Homestead families. This year, they'll be distributed electronically, but there will be copies in the school office for those without internet access. This will save paper and money.

c. Beautification

- i. Handles cleanup and replanting around the school. First Beautification Day will be November 7th from 9-Noon. Volunteers needed! More information will be coming home soon.

d. Campbell's, BoxTops, Tyson

- i. Homestead PTA participates in the following:
 1. Campbell's Soup Labels - points program where each label is worth a certain amount of points. The PTA collects the labels and chooses products from a catalog. When submitting labels, we don't need the entire label, just the UPC code.
 2. Boxtops for Education - cash program where each label is worth ten cents. When submitting labels, please check for expiration dates and submit only the Boxtops symbol, not the entire box top. Boxtops 4 Education online (btfe.com) also has the Boxtops Marketplace where online purchases can also earn Homestead PTA a percentage. There are also coupons and sweepstakes to enter for the school to potentially win boxtops.
 3. Tyson Chicken - cash program where each label is worth 24 cents. When submitting labels, be sure to include the ENTIRE label, not just the Project A+ symbol or we don't get credit.
 4. Nestle PureLife Water - points system where each bottle label is worth 2 points. The points are used to purchase athletic equipment.
 5. Sunny D - this program is only available through November. They're offering 20 books if we submit 20 labels.
- ii. There are classroom contests to see which classroom can collect the most labels. The top 3 classes for the year will earn a pizza party in May.
- iii. Labels can be submitted by placing them all into a zip-top bag labeled with the teacher's name and grade and sending them to school with the students.

e. Picture Presenter

- i. An art appreciation program held during the day in the classrooms. Volunteers come in once a month to show and discuss a particular piece of artwork. Binders with complete instructions are available.
- ii. Normally, a meeting is held to recruit volunteers. This year, however, there will be no meeting. Check the PTA website for open spots.

f. Hospitality

- i. Provides refreshments and baked goods for various school events. Many volunteers signed up already.

g. Spirit Wear

- i. We are using a new company this year, offering shirts, pants, fleeces, and other products.
- ii. Samples are located in the school office.
- iii. When ordering, be aware that sizes run small and that the pants will shrink.
- iv. Order forms will come home in the 9/4 Friday folder and will be due, along with payment, 9/16.
- v. Product delivery is scheduled for the first week in October.

h. Directory

- i. Thanks to everyone who submitted their information for this year's school directory. Forms will be sent home to those who have not turned one in and are due as soon as possible.
- ii. New this year - student artwork will be featured! The theme is "Huskies". All grades will be invited to participate. A flyer will come home with details. Artwork submissions are due by September 14th.

i. HEY

- i. Our after-school enrichment program now has Committee Chairs!
- ii. Classes are run by teachers and are available to students in 1st-5th Grades.
- iii. Fall session will begin the week of 10/12 and run through 11/16 on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.
- iv. Classes are \$30 per student.
- v. Help is needed to supervise the students between the end of school and the beginning of the HEY classes, and also to facilitate parent pickup afterward.
- vi. Last year, about 75 students signed up for each day.

j. Fun Fair

- i. Fun Fair is on February 20th, 2010, from 11am-3pm.
- ii. It's a school-wide event that includes games, lunch, moon jumps, and other activities.
- iii. Many volunteers are needed!

k. Special Events

- i. In Fall, there will be a Bingo Night split by age groups.
- ii. There is potential to hold one event per month.
- iii. Many volunteers are needed!

l. Yearbook

- i. This committee works with a teacher liaison and also the Student Yearbook Committee to create the class yearbooks.
- ii. Volunteers who have signed up at Preview Night have not yet been contacted, but will be soon.
- iii. Volunteers will mostly take photographs during the school year.

m. Holiday Shoppe

- i. Not a fundraiser - just a fun event for children to shop on their own to purchase small gifts for their parents and other family members and friends in a safe environment.
- ii. This year, it will be held on a Saturday morning - December 5th, from 10am-Noon.

n. Room Reps

- i. Sign ups will be coming home in the 9/4 Friday folder for classroom parties.

o. Call Me Once

- i. Volunteers who sign up for this committee are only called to help out when there is a need. It's the perfect opportunity for those who are unable to commit, but want to help.

p. Publishing Center

- i. Publishes students' writing projects.
- ii. Volunteers type and edit the projects.

q. Green Team

- i. This is a new PTA committee to promote green initiatives.

- ii. Hoping to garner parent, teacher and student support to work to have less impact on the environment.
- iii. Volunteers may go into the classrooms and explain the importance of "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle".
- iv. The Green Team will have meetings to generate ideas and plan.
- v. Some projects being considered are working on lunchroom recycling efforts, matching the school's recycling needs with recycling programs, creating a "no idle zone" in the parent pickup line and working toward eliminating Styrofoam in the lunchroom.

r. Fundraising

- i. Generally, one large fundraiser is held in the Fall, with a follow-up fundraiser in Spring, if necessary.
- ii. Fundraising packets came home in the 8/28/09 Friday folder.
- iii. Fundraising goal for this year is \$12,500, which is the entire operating budget for all PTA programs and activities.
- iv. This year, we're using Market Day for our fundraising efforts. This is not the same Market Day program as the monthly Market Day food orders.
- v. Families also have the option of submitting a donation to the Homestead PTA in lieu of placing an order. Checks can be made out to Homestead PTA.

s. Market Day

- i. A monthly food program that donates 10% of all purchases to Homestead.
- ii. All Market Day order deadline and pickup dates are on the PTA website.
- iii. We need help on pickup days! Volunteers are needed to help unpack, sort, and fill orders. The total commitment is about one hour per month on a Thursday night.
- iv. This year's goal is \$3,500-\$4,000. This would allow us to purchase a new portable stage for school events.
- v. September's orders netted \$380 for Homestead for the 54 orders submitted, so we're off to a good start.

t. Health & Safety

- i. Currently seeking a Committee Chair! If anyone is interested, contact Debbi Bowman.
- ii. Volunteers will help to run various health/safety related events and the Spring Fun Run.

VI. Guest Speaker - Sean White from Market Day

- a. There is no prize structure for this year's fundraiser. The grand prize flyer shows the prize that the school may receive if we meet the fundraising goal.
- b. The raffle ticket that was in the fundraising packet is for students to potentially win a prize.
- c. Orders may be placed online or by using the order forms. Online orders will incur a tax, paper orders will not. Online orders shipped to home addresses will also incur UPS shipping charges. Orders can be shipped to Homestead for the 10/16/09 pickup for free.

VII. Unfinished Business

- a. None

VIII. New Business

a. Health & Safety

- i. Chairperson(s) needed!

b. Green Team

- i. New this year.

c. Virtual Backpack

- i. One of our green initiatives to reduce paper.
- ii. Will be emailed each Friday to anyone interested in receiving it.
- iii. First backpack went home on Friday, 08/28/09.
- iv. Anyone who did not receive the email may sign up at the school office.
- v. In the future, the backpack will also include forms and flyers.

d. Fun Run

- i. Tentatively scheduled for 04/30/09.

- ii.** Joint effort between the Health & Safety and Fundraising Committees.
- iii.** Will feature runs for students as well as adults.

IX. Announcement

- a.** (list as shown on agenda with the exception of letter J - Walk To School Day)

X. Adjournment