

PTO Regular Meeting

March 27, 2014

8:40 a.m., cafeteria

- Call City Hall: We are asking parents to call City Hall about repairing the chain-link fence along the playground on Bridges Ave., the green fence in back of the school opposite the playground and the fence on the perimeter of the blacktop on Parkview St.
 - Call 311, or
 - Call Parks and Recreation Department
- Guest Speaker: Diane Greer, Newton Schools Foundation
 - Public charity that raises funds for Newton schools
 - Two people on staff, plus volunteers
 - Currently undertaking a 3-year initiative to invest in innovation- learn new ways of teaching in all areas
 - Example of work: responsive classroom in elementary schools- need money to allow every teacher at elementary level to train in program.
 - Also supporting summer writing institute for teachers at K-5 level.
 - Middle schools- math, science and technology initiative to help close achievement gap.
 - High school- focusing on sustainability.
 - May 3, 2014- Gala, \$50/person, great way to support Newton Schools Foundation
 - Honor Thy Teacher- donate money in honor of a teacher or teachers at your school.
 - Marathon runner this year running to raise money for Newton Schools Foundation- support him!
- Spring Fling- Saturday, April 12- Co-Chairs Ana Bonilla, Kim Tosi and Wendy Lowe
 - It's going to be fun! Reserve your tickets on-line through PTO website.
 - A lot of new and amazing prizes this year!
 - Donation wall replaces raffle- you may select a raindrop from the donation wall with a donation amount.
 - All proceeds from Spring Fling go directly to the PTO.
 - Volunteers needed to help set up on Friday and Saturday and clean up on Sunday. 20-minute shifts. Please consider helping out!
 - Note to pre-partiers: if you are holding or attending a pre-party, please consider arriving at the Spring Fling by 8pm to take full advantage of the auction and DJ— get your dancing in before he must close down at 10pm.
- Cabot Rebuild/Renovation- Newton has been accepted into the next stage with the MSBA for the rebuilding or renovation of Cabot. The next step is a Feasibility Study where different options will be considered, including whether to renovate or rebuild. The size of the new building will be larger than the existing building, based on

enrollment projections that put future enrollment at Cabot at 480 (24 classrooms of 20 kids each).

- Recent Events:

- Penny Wars- Hugely successful fundraiser for 5th Grade Activities. Many thanks to Principal DiBella, Leticia Meza-Reidewald and Kate Painter for their hard work and oversight. Some suggestions for next time: hide pennies in the morning before the school day because many disappeared with students still in the building in the evening, and move crowd to the gym instead of the lobby because the younger students could not get through.
- Kingergarten Registration- went very smoothly, thanks to Nicola Poser.
- Book Fair- well-attended and well-run, thanks to Jamie Kohn, Joanna Josephson and Fifth Grade Activities. Some ideas for next time: start collecting used books earlier (after holidays in January or in the fall if have Book Fair before the holiday break). Move used book sale into the gym, perhaps to the stage- having new and used books in separate spaces is confusing, as is having books for sale in the library. Decide whether we like vendor.
- Family Dance- Thank you to Karen Ilic, Joanna Josephson and Emily Shumsky for planning this well-attended event. Great work!
- Core Values Night- Also well-attended. Thank you to School Council for hosting the evening!

- Upcoming Events-

- Lost and Found- will be cleared out every two weeks. Discussion on how to manage it. A volunteer will help to separate clothing and keep things organized to make it easier to retrieve items. Erin and Vanessa will take the question to PTO Council to ask how other schools manage their piles!
- Paint Bar Parents' Night Out- April 2. Sill seats open- register on PTO Website for this fun night out. Check the school lobby for a picture of the painting to be painted that night.
- Invention Invasion- April 4, 6-7:30pm, gym and cafeteria. Clarification: students may either invent something or do a science fair project and the result can be a mock-up (doesn't have to actually work).
- Shoe Recycling Drive- April 7-April 11. Social Action and Green Committee. Students are encouraged to bring in worn-out sneakers to be recycled into tennis courts, tracks, insulation, etc. On April 11, a guest speaker from Reebok will explain how sneakers are made, etc. to Cabot students.
- Justin Reich- April 9, 7-8:30pm at Mason-Rice. Will speak on Technology & Learning. Cabot PTO is co-sponsoring the event. Please join us!
- Newton Serves- April 27. This year the focus will be on grounds cleanup. Need 80 volunteers. Don't miss this fun, rewarding day!
- Cabot Fair- May 31. Still in need of donations of small toys for prizes. Yard sale items will be collected on May 30. Will have electronics and appliance recycling fundraiser again. New this year- metal drive. Bring in metal items for recycling: chain link fences, forks, knives, pots and pans, tea kettles, stainless steel sinks,

- wire, anything copper, swimming pool frames, bikes, air conditioning units, hot water heaters (NO empty food cans, paint cans, propane tanks or batteries).
- Cabot Fair Raffle- Mid-may to May 31. Volunteers needed to solicit prizes from local businesses, only 2-3 hours over the next 2 months (many are repeat donors). Looking for 2014-15 Committee Chairs. Interested? Let Erin and Vanessa know.
 - PTO Committee Chairs- Starting to look for Committee Chairs for next year. Please consider chairing a committee for 2014-15- there are many to chose from.
 - Class Picnics- We are re-thinking class picnics and simplifying them from recent years. We would like to have simple picnics of 90 minutes where kids bring their lunches (v. ordering pizza) to eat outside on blankets or towels. We can organize games and provide popsicles. A beach theme was suggested where kids can bring a beach towel to sit on for the picnic. Another suggestion was to keep grades together and let parents know the dates of picnics early so they may plan for work.
 - Teacher Gifts- Erin and Vanessa are taking suggestions for inexpensive teacher gifts. To stay in line with the gift-giving guidelines of both Newton and the state, we need to think of some less expensive creative ideas. Erin and Vanessa have asked the teachers to weigh in on this as well- what were their favorite gifts?
 - Fall Fundraiser- Bulbs were mostly successful, but unsure if people will buy them two years in a row. If you have an idea for a fall fundraiser, please let Erin or Vanessa know.

Meeting adjourned: 9:55 a.m.