

PTO Agenda

Wednesday, September 20, 2023

In person @ 8:35 a.m. – Sprague Gazebo

ATTENDEES (21 parents & 2 Staff): Wendy Englehardt, Rose Nolan, Ezra Englehardt, Tomoe Harrison, Carolyn Kornwitz, Sneha Patel, Hande Alparslan, Nicole Katz, Jill Wells, Liz Sower, Inia Perez, Julie Covino-Vogel, Ambika Hoguet, Hadley Stephens, Dena Giggie, Ceren Bayulgen, Lisa Neighbors, Tanya Johnson, Bry Tartamella, Amy Sussman (Hunnewell), Allie Baker. Principal: Leigh Petrowsky, Teacher Rep: Moe Henzel

Welcome:	Wendy Englehardt & Rose Nolan, PTO Co-Presidents
Principal Report:	Leigh Petrowsky
Teacher Liaison:	Moe Henzel (5MH)
General PTO Meeting	Wendy Englehardt & Rose Nolan
Treasurer Report	Jill Wells & Hande Alparslan
Creative Arts & Sciences	Carolyn Kornwitz
“Wait Until 8 th ”	Allie Baker
Social Committee	Dena Giggie & Tanya Johnson
Fundraising	Bry Tartamella & Sneha Patel
Garden Committee	Tomoe Harrison
Fifth Grade Committee	Jenny Lee, Lisa Neighbors
Yearbook	Julie Covino-Vogel, Ambika Hoguet, Hadley Stephens

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1) Wendy Englehardt & Rose Nolan, PTO Co-Presidents

- Intro the board: **VP:** Ezra ; **Secretary:** Ceren; **Treasurers:** Jill & Hande; **CAS:** Carolyn; **Social:** Dena & Tanya; **Communications:** Liz; **Social Media:** Nicole; **Spirit Wear:** Inia; **Raffle:** Bry & Sneha; **Yearbook:** Julie, Ambika & Hadley; **METCO:** Nicole & Kasia; **Walk to School:** Ezra & Alex; **Green Team:** Tomoe & Jenny Lee; **Garden:** Tomoe, Margaret & Rose; **PAC Rep:** Nicole
- Grade Reps/Room Parents: Reach out to your teacher if you are interested
- School Store will open tomorrow 8:15 – 8:30am
- Sprague Spirt Wear – Water bottles/Shirts/Sweatshirts on hand. Thank you Inia for being our coordinator with 1st Place Spiritwear. Sale ends Sept 21st for 30% off. Takes about 10 days for the order to be shipped from the company – 1st Place Spiritwear
- 10/2-6th – Book Fair order forms have been distributed
- 10/3 – Next Walk to School
- 10/19 – School Picture Date
- 11/8 – WEF Spelling BEE – @ 7:00 p.m. at WHS. Sprague will be looking to form a team. We will need 3 members to represent (can include students)

2) Leigh Petrowsky – Principal Update

- Welcome note.
- The predicted date of playground completion is Tuesday Sept 26th, if conditions permit. Foundation for the rubber ground is being done now.
- Book Fair is near: Oct 2nd - 6th. **Please sign up to volunteer.**
- Picture day will be Oct.19th
- Room Parents will be announced soon.
- Today we had 297 walk to school kids! Thank you to Ezra & Alex and all the volunteers for making it happen!
- Students that ride the bus on walk to school days – still in discussion about the procedure to follow.
- MCAS results will be delivered in mailboxes soon – it’s important to note that this is just one datapoint and to unpack the result as we do – looking at the big picture for each student is important – **for any questions on the results please approach Leigh first** – then the past year’s teachers if needed.
- Attendance in WPS in general, Sprague/Hunnewell in particular, is important as attendance is impactful to students’ class success. Our greatest challenge is vacations.
- Our aim is to **decrease the “chronic absenteeism rates”.**

3) Moe Henzel – 5MH teacher

- WEE Deliver Mail – To start up soon. Already have a parent to prepare the database.
- School Store Opens this Thursday 8:15 – 8:30 in front hallway by office! Everything is 25 cents. Pencils, Erasers, Handmade Marbleized Envelopes, & Origami! Goal is to interact older kids with younger kids. Provides an opportunity to talk about change, discussions on donation ideas etc.
- The challenge is to end the store hours promptly at 8:30 sharp for class.
- Thank you for the lunch!

4) Jill Wells & Hande Alparslan - Treasurer Report

- Reconciled book for the last school year
- New online donation form is ready on Sprague PTO website under “Donate”
- Auto-generated tax receipt will also be sent to donors when donated via online form.
- We received \$2900 donations so far. Thank you!
- **Donations – use the online donation form with credit card (with paypal and venmo we lose a big portion)**
- **Suggested donation is \$100 (or whatever you can give).**
- Please look into company matching the donation.
- \$25 gift card to 1st spiritwear, for donating before the month end.
- Expenses can be done online by uploading receipts.
- For expenses teachers can still use form or use the new online process.

5) Carolyn Kornwitz - Creative Arts & Sciences

- Working on arranging Grammy winner musician, talks about social justice issues.
- We need to make sure everyone can access the CAS events spreadsheet.
- In contact with grade reps.
- Reaching out to parent internal experts for STEM Related events.

6) Allie Baker - “Wait Until 8th”

- As a Child Psychiatrist, Allie mentioned the benefits of waiting till 8th grade to give children a smartphone (iphone, Android). (Does not mean your child can’t have a phone or smartwatch – mobile phone or a “dumb” phone with call and text capacity is OK!)

- In California, this is well accepted and has become the norm, to “Wait until 8th”
- Here is the link to taking the pledge to “Let Kids be Kids Longer”: <https://www.waituntil8th.org>

7) Dena Giggie & Tanya Johnson - Social Committee

- Thank you to those Parents who have confirmed Parent Socials (6:30pm-8:30pm)
 - K: Liz Cheron & Hadley Stephens 10/19th
 - 1st: Melissa Lacy
 - 2nd: ? Yet to confirm!
 - 3rd: Paula Penta 10/12th
 - 4th: ? Yet to confirm!
 - 5th: Lisa Neighbors
- 10/13 – Fall Festival @ Sprague
 - Sign up genius sent out
 - 30 minute sessions
 - *Movie – TBD
 - *Cider & Cider Donuts from Volante
 - *Games, Pumpkin Decorating

7) Bry Tartamella & Sneha Patel - Fundraising

- Raffle: Full in person auction may benefit the school. Last year was online, with calendar. Raised over \$13,000
- Will keep everyone posted on the final decision.
- Please let us know if you have any rental properties to donate, can approach businesses you frequently visit or can get a hold of seasons tickets to donate, it would be much appreciated.
- Last year, these items were a big hit! Donated Rental Homes, Red Sox tickets, Principal for a day (from Leigh), these were the main gifts that made the raffle a big success.
- 10/2-10/6 – Scholastic Book Fair: If you signed up to volunteer on the day of your kids, make sure to volunteer before or after as well to have enough volunteer coverage.
- Add funds to your kids online e-wallet. This will be the easiest way for kids to shop at the book fair.
- *Shop during Library times & Wed, 10/4 7:45 – 8:45 & 12:00 – 1:00

8) Garden Committee/Green Team - Tomoe Harrison

- Date for garden cleanup will be announced next week.

9) Jenny Lee, Lisa Neighbors - Fifth Grade Committee

- 9/26 – Tree Top Adventures: Excited to do Treetop together with Hunnewell.
- Finalizing other 5th grade events.

10) Julie Covino-Vogel, Ambika Hoguet & Hadley Stephens - Yearbook

- We need two 5th grade reps in each classroom to help with student pages.
- The reps will be in charge of contacting parents for baby pictures, organizing and making sure all pages get in on time.
- All photos can be sent to spragueschoolphotos@gmail.com

- We need a list of activities, to have a photographer there, and to get photos as the activities happen, which would be a better approach than waiting until the end.

Comments:

- Thank you Liz for the 1st Pulse Newsletter yesterday, as always we are grateful!!!
- Quick note: Pulse usually goes out every Sunday evening.
- Please note: If you don't get the Pulse, that means you haven't opted in. Even if you opt in now you may still not get the emails. In that case, please let PTO know and we'll be happy to add you on the list.

Thank you to the entire PTO team and everyone that was there this morning for your continuous support & dedication! We are truly grateful and look forward to seeing you all at our next meeting for all your updates!

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