

Hello PTA!

What a month it's been. With Veteran's Day falling on a Wednesday this year, the book fair going on this week, Thanksgiving next week... there just wasn't time for a regular "sit down" meeting. So for this month, we decided to do an informational letter instead. Next month's regularly scheduled meeting will take place as planned, on December 16th at 3:30 pm in the Greywolf Library.

Membership Report: I can report that as of Nov 15 we were at 57 members. Our membership chair, Asta, has done a great job of keeping our records updated. We earned the Bronze membership award from the WSPTA for having 50% of last year's members enrolled by Oct 25. However, we missed the Silver membership award which would have required a 5% increase by that date. We are now working towards the Gold award which requires a 10% increase by Jan 25, and we are also working towards the 100% teacher/staff enrollment award.

Why do we work towards these awards? Increasing our membership does several things for our PTA. First, it increases our voice in the state PTA. Each local PTA is given "voting delegates" within the state PTA, based on its membership. Right now we only get one delegate. Many of our rules and bylaws are decided by the state PTA. The more members we have, the more votes and voice we get when deciding those rules and bylaws. Also, a big part of the state and national PTA is advocacy. PTA has a long history of advocating for our children with our state legislators. In order to do that, we need people. When I go to my state legislature and say "My PTA does this..." or "My PTA needs that..." it carries a lot more weight if I represent 200 people than if I represent 50 people.

Membership in the PTA does not have to equal volunteering with the PTA. It's true, the PTA does a lot of things and we ask for volunteers, but we don't expect each and every member to make that commitment. Just joining and adding your name to our list is helpful and needed. If you have been thinking about joining PTA, and still haven't, please do so now! And, if you have been thinking of joining and getting involved by volunteering, attending meetings etc. Well do that too! We need and want your help! You don't have to be a parent or teacher either! Grandparents, neighbors, friends, business associates, ANY LIVING PERSON can join any school's PTA.

Treasurer report: Our treasurer reported as of 11/15 the balance was \$11037.38. On 11/16 we wrote checks for grants and bills for a total of \$3200.

Holiday Bazaar report: The Holiday Bazaar is this weekend, 11/21 and 11/22 from 10 am - 4 pm both days. As of right now, there are 3 spots available in the Saturday only vendor hallway, and that is it. A lot of "regulars" returning, as well as a lot of brand new vendors. The Blackbird Coffeehouse will be running the kitchen again, we will have a Santa on Sunday from 2:30-3:30. Everything is expected to go well again this year.

Carnival report: The carnival made a total of \$4501. \$1100 came from the auction and raffle, thank you to the generous donations from teachers and staff!! Teachers have been emailed with the winners of their auctions, however if there are still any questions, please feel free to contact me. We raised \$427 from the dinner donations, and the rest from ticket sales, cider, caramel apples, and spirit wear. The caricature artist and bounce house were a big hit.

Some things we learned; 8:30 pm was too late to go on a mid week school night. In planning it never sounded late, but in the middle of the carnival I realized I would be there until 10 pm cleaning up... with my kids. Also, the cider, while tasting fabulous, was more trouble than it was worth. We made very little on it, as it cost us almost \$2 each to bottle, and by the end of the night we were selling it for \$2 just to get rid of it. With the hassle of collecting all the apples and transporting them, it is doubtful we will do that again. Also if we do a carnival again, perhaps it should be a spring carnival? The outside lights kept going out, leaving the bounce house and petting zoo in pitch black. Spring would give us more natural outside light. The kids all seemed to have a blast, and ultimately, the point of the PTA is to provide for the kids, so I think it was a success.

As far as cost, we spent \$368 on prizes, \$170 on additional supplies, \$150 on the bounce house, \$150 on the caricature artist, \$175 on food, and \$132 on cider bottling, for a grand total of \$1145. Our total income for the night was \$3356, which is pretty amazing for a one night event. Here's what that \$3356 did for us. Last year we were about \$2000 short of our fundraising goals, which meant we started the year with a deficit in our budget. Also over the summer we had to buy a new PTA shed for \$2000, which left our budget with an additional deficit. The carnival filled both of those gaps, putting us where we should have been when we started the year. We will need to have an additional fundraiser this year, however we will no longer be having to play "catch up" with that fundraiser, whatever it may be. Thank you to everyone for your hard work on the carnival and thank you to all who came out and supported it. It was a great night!!!

New business:

Secretary position- Kelli Mishko was nominated at our October meeting. We will vote her into the position in December, which means we need at least 10 members to attend the December meeting. Please come!

Candy donations- Greywolf's amazing families donated 59 pounds of Halloween candy for the Troops. Brian S. Hughes, DDS and UPS sponsored the event and covered the cost of shipping the candy to Operation Gratitude. Thank you to Asta and Caitlin for making this happen!

Boxtop winners- Congratulations to Ms. Cardarelle's class and Mrs. Little's class! Competition was fierce this year, with the most boxtops I've personally ever seen turned in. We sent 9630 boxtops in for redemption! Great job everyone. Keep collecting those boxtops and we will have another boxtop war in spring!

That is all for this "meeting." Thank you to all of you for your support and for helping us support Greywolf and its staff, teachers, and most of all the students.

See you all at next month's PTA meeting!
Dede Bessey