

## **PTA Meeting October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012:**

48 parents, teacher liaison & administration present

Motion by Amy Breznak to accept the May 2012 meeting minutes. Motion made. Seconded. Minutes accepted.

Presentations this evening will be adjusted to accommodate presenters' schedules.

### **Fall Festival Update:**

Fall Festival will be Sat. Oct 13<sup>th</sup> from 10-2. Setup will begin at 8am with cleanup beginning at 2pm. Volunteers are needed for setup, during the festival and for cleanup. This event is run entirely by parent volunteers. We need 11 adults each hour to assist, and 18 Middle-School/High-School volunteers each hour. Please contact Richard Kidd to volunteer: [trrakidd@verizon.net](mailto:trrakidd@verizon.net)

Sponsorship deadline for local businesses/services is Friday Oct. 5<sup>th</sup>.

Details re: Fall Festival. For new families to WES, this has been an ongoing WES tradition. In the past few years, due to the overwhelming need for volunteers, the PTA Board has been holding the festival every other year. On the grounds and gym of the Westchester Elementary School

Come and play games, win prizes, make fall themed crafts, visit the Haunted Hallway, enjoy a magic show, watch the "Eric Energy Science Spectacular", play video games, enjoy a hot dog and have fun!! \$4 wristbands are on sale the week prior to the event before school (Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday). The wrist bands allow the kids to play games and make crafts! On Fall Festival Day, the bands are \$5.

There are additional costs for the "Haunted Hallway," the "Video Truck," face painting and food. Bring a canned good or dry good as well, as the Student Council will be collecting for a local food pantry.

### **President's Report:**

Over summer the PTA Board met twice to preplan this school year (Back to School social, Movie Night, New Family social, and to discuss how to raise funds the PTA needs for this school year). We've decided to reduce the number of fundraisers we conduct to 2: Lavenders, which just concluded, and Joe Corbi Pizza Fundraiser in Jan. We would like to end the direct fundraisers that solicit families for purchases, and instead lean towards asking our parents to make a donation to the PTA (which is fully tax deductible).

We are planning a Parents Night Out Fundraising event in March, which will be a Silent Auction at the Phoenix Emporium in Old Ellicott City (owned by a WES family). We will have a DJ and tickets will be purchased in advance. WES Parent Kristin Vergis has volunteered to solicit donations for the WES auction. She would

like help. If you have any local business contacts and would be willing to help Kristin – please email her: [thekirber@verizon.net](mailto:thekirber@verizon.net)

### **Administration Report:**

Peggy DeCrispino welcomed Baltimore County Board of Education member Mike Bowler.

- The structure of the library has changed. Both new librarians/tech integration teachers will be presenting those changes after the Admin Report.
- The students received their behavior reward for Sept today; freezee pops.
- Black Saga begins soon. Ms. Smith will be speaking to the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders who are interested in participating soon.
- Upcoming Dates:
  - Sat 10/6 is Worldwide Day of Play at WES.
  - 10/13 is Fall Festival
  - 10/19 School is closed
  - 11/2 ½ day of school
  -

Introduction of Mr. Pardoe & Ms. Adams: Librarians & Tech Integration teachers.

New library media curriculum incorporates tech research as a big component, esp. for 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grades. The focus will be on using technology tools, research tied with the classroom curriculum by grade, and presentation skills. A presentation was given with samples of each grades' work incorporating technology.

There will be a Parents Meeting Series with the first meeting tentatively scheduled for 10/22 with a focus on Internet Safety, Databases, and Web 2.0 Tools that are available to both parents and students. This will be a “training” for parents who wish to learn more about technology and how various BCPS tools and sites can assist you and your student(s). More information will be coming via email regarding times, babysitting, etc. Plans are being made to film the presentation and embed it in the WES website for any parent unable to attend. New this year, BCPS Office of Technology has developed lessons that are application based (Excel, typing, MSWord, etc). The county has purchased a web based typing application and students will receive a password so they can login at home and practice.

### **Teacher's Report:**

Beth Allen reported the teachers are working towards increasing teacher involvement in PTA events above and beyond the required number. They recognize the children LOVE seeing them at events, and parents appreciate the involvement.

The Teachers request that if you have any concerns, questions, comments, etc regarding your student – please consider speaking to the teacher prior to contacting the administration. Parents are always welcome to contact the administration, but the teachers do appreciate being the first point of contact.

**SW Area Representative Report:**

September meeting was cancelled due to severe weather.

**Committee Reports:****Fundraisers:**

Fall fundraiser closed. Info will be coming re: distribution once items arrive.

**Grandparents Breakfast:**

November 16<sup>th</sup>. We will need LOTS of parent volunteers and donations of food to ensure this popular event is a success!

**Spirit Wear:**

Will be at the Fall Festival and needs volunteers to staff a table. Patti will give you everything you need to man the table! Please consider helping.

**Box Tops, Cultural & Movie Night:**

Please send in your box tops, neatly trimmed – in baggies labeled with your child's homeroom. The collection box is in the front hall. The winning class will receive the travelling trophy.

**Food Nights:**

Peace of Pizza was 9/27. We generated \$245.91 for WES PTA! Upcoming – Nov30th thru Dec 2<sup>nd</sup>, the entire weekend – will be a WES PTA weekend at Bob Evans on Rt 40. You'll need a flyer when you dine in. They will be available electronically as the date nears. Panera will be in January, and March Chick-fil-A.

**Kids Club:**

Tech Club is a go with 5 in level 1, 7 in level 2. Spanish will be combined with Intro and Intermediate levels. Session 1 of Fit Club was cancelled due to lack of enrollment.

**Cultural:**

Nothing has been planned yet for assemblies. This is Kate's last year at WES, so next year we will need a new Cultural Chair.

**Beautification:**

There has been illegal dumping at WES that occurred over the summer. The police are involved.

**Green School:**

Amy Kelly needs volunteers to help with this committee! She wants to certify the butterfly garden as a monarch migration station. She needs parents help to keep our Green School certification. Still having problems in the café with recyclables being thrown away.

**Staff Appreciation:**

Tricia Alakones will be planning an upcoming teachers appreciation event this Friday. 10/17 is Bus Drivers appreciation day; Para educators will be coming up soon too. This committee will need lots of volunteers for the May 2013 luncheon for the teachers.

**Membership:**

237 members prior to the PTA meeting tonight. Our target is 250, so we are on track. Membership never closes – it is on going so please join the PTA.

**Directory:**

PTA pays for it and the forms were sent out over the summer with the electronic packet as well as in the Back to School papers. This will be published and sent home in Nov. 1 Directory per family.

**Movie Night:**

Our first movie night (showing the Lorax) was a success. We had LOTS of volunteers! Thank you! The next one will be 11/30 and it will be holiday themed.

**Treasurer's Report:**

We started with \$5389 and have had \$2260 in deposits, mostly memberships. \$6975 in withdrawals (\$2500 in gift cards to teachers who join the PTA, \$550 for Back to School Teachers luncheon, \$700 in deposits for Fall Festival, \$1800 for school agendas, as well as funds for Boo Hoo Breakfast, Back to school social, and Kids Fit Night).

Amy Breznak reiterated that the PTA asks families who are able – to please consider making a tax-deductible donation to the PTA.

**Old Business:**

None

**New Business:**

Ms. DeCrispino brought up the lockers. She has put in a special request to the county for new lockers. Don't know if or when but she is hoping it will be approved.

Question from parent re: playground situation. Ms. Thompson explained there were 3 students breaking their arms in a short amount of time at the start of the school year so they have closed the bigger playground while they have it's safety assessed, and extra mulch brought in.

Motion to dismiss.

Seconded.