**PIE Meeting**

**Tuesday, October 10, 2013, 7:00 PM**

**Meeting Minutes**

Jen motioned to approve the minutes; Cathy 2nd.

**RECENT EVENTS**

**Scholastic Reading Contest**

* Grand Prize Winners:  Honorable Mention

- Emily Kollar – 1st Grade - Connor Davis

- Kira Davis - 3rd Grade - Tyler Smith

- Cassandra Bonilla - 7th Grade

- Marissa Holske - 10th Grade

**Welcome Back Picnic**

* Close to 200 people in attendance
* Activity worked out well. Would do again.

**Scholastic Book Fair**

* Will end this evening; will know totals for next months meeting.
* All-for-Books – Mr. Keeney won the contest, he was very appreciative and purchased his $100 in books, the kids in his class got erasers

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Barrett’s Haunted Mansion**

* PIE/FRCS staff are working Friday, October 18
* Still in need of additional people to work the haunted house.
* Anyone interested should contact frcspie@comcast.net

**New family orientation for families accepted after August**

* Cathy will represent PIE there

**Robert Buyea – author visit**

* To be held October 28 for grades 5, 6, 7 (Author of *Because of Mr. Terupt* and *Mr. Terupt Falls Again*)
* Kids can purchase his books to be signed or can have a book they already own signed.

**K-5 Family Night – Luau Dance**

* To be held November 8, 2013
* Multiple options for paying:
  + $10 admits family; purchase food separately at $1 each.
  + $20 admits family of 4 and includes 2 pieces of pizza, chips and 2 waters for each person.
  + $25 admits family greater than 4 and includes 2 pieces of pizza, chips and 2 waters for each person.

**The Hobbit at Wheelock Theatre**

* Karen Harris approached Jen about *The Hobbit*…It is being performed on November 9th or 16th at Wheelock Family Theatre in Boston; tickets $15 each.
* Karen asked if PIE would split the cost of a bus from FRCS to Boston for those that wanted to attend.
* Cathy 1st, Rowena 2nd to split the cost of the bus with the school (total cost is $270 so $140 each). PIE will take it from the Arts and Enrichment budget.
* Rowena will work with Karen Harris to promote.

**MISC**

**Room parents**

* Are up and running; room parent training was held in early October
* Some room parents are still missing emails
* As room parents get changes to emails they should be sent to [frcspie@comcast.net](mailto:frcspie@comcast.net)
* It was suggested that for those students for whom room parents do not have an e-mail address, that they work with the teacher to get it during parent-teacher conferences.

**Box Tops**

* The Term 1 Box Tops contest will run through October 25.
* The winning class in the upper and lower school each get a week of non-dress code,

**Campbell’s Soup Labels**

* Leslie Holinder has volunteered to organize.

**Teacher Request for Psychology Course**

* Melanie Gould, an upper school science and psychology teacher made the following request for a junior/senior psychology course.
* The course uses baby dolls to simulate what it is like to have a baby and the responsibility involved. The dolls are very realistic and are programmed to cry, etc. just like babies would. The dolls must be taken care of to get them to respond and stop crying.
* Pairs of students split responsibility for the dolls for 2 weeks. Prior to getting the dolls the students have to make a budget for what they think it will take to care for the dolls; after having the dolls, they write an essay on the experience and what they learned.
* Two students from last years class spoke about their experience and indicated how valuable and what a realization it was to realize how much it takes to care for a child.
* Ms. Gould currently has 10 babies, so can have 20 kids in class; the class is typically over subscribed. She would like to purchase additional babies to expand capacity of the class and is wondering if PIE can assist. The cost of dolls is 1-4 dolls: $328 each; 5 or more dolls $289 each.
* She is also looking at grant options and working with Y-B to do this.
* She would like to order them in time for 3rd term.
* PIE was supportive of the idea, but indicated they needed to review their budget before determining if they had the funds to support this endeavor.

**Parent café**

* Feedback on most recent parent cafe was very positive.

**Mom’s Night Out**

* Tanya Harding is trying to organize a Mom’s Night Out. If anyone is interested, they should contact her.

**Open Discussion**

* There was an open discussion at the end of the meeting; the following questions were brought up by parents. Karen Elsner will provide feedback to school administration as appropriate.
  + Lunches
    - Someone asked if students could prepay at a week at a time? One parent said they do prepay.
    - There is no info on the website about being able to prepay. Can something be added?
  + Uniform closet
    - Families would like to see the uniform closet restarted.
  + Clothing Vendor
    - Some parents reported they have had
  + Uniform company feedback
    - Multiple parents at the PIE meeting indicated they had bad experiences with the uniform company. Comments include:
      * Very difficult to deal with
      * Disorganized
      * Were rude to parents when they asked questions.
  + Extended Day Fees
    - Fees: A couple of parents asked about the extended day fees; they felt that the fees have gone up each year and it is getting quite expensive.
    - Fees when doing a charter club:
      * Parents who have kids doing a charter club and only go for ½ hour at the end of the charter club (4:30-5) were asking why they have to pay for both the charter club and also pay for extended day. They suggested on the day they have a student in a charter club, they should not have to pay the extended day fee.
  + Volunteer Opportunities
    - Parents at the meeting were asking about volunteer opportunities at the school, during the school day. It could be in the classroom or in the school with other parents doing something that would support the school.
    - What is the best way to get involved?