

Monthly PTA Meeting

April 10, 2017

of attendees: 12

- Administration Updates (Principal Gibbs)
 - Ms. Moffett is back in her grade 1 classroom.
 - Ms. Lerma is on medical leave.
 - Spanish team will work with Libby Dominguez to create lessons plans for the classes.
 - A long call sub will work with member of the Spanish team to deliver instruction until Ms. Lerma returns.
 - The IB Report has been returned to Whittier.
 - Libby Dominguez will be invited to the May 2017 PTA meeting to review the findings, specifically the 4 Matters to be Addressed.
 - The full report will be posted on a web page and will include a summary of the report.

- Hot Topic: World Language and Heritage Language Learning at Whittier (Cecilia Laden and Norma Gibbs)
 - Señora Laden instructs grades 3-5; Señora Lerma instructs grades Hi5-2.
 - The goal of the Spanish/World Language team is to support native and nonnative Spanish speakers.
 - Spanish is brought to the classroom with the classroom teacher present during instructions. Native speakers focus on academic Spanish development.
 - Native and non-native speakers begin and end the class together. Groups are split out for differentiated instruction during the lesson.
 - The team uses the TPRS method: Teaching Proficiency through Reading and Stories.
 - Ties cultural experiences with vocabulary, context and language
 - Relates topics to the IB units
 - Goals for the program:
 - 2017-2018:
 - 2 teachers, 2 associate educators and 1 amity
 - 90 minutes/week of instruction
 - Expand the instruction to K-1 students with differentiation for native speakers.
 - 2018-2019:
 - 4 teachers, 4 associate educators
 - 150 minutes/week of instruction
 - Stretch goal, depends on funding
 - School Improvement Plan goals:
 - Development of oral language
 - Socratic seminar
 - Develop math language
 - Need to develop an assessment policy for the program
 - There is currently a task force in place to address development of the World Language and Heritage Language programs at Whittier.
 - There are 3-4 open spaces for parent involvement on the task force.
 - Contact Norma Gibbs if you are interested in participating.
 - The next meeting will be in April; date TBD.

- Events and Fundraisers (Emily Fitzgerald)
 - There were two Project Whittier events last month, no totals reported yet.
 - April 28 – Dia del Niño
 - Organized by Jeff Carlson, Trinity Raw, Jesus Purisaca, PTA and Playworks. Additional information will be sent home the week of April 10.

- Festivities will include a potluck dinner and passport stations run by families. Stations can include games, songs, food, etc. related to your country of interest.
- There will be a closing ceremony featuring
 - Aztec dance group – about 6 of the dancers are Whittier family members.
 - Whittier choir led by Mr. Jesus
- There is still room for family led passport stations.
 - Contact Jeff Carlson if you are interested in hosting a station.
- May 11-13 – Plant Sale
 - The Plant Sale web site is up and running.
 - Pre-sale orders are needed.
 - Information will be going home in backpacks the week of April 10.
 - 50% of the proceeds come back to Whittier PTA.
 - Volunteers are needed to package pre-orders and work pick-up each day of the sale.
 - Contact Erin Sjoquist if you can help.
 - Goal to host Kinder Roundup on May 11.
- Kinder Roundup – date TBD, but hoping for May 11 to coincide with the Plant Sale.
 - Norma Gibbs and Trinity Raw will meet with parents during Kinder Roundup.
 - Send any discussion items to Norma, including
 - Highlights of Whittier School and the IB program
 - “What I wish I had known” when entering Whittier
 - Any other suggestions for incoming parents
- School Programs (Emily Fitzgerald)
 - Amity
 - 2 candidates were interviewed. An offer was made to one candidate from Spain. We are waiting for confirmation of acceptance.
 - A spring host family is needed (January – May 2018).
 - The preferred candidate does have dog and food allergies.
 - Contact Yung Lu if you are interested in hosting.
- Treasurer Update (Emily Fitzgerald)
 - Fundraising profits were up and spending was down this year.
 - \$2,700 was moved from other areas into Fieldtrips/Classroom requests.
 - Allowed for additional Spring field trips
 - Allowed \$500 for Classroom requests
- 2017-2018 Planning (Emily Fitzgerald)
 - May 8, 2017 is the final PTA meeting for the year.
 - Next year’s budget approval needs to happen at this meeting.
 - A preliminary budget will be posted to the PTA website and sent via e-news prior to the meeting.
 - Any elections will take place also. No executive positions open, however, the PTA is looking for the following Chairs for next year:
 - Membership/Volunteer Coordinator
 - Communications Director
 - Event Coordinator
 - Contact Emily Fitzgerald if you are interested in a Chair position. No experience is needed.
- PTA Meeting Feedback
 - If you have suggestions on meeting length, day of week, time and/or frequency, please send those to Emily Fitzgerald.
 - Ideas during the April 10 meeting:
 - Longer duration but less frequent occurrence
 - Multi-tasking meeting (i.e. putting together book fair packets, etc.)
 - The childcare is really helpful for families.

- The 8 pm end time is dictated by the Engineer's schedule
- Monthly meetings keep items timely
- Have a breakout at the beginning of the meeting to brainstorm questions for the Hot Topic presenters.
- Break out into small groups for discussion and decision making
- Where do you get your information about PTA meetings?
 - E-News
 - PTA board by the stairwell
 - Next year's full schedule with hot topics will be posted at the beginning of the next school year.

Next Meeting: Monday, May 8, 2017 – 6:30-8:00 pm in the Media Center