

**Fall Creek Elementary School PTA
General Membership Meeting
Monday, November 2, 2009**

In attendance: 32 adults counted, including Karen Keller (principal)

6:00 **Introductions** - Everyone introduces themselves around the room.

6:05 **Meeting continues - Misc Items**

- Thanks to Lisa Witchey for organizing Halloween party.
- Sarah Cummings has a card for crossing guard, Jim Hallam, whose daughter recently passed away. The card is passed around and will be presented to Jim along with the donations to the Racker Center that were collected from parents.

6:07 **Teddy Bear Program**

Kindergarten teacher Ellen Rowe gave a presentation on the "Teddy Bear program" she has incorporated into her classroom:

- Last year, Ellen Rowe and Helen Ann Yunis applied for and received an IPEI grant which made the initiative possible. The program is continuing this year thanks to funding which Karen Keller came up with.
- The program is based on the program outlined in the book "Bears, Bears Everywhere" by Leslie Koplou.
- Each child is provided with a teddy bear and the bears are integrated into nearly every aspect of the kindergarten class, including choice time, circle time, reading, writing, conflict resolution, etc. During the course of the year, the kids wrote books for bears, made clothes for them, read to the bears, and much more. For one student who had previously been uninterested in writing, his bear helped inspire and jump start his classroom writing.
- Whether or not the program will continue is contingent on money and interest of teachers.
- The bears cost approximately \$13-15 each. Another couple hundred dollars was used for miscellaneous related supplies. Last year's grant was \$500.
- One more added benefit of the program was to involve many parents in the classroom.

6:23 **Head Lice Presentation**

ICSD head nurse, Judy Hoffman, gave a presentation on head lice. Judy has been in the district for 15 years.

- Procedure implemented a couple years back:
- A few years back, the district took information from the American Academy of Pediatrics and integrated it with recent head lice research (which mainly involved communicability). The research showed that head lice is not highly communicable in school.
- As a result, the school district developed the policy to NOT exclude a child from school simply because they have an active case of head lice. Also, the issue is simply not that serious compared to other communicable things.
- Furthermore, the following procedure is followed: If a child has active lice (an actual louse is found, not just nits), the child's parent is contacted and a letter should be sent home to all students in the class. The school nurse will check all students in

the class until no active lice are found. The nurse will follow the case until it is resolved.

- There is a limit to what school will accept, if child's case is not getting better, then steps will be taken (which might excluding a child from school). However, resources can be provided by the school district to help a family: information, help pulling nits, people to go into the child's home to assist.
- Regarding lice and transmission:
 - Most frequently, kids have lice for a good amount of time before it is discovered.
 - Home is most likely place for lice to be transmitted.
 - Usually it is possible to figure out how a case of lice was transmitted. eg: at a sleepover, from baseball team (sharing helmets), from a school play (sharing hats and costumes), etc.
 - Lice don't jump or fly.
 - Putting hair back helps reduce transmission.
 - It is more difficult for African Americans to get lice due to coarse hair, but they can still get it.
- It is important to be able to talk about the issue, so that families can contact other families when a case of lice is found. For example, if a children spent the night at a sleepover and one child was found to have head lice, parents should contact the parents of the other children. The sooner a case of head lice is found, the easier it is to deal with it. Head lice should not be a stigma, having lice does not mean the person has poor grooming habits. Anyone can get lice, we need to work together as a community by communicating openly about the issue; there are even some parents who are more than happy to help look for nits in children's hair and teach others how to do the same.
- Regarding treatment for head lice:
 - Previously, people were told that you had to clean and vacuum everything in the house, which is a lot of work. Now we know lice don't live off a host (person) for more than a couple days. You should wash linens, towels, clothing that has been recently worn. Furniture can be vacuumed. Items like stuffed animals can be placed in a plastic bag for two weeks (or for only 2 nights at 32 degrees or lower).
 - One treatment of pediculicide won't cut it, especially with resistant lice.
 - The best way to treat is by manually checking hair, looking for nits and removing them by hand. Natural lighting is best for finding lice. Lice tend to be found around the nape of neck and around the ears.
 - People should be checked about once a week to make sure there is no reinfestation.
- The Fall Creek PTA has an account to help families that have difficulty paying for lice treatments.

6:50 **The Hilby Show Fundraiser**

David Moreland spoke on the status of the Hilby Show:

- The show will be at the State Theater, Sat Nov 14 at 2:00pm.
 - Seating is first come first serve.
 - Hilby has a new balloon and new material.
 - Tickets are \$6 in advance and \$9 at the door.
- Dierdre is doing program, advertisers to pay for program, \$10, 20, 40 for ads
- The "Yo-Yo Guy" will be opening the show.
- Four other elementary schools in Ithaca are also selling tickets.
- Noah Demarest has arranged for banners.

- Laurie and Mike Cecere are house managers. Two ushers are needed;
 - A sign-up sheet was passed around to recruit.
 - Ushers should show up at 1:00 at the State Theater for training.
 - Users will take tickets and handout programs, turn in stubs to Mike, and disallow a "mosh pit" down front.
- Sally Butterfield is coordinating ticket sales.
- Mary Waisbrot is in charge of the bake sale for the show (concessions).
 - Bake sale signup is in the school hallway.
 - 1:30 bake sale start (before show).
 - All items will be sold for \$1, so portion baked good in bags accordingly.
 - Thurs and Fri before show: put your baked item in the lobby.
 - 4 tables will be setup at the show. Concession volunteers can work before show (1:30), at intermission, or cleanup (and possible final sales)
- Help is needed putting up posters. See David Moreland, who has large stack of posters at the meeting.
- Invite out of town friends now!
- School family liasons have been given comp tickets for families that cannot attend due to financial reasons.
- Publicity: there is a display table at Regal Cinema, it would be helpful if someone could volunteer to take advantage of this.
- Tickets will be sold the week before the show on: Mon, Tue, Thurs (there is no school Wednesday, Friday is student teacher conferences)

7:00 **Other Announcements**

Craft Night (Sarah Cummings)

- Craft night will be in December
- Need people to run tables or help out in general, setup & cleanup, prepping materials at home ahead of time (washing jars, cutting things out). People can even do a half shift instead of a full shift if they have limited time.

Leaders for next year

- There are several active PTA leaders who won't be here next year. The PTA needs people to step up to fill their shoes in leadership roles.
- David Moreland won't organize next year's fundraising show and needs to pass this responsibility on. The show will probably be back at Kulp auditorium and the PTA will probably need to find other performer (we will likely need to pay the new performer).
- The PTA needs people to step up and organize: Halloween Party, Fundraising show, Enrichment, Directory

Enrichment (Lauren McFeely)

- 120 kids are enrolled this fall.
- For those in the yoga class: it would be helpful to bring in yoga mat.
- Lauren and Darcy need leadership help starting with Spring.

Gimme Coffee Sale

- Signup for tabling in December.
- Order forms will go home next week.
- Kindergarten parent Vicky is organizing

Wreath Sale (Lisa Withey announced for Mary Waisbrot)

- Flyers will go home this Thursday regarding the wreath sale
- Wreaths are \$18 apiece, same price as last year.

- Nov 30 is the pickup date. Mary will deliver to businesses. Afterschool delivery will happen. Bus kids: Mary will deliver to home.
- Wreaths are made by a local farm in Candor.

Talent show (Chris Bell)

- The fall talent show is Wed, Nov 18.
- Signup sheets are going home this week.

Yearbook (Tom Clavel)

- Need volunteers to help monitor 5th graders as they use cameras, would help to have people who can teach photography basics.

Basketball (Doug)

- Some children did not get signup forms. For 3rd-5th grade, please sign up again if two children signed up on one form.
- There has been a difficulty filling 5th grade boys coaching role. Coaching training starts this Saturday!

T-Shirts (Lisa W. for Mary W.)

- Tees will be ordered. Can signup on new form, \$12 for long sleeves.
- Get your order in soon, there will be no more orders for shirts this fall after this order.

Halloween (Lisa Withey)

- Lisa needs photos for thank-you's to sponsors (eg: pictures of doughnuts from doughnut tree)

Ithaca Gun (Sarah Steuteville, chairperson of Ithaca Gun Community Advisor Group)

- Cleanup work at Ithaca Gun has stopped, ran out of money.
- The city has jumped through hoops to try and divert development money toward the cleanup.
- Until then, crews are just tarping the piles of debris.
- If you find that the tarps are off the debris piles (as they were last weekend), call:
 - Gary Holmes (DEC Project Manager) 775-2545
 - or Dan Cogan (city council rep and Fall Creek Kindergarten parent)
- Frost Travis is looking to build condos on the site
- For more information, Sarah Steuteville can be contacted at sarah@newurbannews.com, 272-4025

Spelling Bee (Helen Ann Yunis)

- Spelling bee entry fees are used to fund IPEI grants.
- This year's PTA spelling bee team will be: Tom Clavel, Karen Keller, and Maryann Erickson.
- The Fall Creek PTA team is being sponsored by local business, Larry Young from Richardson Brothers Electric, who is funding half the entry fee. The PTA has 6 days to raise remainder of money for entry fee (\$187.50)
- \$8500 in grant proposals were submitted to the IPEI today for Fall Creek school. This includes:
 - Dance residency (Canadian Dance theme)
 - 4th grade: Mayers/Stern: Primitive Pursuits.
 - 1st grade: Program with Lakeside Nursing/Rehabilitative center.
 - Science residency: Lauren McFeely wrote two grants, working with Museum of Earth (also Diane Conuel and Yvette DeBoer helped)

Final Announcement: The next PTA meeting will be in February.

Food ordering information: The PTA had 7 pizzas for \$91 + tip. There was approximately 1 pizza left over total (some of each variety)