

**PTA Meeting
September 12th, 2011
6:00 pm – 7:30 pm**

AGENDA

1. **Introductions** - Officers and Attendees (10 min.)
2. Announcement regarding need for families to bring their own dinner and drink ware for future meetings. (2 min.)
3. **Change in food offerings** and announcement for potluck meals to occur at least 2 times this year (what dates?) (5 min.)
4. **Principal message** (10 min.)
5. **Lego Robotics club** - Eric (10 min.)
6. **Website** presentation (10 min.)
7. **Treasurer's report** (5 min.)
8. **Volunteer solicitation** - brief descriptions of roles by previous coordinators: (20 min.)
 - Helen Ann - CEC
 - Laurie - childcare
 - Noky - Chocolate Sale
 - Allison - Book Swap
 - Noky - Directory ads
 - Patty - Enrichment
 - Deirdre - Fall Fundraiser
 - Steve/Deirdre - food for PTA meetings
 - Jane - Ice Skating
 - Chris - PTA Council rep
 - Darcy - Read-a-thon
 - ? - Ski Club
 - Allison - Teacher Appreciation (week or lunch)
 - Trena - Credit Union
 - Chris - PTA advocacy/events/campaigns
 - ? - Replace basketball net on playground
9. Misc.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. **PTA Meeting Dinners:**
 - Rather than the usual pizza, Steve Schwartz prepared dinner for everyone. Attendees are urged to email Chris Batman-Mize at president@fallcreekpta.org with comments/suggestions.
 - It was noted by more than one attendee that the announcement said pizza would be served but Steve prepared chili and rice. Chris apologized and stated that this was an experiment and

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that we haven't worked all the logistics out yet.

- All attendees to PTA meetings are asked to bring their own place settings and silverware to help defray cost and impact of paper products, and to keep Seana from having to wash everyone's dishes after every PTA meeting.
- At least one or more meetings will be a potluck to change things up a bit.

2. Message from the Principal:

- Dr. Mike Simons stated that he was overwhelmed by the large number of parents in attendance at the meeting. He briefly spoke about the Professional Learning Institute and mentioned that several Fall Creek staff members attended the workshop. One major initiative of this program is Professional Learning Communities: units of professional staff looking at student data to make ensure all students are being reached. Mike will be sending home communications, but the mode of these communications (e.g. email, postal mailing, phone call, etc) has yet to be decided.

KEY POINTS AND DECISIONS

1. LEGO Robotics Club (presented by Ishtvan Burbank, President of Ithaca High Schools robotics team "Code Red"):

- a. Junior FIRST LEGO league is an entry-level engineering competition for children in grades K-3 (6 to 9-year olds) that involves LEGOs. Groups of 2-6 children work together to build, out of LEGOs, the Challenge object over the course of 6 weeks. The object is entered into the national competition and children create a presentation (poster board detailing their research and efforts), talk to judges and other participants, and demonstrate their solution to the Challenge.
- b. To start a group costs \$250 dollars, which includes registration fees and other expenses. Sponsorship can help and there are community mentors (e.g. many of the Code Red members) to help guide the students in research, design and construction. A school can have more than one team.
- c. **Questions:**
 - i. Helen Ann asked what percentage is female. Ishtvan replied that within FIRST, 33% of participants are minorities and 14% are female.
 - ii. Deirdre asked who leads the children. Ishtvan replied that teams need dedicated leaders who have the time and desire to commit. Code Red has several students that would volunteer as mentors.
 - iii. Deirdre asked what the time commitment is per week. Ishtvan responded that for 6-8 weeks, 3-4 hours would be the minimum.
 - iv. Helen Ann asked when it would start and Allison Anderson asked if we should have sponsors already so that the membership would be free to participants. Ishtvan replied it can certainly work that way but it isn't necessary.

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- d. Any additional questions can be directed to Eric Dixon at FCLegos@gmail.com
2. New Fall Creek PTA WebSite Demo (presented by Timothy Weber):
 - a. Timothy Weber demonstrated many new features and functions of the new website for the attendees. Some key points are listed below:
 - i. Anyone who receives PTA-related emails has been migrated over and no action is necessary. All emails sent out are automatically posted to the website for convenience.
 - ii. Many PTA forms (childcare form, directory listing, etc) are available on the web, either for printing or for on-line filing. To fill out a form, you must request a new password, both of which Timothy demonstrated.
 - iii. Anyone can submit a "Story" which will be posted to the web and emailed to all listserv email addresses.
 - iv. Chris Bell will provide the line up for Friday morning program on Wednesday or Thursday for general notification.
 - v. **Questions:**
 1. Patty Sipman asked if the directory information filled out on the Website under a users account setup is only on the web or will it also be in the paper directory. Timothy responded that it is both: a searchable directory for logged-in users on the website and the information will also be included in the paper directory. Timothy stressed that inclusion in both directories is optional.
3. Treasurer's Report:
 - a. The next PTA meeting will be on October 3, 2011 from 5:30-7:30 and will be focused on the budget.
 - b. A comment was made that the PTA has a transportation fund and that the new Social worker should be made aware that these funds are available for those who need it.
4. Call for Volunteers:
 - a. **Cirriculum Enhancement Committee (CEC)** – Helen Ann, Chairperson
 - i. **Description of CEC:** The CEC helps teachers write grant for IPEI. There are 2 types grants through IPEI, the teacher grant up to \$1500 (must have a community partner) is due November 1st, and Red and Gold grants (up to \$500) which are awarded four times a year. The CEC facilitates interactions between parents (with grant-writing experience) and teachers who would like to write a grant. Helen Ann stressed the following point: the more grant money Fall Creek gets, the more eligible Fall Creek is to get money from BOCES.

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NOTE: Fall Creek PTA teacher grants of up to \$200 will be folded into the CEC, to better communicate to teachers that these funds exist and to improve administration of these grants. Allison Anderson recommended that someone come talk to teachers, perhaps at a Fall Creek Staff meeting, about the grants.

- b. **PTA Childcare** – Julie Nowlen will take over (from Laurie Cecere)
 - i. Julie needs about 6 volunteers for both upcoming Curriculum nights (September 22 (K-2) and September 26 (3-5)) to man tables, assist with form filing and getting kids to where they need to go. Julie would also like to request a backup coordinator.
- c. **Chocolate Sale** (Gertrude Hawk Chocolates) – Yvette De Boer will take over from Mike Charnoky.
- d. **Printer Cartridge Recycling Program** – John Kirlaw will take over for Mike Charnoky.
 - i. Mary Waisbrot will put John in touch with her contact at Kionix who can provide an ample supply of printer cartridges.
- e. **Book Swap** – Allison Anderson will continue as Coordinator
 - i. Allison requested that people donate children's books in good condition. The third grade students sort them by age and subject, and redistribute the books to all the classrooms. Allison will move the book swap to June, as a summer reading project.
- f. **Directory Ads** – Mike Miller will coordinate
- g. **Enrichment** – Patty Sipman will continue as Coordinator
 - i. Enrichment are 1 hour-long afterschool classes that run for 6 weeks. Teachers are paid \$240 per 6-week session of classes. Patty requested help with the registration and with recruiting teachers.
- h. **Fall Fundraiser** – Deirdre Kurzweil is the Coordinator
 - i. The show will take place on Sunday, November 6th at 1 pm. As of now, we are only planning on one show, with a possible second show if necessary.
 - ii. *Hilby the German Juggle Boy* will be back for a new show: **Circus Wonderbar**. Fall Creek PTA will pay Hilby.
 - iii. Deirdre asked for volunteers to cook and bake, which is where we made all of the money last year. Allison Anderson and/or Mary Wainsbrot will be Head of Concessions. Tom Clavel will coordinate baking.
 - iv. People can donate a ticket to a child at www.Hilby.net using the

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Paypal link.

- i. **Food for PTA meetings** – Steve Schwartz
 - i. Send ideas and suggestions to Chris at president@fallcreekpta.org.
 - ii. Lisa Borst volunteered as a server.
- j. **Ice Skating Chaparone** – Nancy Braun will take over for Darcy.
- k. **PTA Council** – Christ Batman-Mize will continue as representative.
- l. **Read-a-Thon** – Darcy will continue as Coordinator
- m. **Halloween Party** – Gabby Villa will be Coordinator. Jen Demarest will assist Gabby.
- n. **Teacher Appreciation (week and/or lunch)** – Deirdre will be the Coordinator
- o. **Credit Union** – Trena Haffenden will coordinate and Kindra Bell will assist.
 - i. Trena asked for volunteers from 7:30-8:00 am on Wednesdays to help set up, assist student tellers and handle funds. Julie Nowlen and her husband volunteered as tellers (one on each alternating Wednesday).
 - ii. Trena also asked for short-term help with account setup.
- p. **Ski Club Chaparone** – **Unfilled position**
 - i. Need one volunteer to go on the bus and go skiing six times during the year. Chaparone and child ski free at Greek Peak.
- q. **Yearbook** – **Unfilled Coordinator position**
 - i. Need several people to oversee photography (ie helping children take pictures) in the school, on fieldtrips and at event.