

## PTO MEETING MINUTES OCT 17, 2011

- **Meeting called to order by PTO President Mary Jo King at 7pm.**
- **Reading Escapades Presentation-**by Christine Allen-local learning center on Delaware Ave in Palmerton. Started business to keep the love of learning within children, help parents, and help teachers too. One of the ways the kids learn is by playing different games. Games vary according to interests and what the kids are learning at the time. They do math, reading, different languages, homework clubs, science, writing, classes for kids who are struggling, classes for kids who are advanced. There are day camps for 3 hours at a time and cover reading, math, geography, science, language, etc on a specific topic. Check out their website [www.read2day.com](http://www.read2day.com) for more information (If you mention PTO, you will get a discount).
- **Minutes** from September's meeting are attached to agendas to be read. Membership update-as of today, there are 375 PTO members. Motion to accept the minutes was made by Jen Platts and seconded by Jen Shinsky.
- **Treasurer's Report-** Chris Leshner- behind the minutes-expense, income and ending reports. Motion to accept the report made by Missy Kolnik and seconded by Tiff Christman
- **Veteran's Memorial Fund-**update given by Anne Cronk-veteran's Memorial will be installed in Palmerton park. They are looking for donors for pavers from organizations. The memorial will include those from Palmerton who served/enlisted in the military dating back to the Civil War. There are different size blocks at different prices. Holly Sell made a motion for PTO to donate \$200 paver seconded by Michele O'Neill. No one opposed, passed by majority. On Oct 30 at 9am, there will be a bake sale at Country Harvest which will accept donations of baked items.

### OLD BUSINESS.

- **Fall Festivities-** update by Tiff Christman and Mary Jo-had a meeting on Thursday. Festivities will take place on Oct 28<sup>th</sup> which will include a parade and giving treat bags to the students in the park after the parade. Individual bags will include popcorn glove, orange gatorade, pencil, rice krispie treat, 2 candy items. Anyone who wants to help, please meet at Tiff's house on Thursday, Oct 27<sup>th</sup> at 6pm (590 Harvard Court, Palmerton). The parade maps will be in Wednesday expresses along with parade times. On Friday, just show up in the park to help. Anne Cronk will be taking photos of each class as they come through the park, before they get their treat bags. There will also be a costume contest again this year. 12 children will be selected for their costume. We will need donations for those 12 treat bags as well. If it rains, the parade is canceled but the kids will still get their treat bags.
- **Fall Fundraiser-**update given by Nicki Frank-Fundraisers are still coming in, please try to get yours in ASAP. Right now we are at \$14,000, down about \$6,00 this year. One day pickup during parent-teacher conferences. Will need help getting packets organized to go out to students. Look for an email asking for help. The company's offering great incentives for the students. Fall fundraiser does pay for Christmas gifts for the students.
- **Kids Stuff Book-**update by Jen Tobia- in conjunction with fall fundraiser- PTO gets 50% profit (\$25 book, we make \$12.50). Sold over 200 books, profit of about \$1250 so far.
- **Halloween Parade-**update by Jen Platts/Joe Gostonyi-PTO float was adorable at the Halloween parade on Sunday. 38 kids were on the float (double from last year). Some of the older kids walked behind. PTO placed 4<sup>th</sup> in it's category. Smurf theme was adorable!! Had enough candy this year!! Photos were taken and Jen will make sure they get to Pam for the yearbook. Everyone had fun!!! 9x18' piece of carpet (donated by Hager) to put in PTO storage for next year. All items for the float were donated by many local businesses such as

- Country Junction, DeSousa, Palmerton Lumber, etc.
- **Clothing Swap**-update by Brigitte White-fall clothing swap went well. Had a lot of donations. They did a sort night which made it go smoothly. The clothing left over went to the rummage room on Delaware Ave.
- **Parkside Book Fair**-Penny Wars won by Mrs. Dobias's AM class—they'll will a cupcake party. This raises money for One for Books. Profited \$574 from book sale and \$354 from Penny wars went into Parkside library.
- **SS Palmer Book Fair**-update by Linsey German-starts tomorrow, Tuesday, October 18<sup>th</sup>. A paper went home to let parents know when children will be shopping and on what days. Help is needed to help children shop. Food donations will be needed by Family Night on Thursday from 5-7pm. There will be games and prizes as well. Penny wars will be held here at Palmer too. Up to \$397 so far, and will buy books for Palmer's library.
- **Dance**-update by Julie Stroup. The Halloween Dance will be held on Friday, October 28<sup>th</sup> from 3-5pm. Setup/decorating will begin at 1:30pm. A sign-up sheet is being passed around so you can sign up to help that day for decorating, chaperoning, and clean-up/dismissal. PTO points will also be given for donations of individually wrapped snacks such as chips, pretzels, and baked goods. We are also in need of donations of small bottles of water and juice boxes. The dance is for 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> graders only but donations and help can be given by any PTO parent. The past few years, well over \$100 per dance was spent on balloons for decorating. However, this year we don't plan to decorate with balloons. We would like a budget of \$100 per dance to purchase some decorations that can be utilized year after year. A motion to approve \$100 per dance to purchase decorations was made by Jen Platts and seconded by Missy Kolnik.
- **Market Day**-update by Mary Jo for Pam Andrews. Thanks so much to everyone that helped with the September pick-up. The next pickup is Thursday October 20<sup>th</sup>. She needs help with setup from 6-7 and distribution of products to customers from 7-8 here in the SS Palmer cafeteria. Also, keep forwarding pictures taken on field trips and other school activities to Pam for the yearbook.
- **Health Fair**-update by Larissa Kimmel- working on this since last year with towamensing PTO here at SS Palmer. Will be open to the community. The bloodmobile will be here and lots of other interesting booths. There will be a book swap that day as well. Lots of volunteer help will be needed that day. It will be held Nov 5<sup>th</sup>, 10am-2pm. A flyer will be coming in a Wednesday express. There will be lots of free screenings, free activities for children, free Zumba class, helmet demonstration (cocunut crusher), free ID's and fingerprinting for children, stranger danger presentation, etc. Food donations will be needed such as BBQ and rolls, veggies & dip, fruit, paper products, and drinks. Donations can be dropped off at setup on November 4<sup>th</sup> at 5pm or 8am on Saturday November 5<sup>th</sup>.
- **Beautification**-update given by Robert Balch. Scarecrows, hay bales, cornstalks, mums were donated from the float at both schools. Weeding always needs to be done.

## NEW BUSINESS

- **Santa's Workshop**-Anne Howard/Lindsey German-at Parkside and SS Palmer during the 1<sup>st</sup> full week of December each year. There is always opportunities for points for this committee. More information will be provided next month. An email will go home the beginning of November for a committee meeting.
- **Christmas Gifts**-update by Lisa Leshner on November 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm at the Palmerton Hotel. Please bring ideas for the gifts for the children. If you can't attend the meeting, please email Lisa your idea [llesher@pencor.com](mailto:llesher@pencor.com) . The goal is to come up with gift idea that night so it can voted on at the November PTO meeting. Per Mary Jo, please come up with gift ideas at

different price levels to make sure we have enough money from the fall fundraiser to cover the cost of the gifts.

- **Bingo**-update by Becky Christman-Anne and Becky planning on game/toy bingo which will be fun for kids and families. The Bingo will be held on Sunday February 19<sup>th</sup> 1-4pm, doors open at 12pm. Will need volunteers to set-up, clean-up, runners, caller for bingo, donations of food and help with that day, donations of various video games for different game systems, webkinz, legos, itunes gift cards, games system accessories, etc. Also, donations of prizes under \$5 for consolation table. All games/toys have to have a GIFT RECEIPT with them. Asking PTO for a start up of \$500 to reserve the hall (Aquashicola Fire Co) and start to purchase games, etc. Last time we did this, we went past the start-up money just in ticket sales to enter bingo. Lisa Snell Kern made a motion for PTO to give \$500 start up money which was seconded by Samantha Green.
- **School Board**-Mary Jo-held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month. This month, the meeting will be held Tuesday, October 18<sup>th</sup>. You can go on the district's website to look for specific dates of meetings, agendas, etc. Very beneficial for PTO members to go to the meetings to stay informed about what's happening in the school district. We would like more PTO members to attend school board meetings. Therefore, PTO points will be offered for those who attend school board meetings. Please let an officer know if you will be attending.
- **President's Report**- Thanksgiving meals. Last year, PTO did this for the 1<sup>st</sup> time. We collected food to donate to a less fortunate family from Palmer and Parkside. We donated items at November's PTO meeting. Last year, PTO had enough items to feed 4 families. PTO will be doing this again this year. Mrs Brumbach and Mrs Storm take care of the distribution of the items to the needy families (it stays anonymous). So please bring your donation to the next PTO meeting on November 14<sup>th</sup>. PTO points will be awarded for your donation. Thanksgiving lunches here at Palmer will be held Thursday November 3<sup>rd</sup> and Friday November 4<sup>th</sup>. The lunchroom is looking for helpers to help serve food and check people in. 2 helpers will also be needed at Parkside on November 10<sup>th</sup>. If anyone can help, please sign the sheet on the front table. Thanks for all your help so far.
- **Principal's Report**-update given by Mrs. Brumbach. Reminder that picture retakes are October 27<sup>th</sup>. Playground dedication went great! Thanksgiving lunch for Palmer was due today, no walk-ins will be accepted this year. Kudos to Beautification for decorating the schools so nicely. The schools look great. Also, thanks for all your help and support so far this year. The book fairs and penny wars are going great so far and the kids are loving them.
- **Comments/Questions**- does PTO support/help Track & Field Day? Yes we do, but it won't be held at the high school anymore (as it looks now). It will be a more scaled down version this year (since the bleachers are being re-done in the spring). Mr. Heller is working on that.
- **Door Prize Drawings**
- **Meeting was adjourned.**

**NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14TH AT 7PM IN SS PALMER CAFETERIA.**