

PTO 9-17-13

Parents: 37

Teachers: Donna and Eric and Tom

The purpose of the PTO is to connect parents and teachers. We support the teachers so they can focus on the children. One of the main goals is fundraising. We raise money to provide staffing and support for success of all. Every parent/guardian is automatically a member of the PTO. There are no dues or obligations.

There have been many discussions with city about 30th and University and the non ADA crosswalk. We want a slower zone or stop light at 30th and University. We need something to make it more assessable and safer.

Advisory Committee: The Advisory Committee met several times before school ended and a few times over the summer. One of the main accomplishments was the Camas 101 project which should be available in the near future. They discussed the overall structure and how decisions will be made at Camas.

Committee Living Team: The goal is to create a strong community of parents, students and staff. Work groups. There is a high premium on how we treat each other. It is basically a program which puts a premium on a really safe, calm, friendly and engaging environment in classrooms and common school areas. Kids seem happy. Welcome back assembly. Nice music. Tom introduced all new students and Kindergarteners. He introduced staff. The committee had a combination of teachers and parents. Great things come out of the collaboration. Correction of behavior is about re-teaching and not punishment. There is a great opportunity for problem solving.

There has been discussion about the vision and the ideal of Camas underway. It's great to have it back at the school to articulate what the school is trying to do and have people follow. Part of the work is to define things that weren't well defined. We are moving back to idealistic view for the school.

How is the information going to be disseminated to parents? Camas 101 is being reviewed by the teachers now. It will likely be like a flip book format. Look for it in the not too distant future. First reason for Camas 101 was for new and prospective staff to bring them up to speed and for them to learn about the program. It morphed into a version that will also be helpful to parents.

FUNDRAISING! We need a lot of money!

Restaurant of the Month. Lots of chances for people to get out and schmooze and eat with some proceeds going back to Camas. IF you know of a restaurant that does this and you would like to get it on the list. Let Diane know. This will happen once a month at places Papas Pizza, Yogurt Extreme, etc. Kirsten Henry-Lea volunteered to coordinate.

Direct Donation Drive (DDD) is happening in October.

EWEB Parking fundraiser We need 10-12 volunteers, adults and older teens to manage the EWEB parking for the Ducks game on Oct 19th.

Last year, our three big fundraisers were the Jog-A-Thon, Excellent Evening, and the SockHop-A-Thon. Historically we've decided to do events that don't require the kids to sell stuff. Jog-A-Thon brought in more money than we thought, Excellent Evening Less and the Sock Hop money was earmarked for PE and Music.

Over half the budget goes to staffing.

Probably not doing Excellent Evening this year. It did not make nearly the amount of money needed for the hundreds of hours that were put into organizing and collecting donations. A possible replacement for the social aspect of the adult evening would be a dance party at the vets club, without a fundraising purpose.

The three main fundraisers will be spaced out with Direct Drive in the Fall. Sock Hop in the Winter, and Jog-A-Thon in the Spring. The carnival at end of year is a great fun and community event and serves as a minor fundraiser.

SKATEWORLD Fun coming November 9th 4:30=6:30. Suggested donation. Last year was the first time and we made \$900 profit right off the bat. This is being kept separate in a "fun fund" for future fun community events.

We will have to do a DDD in the spring if we do not make enough money with our Fall events. The minimum we need is \$75K, but the ultimate goal is closer to \$150K.

eScrip/Box Tops/Target on Facebook /Sequential

Now, through September 21st you can vote for Camas thru Facebook and earn money for the school. Donna's class been working hard at spreading the word and charting the results.

You can reach it directly here: <https://givewith.target.com/> or you can follow the links from the Camas Ridge Public Page

Bring in your Box Tops. Each one is 10 cents. Oct 1 is the first deadline. Please make sure they aren't expired.

eScrip gives us about \$7K a year. Please sign up! <http://escrip.com/> It's as simple as registering your credit cards and/or store cards. Each time you use that card, escrip donates money to Camas. You don't have to think about it again, unless you get new cards. You can also go through escrip to shop using the link at the top of the page: <http://shopping.escrip.com/> Make sure you are signed in and then do whatever shopping you have, including Amazon.com. Camas will get a percentage of that.

Some fundraisers are specifically for the out of town trip to support the older kids. For example, there was a carwash last spring for the 5th grade OMSI overnight.

Donna: The last two years, the 5th graders have done overnight to OMSI. This year they are looking at an outdoor school experience for the 4th and 5th graders. When Camas began, there were so many other things to work on that establishing this was difficult. Now that things are falling into place, there is time and energy to set this in motion. Lots of local businesses wanted to give things not money.

Oprah gives away a lot of money. We could find some wider community. We just need people to take on the tasks.

Fundraising chair. Carolyn Montoya. She is not doing the fundraising, she is managing the funds and keeping track of what we have and what we need. There are lots of positions available for different event coordinators. IF you are interested, let her know! munchkinsx2@gmail.com

There have been lots of ideas, but things don't happen. Amanda volunteered to take on the DDD with letter and head the DDD. We are going to be in serious trouble next year financially. We have never earned as much money as we are going to need next year.

There is an energy happening in this school that is going to be marketable. It's new, exciting, different. Those things can get us going during the direct drive.

We want to do fundraising but maintain the climate of camas. Students will be involved but not by selling stuff.

Before and afters school programs. There are a few programs after school for kids. Engineering and Storytelling. See Diane for more information.

Wednesday programs have traditionally been grades 1-5. Marty is looking at having a Kinder music class on the early release day.

Music and Movement in the AM. Miss Lindsey from Flex Studio will be working in the gym for two weeks starting Monday the 23rd from 7:30-7:55. If all goes well, and there is interest, people can sign up (for a small fee) through Flex and have morning movement. Starting Monday, send a note with your child (or fill out the form in the Friday folder) and have them take it to the cafeteria. Staff will then send them to the Gym.

SockHo-A-Thon. Part of the advertising for this event mentioned that the money be used for PE and Music. This happened before we knew that we would have PE. Can we disconnect. and unencumber that money? More on that later.

Carrie: Garden. There is a green house being stored that would be great to put into use. We've been given the okay to set it up on campus. The glass has to be replaced with a childsafe material, but there is some money for that in the garden funds. There has been a small group of people who have done Big

Garden party with UO volunteers on Sept 27th 1-4pm to work in garden. Look for information in newsletter.

We didn't really have a strong garden project last year. We want to reignite and do science and nature.

The newsletter is changing to a "what's happening" email from Tom. There is also a public FB page called Camas Ridge Parents Group. Public and searchable.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/473333272744590>

The thing about newsletters is that the news is in past. The What's Happening will alert parents to ongoing and future happenings. We haven't found out the rhythm between the school and parents. Print ready paragraphs can go in the weekly, they could for the newsletter. Maybe the PTO has its own weekly?

"What's Happening" will be translated in Spanish if necessary. We are waiting to hear back upon return of the papers that went out in the Friday Folders.

Penny needs a few more teacher liaisons and buddy families. Email her if you are interested.
pennyjoy37@gmail.com

STAND for children. There is a current petition by stand for children, asking lawmakers to call a special legislative session to come back together and make a plan to support education. If passed 3.3 million would come back for the next few years. We have 165 school days. The national average is 180. Oregon used to have 190.

Harvest Festival is a community building activity. Should we do it? When? We decided not to tie it to Halloween but to do something in November.

Would you be willing to have a Halloween thing at school? Can kids wear costumes?

Bud Kaufman. . SPARK. Last year, two guests talked about raising IQs just by having kids move in the morning.

Teachers and parents would have to agree. Twelve minutes a day for each class in the morning. Brain based learning activities. They get more learning ready. Teachers should be there too. Bring it to staff and site council. Tom and Bud will bring it to Site Council and PTO.

BDNF. Brain Derived Neurotropic Factor. Facilities awareness and memory.

From last year's minutes: Anne Summers; Healthy in Oregon (<https://twitter.com/HealthyInOregon>)

Dr. Ken Welker (<http://www.oregonoptimalhealth.com/ken-welker-md/>) is a surgeon in Oregon who studies the effect of exercise on the brain.

You can read more here: Meg Greiner (<http://www.fitnessforlife.org/authors-and-contributors/author-and-contributor-bios/meg-greiner-med>) She is the expert, out of Independence, Oregon.

We don't have money for an extra .2 person or advanced 5th grade math. We are under enrolled by 50 kids so we might have to give back .5 FTE. They could possibly take away a 1st grade teacher. High numbers of family who decided to go somewhere else. We didn't get the kinder size that was estimated. We could have 2FTE less than this for next year. Fundraising really really needs to happen!

Not going to touch it for now. We also need to have some process discussion with the staff, another PTO meeting and then ultimately Site Council will make that decision.

Teachers and Tom are working on Community time and Project based learning.

Energy of this school is exceptional!

Submitted:

Karen Luks 9/19/13