

PTO minutes 16 September 2014

Review of what PTO does:

1. Facilitation of communication between school and home
2. Community building: events and activities
3. Fundraising; try to involve school community in fundraising without having children sell things

Marty Wilde spoke about the 4J Levy, ballot measure 2-222. It's a Local Option Levy, provides \$8 million a year for an average annual household cost of \$109. Eight million dollars is the equivalent of 80 teachers or 16 school days.

Julie Voelker Morris announced a Stand for Children meeting on Saturday, September 20, 9:30-11:00 am. Contact Joy Marshall at jmarshall@stand.org or 541-912-2921.

Camas Ridge has lots of volunteer opportunities. Sherrie Bandy is the volunteer coordinator. There is sign-up information on the Camas Ridge website or a paper copy may be obtained at school. Email Sherrie at camasvolunteer@gmail.com.

Heather Sielicki talked about the importance of efficient and effective communication. Camas Ridge has multiple ways for families to stay informed.

Website: camasridge.4j.lane.edu

The website features an event calendar that can be linked to e-calendars like Google Calendar.

The website is also a resource for events and other school information.

Facebook: Camas Ridge has a public page on FB that anyone can view, even if they don't have a facebook account. There is a second FB presence, a Camas Ridge PTO group page that must be joined to view. It is used for unofficial communication within the community.

Email: In addition to Tom's regular emails, messages will be sent from the PTO on a sporadic basis. In order to receive these emails, sign up on the CR website.

There are a couple of openings for kindergarteners in the KELP program. For information, please contact Diane in the office.

Tom reported on current CR happenings.

Teachers have been conducting EasyCBM testing, an assessment that happens three times a year and provides a snapshot of student progress.

We have a Professional Development day coming up on the 3rd of October. These days are crucial to the development and support of the complex elements of our school program. Teachers use this time to collaborate and process innovative ideas to strengthen the whole school. October 10th is a statewide inservice day.

Tom shared the proposal draft of the staff's new Community Time agreement, the goal of which is to increase the substance, relevance, and frequency of multi-age community classes. CT will be held four days a week. The initial block of Community Time (15 Sept – 7 Oct) will meet for an hour four times a week for Integrated Art. Our new mural will be completed during this time (dedication on the 8th of October). Other elements of substance to be incorporated in CT include: teaching and celebrating the triangle values; integration of art, writing, EDCRO design challenges (project-based learning); tending the garden; providing a vehicle for student voice and group problem solving; and providing 1:1 and small group behavior support. The P.E./music specialists will rotate through CT classes. Additionally, all assemblies will be held during Community Time.

The meeting took a field trip to view the in-progress mural in the gym. The mural is being painted on panels that will be mounted on the east side of the gym and will be removable for relocation when the building is replaced.

Sarah Yapp is organizing Walk and Bike to School day; the event will be October 8.

Harvest Festival is November 14th. Penny Salus is organizing.

The next PTO meeting is on the 21st of October, and the theme will be project-based learning.