

Tuesday, September 4, 2012 Welcome Coffee and General PTA Meeting

New PTA president, Karen Roman, called the meeting to order at 9:40am. She introduced herself and turned the meeting over to Mr. Palmisano.

Principal's Remarks – Rock Palmisano

He thanked the parents for their continued support of the staff and students. We have 410 students (vs. 308 when he started when he started 4 years ago.) We gained 42 new students and have 74 students in Kindergarten.

All Montgomery County schools are required to have a SIP (School Improvement Plan). CSES is working on 3 things this year:

1. Assessment. Curriculum 2.0 is required in K-3 this year. A big piece of Curriculum 2.0 is assessment. This year the teachers are looking at ways beyond paper and pencil to recognize that students learn in different ways.
2. TASS. The staff is working on ways to improve Thinking and Academic Success Skills
3. Social and Emotional Learning. The teachers are looking at this part of students' learning and giving students meaningful work. Examples – saying good morning, waiting for answers to questions. Looking at making social and emotional learning as part of the daily instruction.

MSA scores are at an all-time high. Significant gains in scoring advanced (77% in reading 79% in math). Carderock Springs outscored the rest of the ES in the cluster. Last year's 3rd grade students had the highest number of students scoring advanced in the County. The teachers will also be looking at "What does success look like beyond the test scores?"

The teachers have formed 3 committees – technology, TASS, and Assessment committees. The committees will handle the professional development in monthly staff meetings. Peers will train peers.

Mr. Palmisano reminded parents that his door is always open. Please email, call, or set up a meeting. He mentioned that he prefers face to face conversations to emails for something significant.

Welcome and Overview – Karen Roman

Karen thanked Mr. Palmisano for coming.

Karen reminded parents that everything is online (csespta.org) and we are going to try to cover the agenda quickly.

Introductions – everyone went around the room to introduce themselves.

Karen referred everyone to the Mission Web as a snapshot of everything that the PTA does. And we need your help to do it – so she encouraged everyone to join the PTA (forms are available online) – just \$35/family.

Events – Anthea Higgins

The BTS picnic is Fri. Sept 21st. 5-7pm. Everyone is encouraged to buy their new spirit wear for the all school picnic. Bring your whole family – Ledo's pizza (preorder online to avoid the line), 'Ritas ice, DJ, face painting.

BTS night is Tuesday, Sept 11th at 7pm.

Save the Date for the Columbus Day open house – Monday, October 8th at 8:30am. This is the day that parents are able to visit their children's classrooms.

Community Service – Leanne Till

The community service committee will run 3 major projects throughout the year

Martha's Table – Families make sandwiches every Friday for the weekly collection. Sandwiches are used for McKenna's wagon that feeds the homeless.

Lemonade Ripple – This is a repeat of a successful project from last year. Kick off assembly in October. Last year, Just TRyan It Foundation was chosen by the students to receive all the donations. So, we are going to partner with them again. The program is designed to encourage kids to be more active in helping others. The ripple project will end on Oct. 26th and the plan is to present the funds at the Oct 27th 5K. Leanne pointed out that Ally Hoffman is a Board Member of Just TRyan It and is a Carderock parent.

Holiday Gift Drive – Each classroom adopts a family to fulfill holiday wish lists.

If anyone is interested in joining the committee, please contact Leanne Till.

Fundraisers – Anthea Higgins

There are several upcoming/ongoing fundraisers. Most everything is online (pay4schoolstuffonline.com)

Kids Classifieds – Please buy a personal ad to send a note to your child or teacher (deadline Sept 19th) that gets published in the directory. Costs is \$10/ad

Giant Gift Cards – Marcie Fezza and Jodi Fields are coordinating this program. Parents can buy Giant gift cards to use when grocery shopping. 5% of proceeds goes back to school.

Grocery Shopping Points –All you need to do is to fill out the form providing your Giant, Safeway, Harris Teeter frequent shopper cards

Sally Foster – Lisa Brown and Melanie Caudron are working on this. CSES PTA gets 40% of sales. Lisa Brown is also looking for contacts with stationery company contacts to try to set up a holiday gift card fundraiser.

Amazon.com – When you shop on Amazon, start with the link on the PTA website and the PTA gets a percentage of the sales. It's that easy!

Programs – Christine Fruehwirth

After school activities – Cindy Share has lined up an amazing assortment of classes that are fun and educational. There is a trimester program – each is 8 weeks long. There are 27 classes being offered this fall – most have 8 students as a minimal enrollment. So take a look at the classes offered and see what looks appealing.

Lisa Bronfman has organized the Parent Education speaker series for the PTA meetings. The Parent Ed speaker at the Oct. 2nd PTA meeting is Dr. Kay Abrams. Her topic is “Empowering your Own Child.”

International Heroes Week is September 24th-28th. There will be a school wide assembly on Thursday Sept. 27th. Salma Ali and Sara Bhatia have done a great job organizing this week of events.

Grade Level Socials – We still need volunteers to host the Autism, 3rd and 4th grade socials. This is a Parent only event and a great way to meet other parents. Hosts will have a committee to help out.

Lunch/Recess volunteers – This is a great opportunity to see what your kids are doing and how their day is going. The schedule through December will be up soon. We are using VolunteerSpot to schedule all lunch/recess volunteers.

Other Business

The CSES Foundation also works hard to support our school. PTA focuses on everyday items and the Foundation focuses on longer term, technology updates. The Foundation supports our volunteer computer technology teacher. Refer to www.csesef.org for more information.

The next PTA meeting is Tuesday, October 2nd at 7:30pm.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00am.