

21 August 2018

PTO General Meeting Agenda



- Welcome (Rupa) + Introduction Rhonda
- Director's Update (Rhonda)
- Learning update (Melissa)
- Communications update (Vitali)
- Introduction PTO Team
- Divisional Updates:
 - High School (Linda)
 - Middle School (Marjo)
 - Elementary (Liz)
- Newcomers' Coffee Mornings and Seminars Update (Clare)
- Fun Run, Wellness Fair and PTO BBQ Update (Ginny)
- Eco Green (Masha)
- PTO Exchange (Irina)
- PTO-shop (Pauline)
- Visiting Artists (Library)
- Enhancement Grants & Charitable Matching Fund (Irina)
- Teacher Appreciation (Angelina)
- Any other business

Next PTO General Meeting: Tuesday, 18 September 08.45 hours in South Cafeteria - Everybody is welcome

If you have an item for the Agenda, please contact our PTO President, Rupa Bhattasali at PTO@as.ru

21 August 2018

PTO General Meeting Minutes



- Welcome (Rupa) + Introduction Rhonda

Big welcome everybody on first PTO meeting at this first day of school.

Welcome new parents and new families .

Rupa is PTO President this year. PTO main goal is to built a strong AAS community.

Rupa introduces the new AAS director Rhonda Norris.

- Director's Update (Rhonda)

Welcome everybody. Rhonda is very excited to be joining the AAS community.

Introduces herself: her family arrived in Moscow 3 weeks ago, 1 daughter in College and 11 Grader here at AAS. Her husband is a HS math teacher at AAS. First day of school, exciting to have the students at school. Looking forward to a wonderful partnership with the PTO!

Report of director:

- AAS welcomed new staff (few staff members are still waiting for visas, existing staff will fill up the gap for the time being)
- AAS welcomed new families. The new family orientation went well and turnout was great. We got positive feedback)
- Open house was a success too.
- Saturday 8 September: Fun run is coming up. Would be great to see you all.
- Rhonda addresses that she has a 'open door policy'!!

Introduction of Marty Tromburg, Director of Finance and Operations:

Brief introduction of Marty. His wife is a 1 Grade teacher, children are already in college. AAS is a great school and please if you need help, I do have the 'open door policy' too.

- Learning update (Melissa)

It has been fabulous first day!

Melissa is the Director of Learning (PK - 12 Grade)

It is very important that parents are part of the process, so we value communication.

This year we have new components at 'learning at AAS'. It's important that parents do understand what's happening at school. Phrase : 'Learning at AAS' our 5 impacts:

- 1) Self-directed learner (resilience, agency, growth)
- 2) Forward Thinkers (critical, creative, flexible thinking)
- 3) Socially intelligent Communication (group skills, interpersonal skills, empathy)
- 4) Globally minded citizens (global awareness, systems thinking, action)
- 5) Academic & holistic achievers (academics, extra curricular)

Coming soon: workshops to make the above clear and give information about learning at school.

- Introduction PTO Team

PTO team introduces their members:

* Rupa Bhattasali = President (serving as your president this year, a daughter in 6 Grade)

*Gerda Marais = Treasurer (2 HS daughters)

*Alessandra Guidaldi = VP Internal (4th year in Moscow/AAS, a lot of fun, this year VP Internal, a son in 9 Grade)

*Asya Grigoryan = VP external (new member of the PTO, very global community, VP external (sponsors), looking forward to a fun and productive year)

*Linda Corallo = HS rep (HS rep, 2nd year VP HS, 10 & 12 Grade kids, lot of events for HS, please be a volunteer. Grade 12 is a very important year)

*Marjo Vaessen = MS rep (MS rep, 2 years ago my 3 sons came to AAS, PTO great way of getting to know school. MS Socials are always looking for helpers)

*Liz Kirkwood = ES rep (Stay on the look-out for signing up to be an ES classroom parent, a great way to be involved)

*Ines Cremers = Secretary (3 daughters in ES, happy to be the secretary)

- Divisional Updates:

See introduction PTO team.

- High School = Linda Corallo
- Middle School = Marjo Vaessen
- Elementary = Liz Kirkwood

- Newcomers' Coffee Mornings and Seminars Update (Clare)

Welcome everybody, especially to all the newcomers. Let me know if you haven't had an email from me with all info. Please put the following data/events in your calendar:

- ☐ New Family newcomers Hyatt! (the logistics will be clear in an email/communications)
- ☐ Welcome new families seminars!! 3, 10, 17 & 24 September
- ☐ Buddy family program

- Communications update (Vitali)

Vitali introduces himself. He is the communications director of AAS.

Newsletter: the newsletter is send every Wednesday afternoon. Please read this as it is a great resource.

- Fun Run, Wellness Fair and PTO BBQ Update (Vitali)

- ☐ Saturday 8 September 11.30-15.30
- ☐ Fun Run: (This year we have added a timed 5 k run, normal 5 and 3 k run/walk). Our goal is to raise money for this good cause. Every year we work with a charity. This year we support Ibrahim, a 9 year old boy who has leukemia.

- ❑ Wellness Fair: different vendors will be at this wellness fair. Worth visiting!
- ❑ PTO BBQ: The PTO sponsors the food for this day.

- Eco Green (Masha)

Masha introduces herself and is very passionate about the Eco Green. The Eco Green main goal is : to recycle!! (like, water dispensers, cans, batteries, paper recycle, reusable red plates, NO balloons etc..)

Please join our team!

- PTO Exchange (Irina)

Irina introduces herself. The PTO Exchange service, is of exchanging used clothes/books. You can either swop or buy in cash these used items. Please remember to come to us at the exchange. Like everybody we are looking for volunteers.

- PTO-shop (Angelina / Pauline)

Angelina introducing herself. PTO shop belongs to AAS PTO. Very successful sales at the beginning of this year. Unfortunately some sizes out of stock (new sizes will take about 2 weeks, but please go to the Exchange too and have a look what they have).

Pauline introduces herself too. Consider being a volunteer, it's a great way to meet people!

- Visiting Artists (Library)

Introduction of the library ladies, Kris & Kelsey. The library is for the AAS community KG-12.

We are proud to announce that the visiting artists are coming: 24-26 September. The artists are: Candace Fleming & Eric Rohmann

We aim to:

- ❑ We are for everyone
- ❑ Nurture the love of reading

- ❑ Provide support our diverse student

This year for the first time, digital access to New York times

Opening Hours: Monday-Friday 7.30-17.00 Some Saturday 10.00-13.00 (parents are welcome too)

- Enhancement Grants & Charitable Matching Fund (Irina)

When staff/students/anyone related to school has a very good idea for an project at school, they can ask for an enhancement grant (from PTO).

Examples are: Garden at school, Walking in the forest (working with consultants how to implement learning....)

- Teacher Appreciation (Angelina)

This year there will be 2 events. One in October and one in June.

If you have any ideas please let me know. I'd like set up a great team.

- Any other business

We are always looking for volunteers :-). Please sign up, if you are interested.

Invitation for a Brainstorming meeting to improve Parents' Engagement at the General PTO meetings.

Rhonda shows her appreciation by thanking everybody for taking the time to come to the meeting. See you all at the Opening Ceremony in the North gym this afternoon, parents are welcome.

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