

PTA General Meeting Feb 6, 2019
10am ES Conference Room

Attendees: Benton, Martin, Priya, Claudia, Mehdiya, Amelia, Gretel, Flavia, Tatiana, Rosa, Pamela, Sophie, Vanessa, Shayna,

1). PTA President Jill Monaghan opened the meeting, noting that the school -- and PTA -- have several “big and exciting” events coming up, including the Family Fun Fair and AASCA.

2). At Jill’s request, Viki Stiebert offered an abridged version of a presentation she gave about how -- and why -- teaching techniques are changing around the world and at ISP. With students and parents exposed to an overwhelming proliferation of new information every day, schools, parents and teachers need to adapt to how that information glut (such as the Internet and smartphones) is changing the job market -- and society.

She noted that “education is changing so rapidly...it can make us all feel anxious, including teachers and parents.”

Viki said that ISP was adopting a pedagogy geared toward teaching students more interdisciplinary skills, with a focus on interpersonal communication, learning new information systems and self-knowledge. “We are putting things in place for our teachers ... to help our students prepare for,” the new information-focused world.

3) Priya gave an update on the Family Fun Fair (March 16). She said the food court will have about 80 nations represented, all of it from parents and not outside vendors.

She said there will also be a “universal table,” where parents who don’t want to work a table at the food court can donate any food items they prepare.

Claudia -- the fun zone coordinator -- said two vendors have already committed and preparations have begun. She said water-based activities will be in the sun, but almost all the dry activities will be in the shade.

Amelia provided details on the Artsfest portion of the Family Fun Fair and said the event will include visual art on display and stage performances to showcase what students have been working on.

4). Other important VAPA Updates included:

Movie Night & Stargazing -- Saturday Feb 16. Entrance is free and tickets for the Wizard of Oz and Fun Fair bracelets will be on sale. Additionally food will be for sale from Taco T and Mr. Macaroni, and a concession booth.

She also said we are desperately looking for families to help host students visiting ISP for the international music festival AMIS May 8 - 12. We received 5 volunteers after she explained how simple and fun hosting really is. We need at least 30 more families to help support this effort and be ambassadors for ISP. Please email the PTA if you are able to help.

5) Jill shared an update on the AASCA Soccer tournament we are hosting Feb 20 - 24. Plans are moving forward well for the 32 teams that will be travelling for this tournament. We need volunteers to work a concession booth during the event. Please sign up for a shift and help make this tournament a great success. She also shared the design for new dolphin t-shirts and a special edition AASCA shirt that will be for sale at Movie / Stargazing night.

6). Gretel shared some photos and information about Honor Roll and committed to coordinating the next Honor Roll (sept 2019).

7). Jill shared some feedback on the New Parent Reception, and the new parent in the room said he really enjoyed being able to connect with new parents, school leadership and the PTA. We look forward to meeting the parents that were unable to attend at our other upcoming events.

8). Following January's meeting where we asked for volunteers for committees Jill shared the following updates:

* Uniforms Committee will meet with admin and a group of students to review their ideas for uniform tweaks and discuss the benefits / challenges of present uniforms vs changes. Please contact PTA if you would like to join the meeting Jan 11, 9:30 PAC Lobby

* A Microgrants committee of 10 PTA officers has been formed to review grant request and Gretel has volunteered to be the chairperson. The group is modifying the

policy from last year to try to streamline the process and maximize the benefit to students and our community

We heard from ES VP Chris Horton about the process the ES Student Council has gone through over the past 18 months to propose and plan a new playground. This will be considered as a project by our Microgrants committee

Potential speakers to present to the whole community for Anti-Bullying Week (first week of May) were introduced and will also be reviewed as a potential microgrant. Lance Allred and Barbara Coloroso have both been contacted by PTA members for more information about pricing and content.

* Bylaws committee is still in the planning stages but will move forward with reviewing 2008 PTA Bylaws in the next month

Meeting was adjourned at 11:20