

Towanda PTO
Meeting Minutes 10-4-21

- Principal's Notes: Mr. Vogel
 - Thank you for your support
 - Please encourage your kids to focus on what they can control – their behavior – and not what others are doing
 - We are focusing on being a part of the larger group – the class, the school
 - Academic issues are going okay. Students seem to be struggling with more social/emotional issues. We are trying to help them persevere through challenges through exploring and inquiry based learning.
 - **Data day was September 29th**. Every teacher met with Mr. Vogel, the school psychologist, school social worker, reading interventionist, and math interventionist.
 - They looked at all of the data they have on each student and brainstormed specific ways to help all kids who are below the target. Students could be given extra help with the classroom teacher, a special ed teachers, or a literacy or math interventionist.
 - Looked into the school picture issues (some parents have received, others haven't) – if there is a problem with your order, contact Lifetouch directly. There is a customer service number on the back of the envelope.
 - **Fall parties will happen!** Students can wear or bring in their costumes.
 - A parade will take place but parents are not invited to watch.
 - Parties will take place but there can be no parent volunteers present. If you would like to help with supplies or activities, contact your child's room parent.
 - Brian Brennan, a parent and IWU Chemistry professor, will be hosting chemistry demos for the students! These will take place outside with a split group to reduce the crowding.
 - October 8: K-2
 - October 15: 3-5
- President: Lora Weigman
 - Goal is to determine what fundraising we will pursue this year and ballpark estimates on timing
 - What is our fundraising goal?
 - What amount is needed to be in good shape for next year?
 - **We need approximately \$5,000 to begin the year**
 - What amount would enable us to offer teacher grants?
- Treasurer: Naomi Arndt
 - Beginning of September: \$ 4,092.05
 - Spent: \$ 201.85
 - Earned: \$ 500
 - **The owner of Kicks generously donated \$500!**
 - End of September: \$ 4390.20
 - Character Gram Prizes – Students can earn character grams when they are caught being kind or helpful. Earned Character Grams can be used to buy prizes. This year each grade will maintain and run its own character gram store.
 - We have allocated \$100 for each grade and are reimbursing teachers for their purchases.

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- Historically, there have been some big ticket items for students who save their character grams over the years. We will discuss this again later.
- Previously, there has been a Christmas shop where students could use their earned character grams to purchase Christmas gifts (mostly dollar store items like coffee mugs, fuzzy socks, etc...). We will discuss this in November.
- **Mr. Vogel and Mrs. Seibert handed out character grams for the children of the meeting attendees! More have been promised at future meetings.**
- Scrip – each month Naomi sends out an email with a list of gift cards available for purchase. The school earns a percentage of the money spent on gift cards. The email will go out soon.
 - If there is a specific store you would like to see on the list, contact Naomi to see if it is an option.
- Good Neighbor Grants – State Farm will give us \$1000 for every 40 hours of volunteer work done by State Farm Employees. We can earn money for work you are already doing!
 - Possible ways to earn time: PTO Meetings, Room Parent planning, picking up supplies for parties, IMC volunteers...
 - You don't have to earn 40 hours alone – we can group them.
 - **If you are a State Farm Employee and spend anytime volunteering for the school, please contact Kristine Koerner (sebestak88@gmail.com).** She will coordinate filing for the Good Neighbor Grant.
- Old Business/ Fundraising Ideas
 - Walk -a- thon or Read -a-thon
 - Spring Time
 - If we do a Read-a-thon, we could possibly pair it with Spring into Reading
 - Should we use a company to help with communication, goal setting, pledge collection/student account, and prizes?
 - Getmovin – possibly for a read a thon, we would keep 95% of money earned
 - More research on possible companies would be good
 - Hailey Morey will speak to her husband about possibly building a site for us
 - We have heard of several schools that have raised quite a bit of money with some kind of “thon”
 - Used Book Sale
 - Likely after the new year
 - Possibly include boardgames and movies too
 - Electronics Drive
 - E-waste Recycling Fundraiser
 - Turn in used phones, ink cartridges, electronic devices. We earn money on each item.
 - If an item can be refurbished, the company does that and donates to domestic violence shelters.
 - Could be done every couple of years

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- Sarah Nix will coordinate?
 - Krispy Kreme Digital Dozen
 - We have been approved. Will likely sell for \$11, we get to keep \$5.50 each.
 - Dave's Coffee Cakes
 - A small business near Chicago will ship directly to the buyer (they ship free within 150 miles of Rock Falls, IL).
 - Davescoffecakes.com/fundraising
 - Possibly after Thanksgiving
 - Dine to Donate
 - Current Dates
 - October 19th – Dine to Donate at Chipotle on Veteran's
 - November 16th – Dine to Donate at Panda Express
 - Do we want more?
 - Amazon Smile – choose Towanda PTO for your Amazon Smile account to earn money for PTO while shopping
 - Kroger – connect your Kroger card to Towanda PTO to earn money for school for shopping
- New Business
- Future Business
 - Character Grams
 - Bigger Items to purchase
 - Christmas Shop
 - Dave's Coffee Cakes
 - Do we want an unraiser this year?
 - Deck the Halls? Or alternative way to celebrate the holidays and decorate the school?
- Important Dates
 - October 19th – Dine to Donate at Chipotle on Veteran's
 - November 1st – PTO at 6:00
 - November 16th – Dine to Donate at Panda Express
- How Can We Help?
 - If you would like to help with supplies or activities for the Fall parties, contact your child's room parent.
 - Amazon Smile – choose Towanda PTO for your Amazon Smile account to earn money for PTO while shopping
 - Kroger – connect your Kroger card to Towanda PTO to earn money for school for shopping
 - Don't declutter your old books or electronics just yet. Save them for a future sale/collection.
 - If you are a State Farm Employee and spend anytime volunteering for the school, please contact Kristine Koerner (sebestak88@gmail.com).
- PTO Attendance
 - Scott Vogel
 - Lora Weigman
 - Michelle Panizzi

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- Lyndsay Sellitto
- Andi Sarff
- Brandi Rockwell
- Hailey Morey
- Brian Brennan
- Kristine Koerner
- Naomi Arndt
- Sarah Nix
- Heather Ferman
- Kristy Siebert