

Waite Park PTA Meeting – September 14, 2023

- **Principal's Update** (Rochelle M.): Week 2 Off to a great start. Still have positions that need to be filled: 25 hour/week AE (office, telescope math, lunch, recess), 0.4 social worker, 0.5 media center (just to run, not to teach). Interviews happening, hoping to fill soon. Intervention team is working, doing 1:1 assessments with 1st grade, FAST assessments next week, Ms. Bauer and her team can do interventions if there are any gaps. Telescope math for 4/5th, online with teachers, then independent work. Advanced learner teacher comes a few days a week and gives 3rd, 4th, 5th additional work. Class sizes: K 25, 1st 25, 2/3th 20, 21, 4th 28, 5th 29, 5th 31. New families from Ecuador and Afghanistan. We have a 1.0 EL teacher. We have new teachers: Ms. F (1st), Ms. Lewis (Hi-5), Laura Tate (AE intervention team), Mr. Bonkoski (PE). Still a substitute shortage, 30 subs were on orientation today.
- Ms. Bauer: She will be listed as one of the teachers on Infinite Campus for every student. It doesn't mean that your child is receiving interventions.
- Nicole: She doesn't have access to Infinite Campus at this moment to issue new keys if your invitation was missed. Check your junk mail from communications.department email.
- GEMS/GISE Starting October Tues/Thursday for Juniors and Uppers
- **Community Ed Update** (Ashley S.): We do have a coordinator hired, Laura, starting tomorrow. Lots of open positions, will be starting the week of October 23rd or 30th, will be 2 days (likely Tues/Thursday). If you're interested in teaching a position, please contact community education.
- **Minneapolis Parks Update** (Sarah R.): Not able to attend. Halloween costume swap October 7th, 4-6pm at the Rec Center.
- **Waite Park PTA Update** (Tyler S.)
 - Budget Approval (Tyler S.): Main source of fundraising is Boosterthon in February. We've raised money for the gaga ball pit, climbing wall, and mural. Glow run is in the gym with black lights and DJ music, very fun. They raise money per lap.
 - Events: Say Boo to the Flu, Winter Luminary, Glow Run, Sledding and Carnival. Potential events: Family Service Night? Let us know if you have an idea for an event or want to volunteer! waiteparkpta1@gmail.com
 - School: Grants/Field Trips, Staff Appreciation, Curriculum subscriptions
Some debate over using Boosterthon, can we make it cheaper? We did lower the services that they provide, PTA does run the day of. We could get it without the curriculum. Principal stated that the curriculum adds a lot of value, gives character education, and pumps the kids up. Annika suggests we could create our own curriculum. We have tried to cut out the prizes entirely, but Boosterthon refuses. The next tier lower we use them only for their website. We are open to ideas!
Discussion about purchasing a mascot costume, still looking into it.

- Grants Committee (Carmen H./TylerS.)
 - Teachers/staff can apply for grants. They are emailed out to the grants committee who votes yes or no (usually yes.) If you are interested in being part of the grants committee, let us know! waiteparkpta1@gmail.com
- Upcoming Events/Volunteers
 - Say Boo to the Flu Oct. 26th 4-7pm, Sign up for vaccination appointments ahead of time. We are trying to schedule a book fair and food truck for the same night.
 - <https://signup.com/go/CUUzFsy>
 - Kindness in Chalk? (October is Bullying Prevention Month): Chalk art by the students on the sidewalks to spread messages of kindness.
 - Walk and Roll to School Day Oct. 4? Bike or walk to school that day. We may have volunteer opportunities.
 - Waite Park Elementary Family Directory
 - Every year the Waite Park PTA asks families to submit their contact information. We then compile this into a Family Directory that is printed and distributed back to all families of Waite Park students. The goal of this directory is to facilitate communications between Waite Park families. We have received feedback that families use these directories to set-up playdates, invite friends to parties, and get to know their students' school friends/families. You can include as much or as little information as you'd like.



Please submit your info by October 3rd:

- We are looking for volunteers for childcare for future PTA meetings, second Thursday of each month. 2 adults to supervise on the playground or in the multipurpose room.
- October sign up: <https://signup.com/go/EwqTcWt>
- November sign up: <https://signup.com/go/vQvxMhV>
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- There is also a Pokemon trainer's night on Thursdays 6:15-8:00pm put on through Parks & Rec in the Rec Center Craft room, register here:
- https://anc.apm.activecommunities.com/minneapolis/parks/activity/search/detail/147091?onlineSiteId=0&from_original_cui=true

