

PTO General Meeting

January 24, 2022

Hello and Welcome!

Review of meeting norms – Engage in Honest and Respectful Discussion, With Intent to Understand, Start and End on Time and Introduce a Timekeeper, Enough-Let's Move On, Fist To Five when voting.

Guest Speaker Tom Jolley Boy Scout Master Troup 641

- Tom is the new scout master for troop 641. He has two kids that have gone to Ross and through Parkway North and he is helping with the troop now that his kids are in college. There are 14 boys that try to meet once a week and do service projects throughout the year, the most recent is the flag retirement box outside the middle driveway at Ross. In the past they have helped clean out the courtyards, babysit at PTO in person meetings, and have gone to Philmont Scout Ranch to learn scouting skills and activities. The Cub Scouts is for K-5th graders and the Boy Scouts is for 6th-12th graders. Once they have reached 18 years old, they can become an adult leader or join the Adventuring Crew.

Ross Administrative Team Update

- Shout out to Ms. Unicorn who was having troubles this afternoon but kept going Great way to PERSERVE!
- We had a wonderful Bingo night and we are trying to continue fun activities for all students such as this!
- Due to the rise in covi-19 cases, volunteers in the building have been paused. We were hopeful and looking forward to have parent volunteers back but we need to be cautious with the new data coming in to our area. There have been letters sent out by Nurse Landes when there is a positive case in a classroom, and there has been some confusion as what parents need to do. We investigate if the contact within the classroom is from outside the building, or if it's been passed within the classroom student to student. If it's from outside and there are no signs of classroom spread, we do not need to quarantine. If more than 5% of active cases we will need to go to virtual, but we are nowhere near there. We are doing everything we can to keep students safe.
- Field trips are determined by the are they are in, if they are outside, or if we mix with other schools. In the newsletter there is a link to the health and safety dashboard showing all this information.
- Ropes for Ross is going on and Ms. Sydnor and Mr. King are excited to be partnering with Dream Factory, an organization that grants wishes to critically ill children, to donate half the funds raised and the other portion to update P.E. equipment.
- We are planning a spirit week around mid-February to coincide with Friendship Parties in each classroom.
- Progress Reports are now out and can be viewed on Infinite Campus.
- One School One Book reading program will be coming to Ross to promote literacy. Each child will be given a book about mid-March, more information will be coming soon.

President and Co-President Update

- Congratulations to Ms. Arosteguy as Teacher of the Year! Pam dropped off a little token of our appreciation!
- PTO is recruiting for next years Board and Chair positions and will have the vote and announcement at Aprils General Meeting.
- In order for us to do all we do for Ross, we need parents to volunteer! Current Board is doing 2-3 other jobs on top of their position they volunteered for due to the lack of parent volunteers. Things will have to be let go if we do not have volunteers, such as Sports Night, Winter Dance, Bingo Night, etc.
- Thank you to current board for volunteering and picking up where help is needed. You are all putting in a lot of time and we appreciate it!
- Teachers, Staff, and Administration, thank you for all that you do, we appreciate you! To show our appreciation PTO sends in treat for teachers and staff each month, such as Bagels and Coffee, Favorite Drinks, Healthy Snacks, and Hot Cocoa and Cookies.
- Along with Teacher Treats, we planned and had a great Bingo Night, and we have in the works an Outdoor Movie Night coming up in May!
- Sadly, we have to cancel Trivia Night due to health and safety concerns, we do not want to be a super spreader event. But the Auction will go on and right now we have 30 items that will up for bidding March 9-14.
- Do you know someone with a business or do you own a business that would like to donate to the auction? Or would like a sponsorship? Contact the PTO President email.

Vice President and Co-Vice President

- We will need volunteers for upcoming events and for the Board, please join PTO!
- We will also keep a running list of volunteers, so please contact us with your information to be added to this list, for a few hours at an event to a Chair position. We will reach out with volunteer opportunities throughout the year.

Secretary and Co-Secretary Update

- The Winter Newsletter is out and posted on the PTO New bulletin board in the main entrance vestibule, so when you sign out your child and wait for them to come out the doors, turn around a take a look at what PTO is up to!
- We have a qr code on the PTO News bulletin board that will link you to the Ross website, where MS Hall updates all PTO information for us, as well as a qr code that will take you to the Ross Northstars PTO facebook page where we post all kinds of information about upcoming events and reminders
- Dr Cunningham's Principal Newsletter is also another place to find PTO updates as well as Mr. Cohee's posts on Ross Elementary's facebook page, thank you both for helping us spread the word about PTO activities and events
- 1st Place Spiritwear is the company we partnered with this year for all your North Stars gear, and they are having a site wide sale all month long, 15% off! Find the link to the shop on the Ross Northstars PTO facebook page, Ross website under Parents under PTO under Spiritwear, on Ross Elementary facebook page, and in the school's weekly newsletter

- Save your outgrown spiritwear and styles that don't suit you anymore for an upcoming Spiritwear Swap we have in the works for August. More information coming soon!
- Like Bridget said, we have monthly treats for our teachers such as Bagel and Coffee, Favorite Drinks, lunches and snacks during Conference, Healthy Snacks, and Hot Cocoa and Cookies, with more ideas arriving in their breakroom for February, March, and April with a big Teacher Appreciation week in May.
- Our February activity is Acts of Kindness checklist coloring page that will be posted on the Ross website, Ross Northstars PTO facebook page, Ross Elementary facebook page, and in the principal newsletter for parents to print out and check off each activity as a family.
- **Restaurant Night Update by Whitey Larkin** – January we did not make anything at St. Louis Bread Co/Panera, but in December at Chipotle we made \$237 and in November at MOD Pizza we made \$93! The next Restaurant Night is February 2 at Noodles & Co and we get 30% of each order. There are a few restaurants in the works to finish out the year like, Lions Choice, Buffalo Wild Wings, McAlisters and we have the date set for the last day of school at Dairy Queen.

Treasure and Co-Treasurer Update

- We are staying on budget
- With Trivia Night being cancelled we were able to get a refund on the venue and those funds will be reinvested
- Teacher Requests are coming in slowly but surely and we have been able to fulfill them with private donations, so we still have the full amount budgeted for the year to use toward more teacher requests.
- Purple Envelope donations still trickle in and every bit helps us! Remember to scan Box Tops and use Amazon Smiles when shopping.
- If there are any ideas that you would like to see us fund, please send us an email.

Teacher Updates and Discussions

- Teachers are so appreciative of all that PTO does!
- Lots of people are looking forward to movie night! Is there a rain date? Yes, May 20th is most likely our rain date.
- Ms. Hall had a 5th Grade Moving Up question and was informed to contact the Chair, Amber Brown with any questions.
- There will be a Spring Book Fair, more information coming
- Drawings for Subway coupon – Barry, and Subway gift card – Liz. Congratulations!

Thank you for coming to the PTO Meeting tonight and we hope you have a wonderful 2022!