

**Academy Charter School
PTO Mission Statement**

To align resources with the vision and direction of the school to enrich the learning environment while empowering parents, teachers and students for success.

The PTO's main role is to supplement the school's budget through various fundraising efforts while maintaining and encouraging community spirit.

Agenda

PTO Working Meeting

October 10, 2023 ~ 5:00 p.m.

Academy Charter School-Cafeteria

MEETING ATTENDEES: Christi Matthews, Carley Frohling, Kelli Weiss, Nathalia Vines, Dawn Rudeen, Ellie Monroe, Shannon Sandoval, Jenny Newkirk, Brenda Knight, Shala Baribeau, Carina Brown, Christine Spangler, Nicole Thomas, Sara Babbitt, Christine Spangler, Brian Delamont

Call to Order: 5:04 pm

1. President's Report (Christi Matthews)

- a. **Vote** on September 19 Mtg Minutes Motion - Approved
- b. Thank you and Welcome

2. Treasurer Report (Krista Stettler)

- a. Financial Updates -Fall Festival Expenses: Currently budgeted for: \$4,000

Approximate expenses:

- i. \$1,200 – flood lights
- ii. \$3,000 – bounce houses
- iii. \$500 – concession supplies
- iv. \$2,500 – Fun Services fees
- v. \$1,000 – additional supplies
- vi. Total = \$8,200
- b. Propose to increase expense to \$8,200
- c. - Fall Festival wrist band sales from PTOOffice: \$450
- d. - Stuff the Pumpkin as of 10/06/2023: \$2,650.38
- e. **Vote** on Budget - \$8,200. Approved.

3. Fundraising Report

- a. Stuff the Pumpkin Direct Fundraiser and Classroom Contest starting October 2 - We are up to \$3,600. Ellie had an idea to send something home with kids over Fall Break to get funds from relatives for Stuff the Pumpkin. Possibly nets them a privilege (DOC) as well. Possibly a BINGO card - need some ideas, and this will need to go out on Friday.
 - i. Fundraising goal \$25,000

- ii. Fundraising purpose - Updating ES and MS tech labs. They are obsolete, cannot be upgraded anymore.
 - iii. Prizes and Awards - Giving those to top fundraisers. Dress of choice already earned by one classroom.
 - iv. Daily Updated Bulletin board in Main Hallway
 - b. Fall Festival Thursday October 26 5:00 - 7:00
 - i. Concessions - Prepare October 25th: popcorn, cotton candy, water bottles, and possibly Gatorade. Everything \$1 to keep it simple. Will set up a time to pre-make some of it. Need to test cotton candy in particular to make sure it won't melt if made ahead of time.
 - ii. STUCO - Will decorate and pass out candy for Trick or Treat Street.
 - iii. Need Volunteers - SignUp Genius slowly being filled, but will need many volunteers. Mrs. Knight will ask if DC high schoolers could volunteer to obtain their volunteer hours. If yes, we will socialize it with ACS families to make it available to other high schoolers.
 - iv. Bounce Houses - 3 total, one set up inside.
 - v. Setup - 4-5
 - vi. Decor & pumpkin patch - Currently working on this, collecting decor.
 - vii. Map - Working on this to distribute to parents and put online. Google maps has an aerial shot of the school to use.
 - viii. Marketing - Emails, banner, Castle Rock Families (Aubrey will talk to Jen).
 - c. Spirit Night Update (Carina Brown)
 - i. Chick Fil A, both locations, 10/10 6am - 10pm - 10% goes back to ACS
 - ii. Cuba Cuba 11/9
 - iii. Nothing Bundt Cakes 12/13 2pm - 7pm
 - iv. Chick Fil A, both locations, 2/9 6am - 10pm
 - v. Will have group Nugget tickets - lower or upper level options - in December and March
 - d. DOC - Next DOC is October 13th.
 - e. Used Uniforms - (Dawn Rudeen) Need to pick a date for the next one.
 - f. Holiday Shop - December 11-15, will start working on this after Fall Festival
- 4. Communications Report** (Susan Fullmer, Shala Baribeau)
- a. Send items for November Newsletter to Shala by 10/25
- 5. Elementary School Report** (Kelli Wiess)

Kindie	Kindergarten is finishing our unit on the seven continents in Social Studies. We also finished our unit on Tall Tales including Casey Jones, Davy Crocket and Johnny Appleseed. We had a celebration where they dressed like
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	Johnny Appleseed, had apple snacks, made apple crafts and played apple BINGO.
1st	First Grade wrapped up our unit on Fire Safety and even wrote letters to thank our local firefighters. We also started our unit on the different seasons and the sounds animals can make to communicate!
2nd	2nd Grade is working on an integrated Westward Expansion unit in Social Studies. It's weaved into writing through our Pioneer Journals as well as into our narrative fiction writing where students will choose one journal entry to expand upon. Also, we've weaved American Folklore into our Language Arts unit this week.
3rd	Third grade just wrapped up our salt dough map project! The third graders did an awesome job painting and labeling their maps! With our geography unit finished we will be starting a unit on Ancient Rome. In science, we are still learning about life cycles and adaptations. In reading, we have been busy looking at stories from different genres and using those to practice strategies of successful readers.
4th	The class just presented their castle projects and they did a fantastic job. We will be starting our American Revolution unit later this week. In Science we have been learning about mapping and learning about the earth's landscape. In writing we did a fun writing activity where the students drew a haunted house and then had to write a descriptive real estate ad to try and sell their haunted house to the right spooky buyer.
5th	We are in the middle of our Mesoamerica unit; learning about the Maya, Aztec, and Inca. We are into our second unit of science; learning about plants and the ecosystem related to matter. We are in the middle of our opinion writing; learning how to communicate with a strong opinion, reasons and examples. In math we are still reviewing concepts from last year.
Art	Art classes are wrapping up fall/halloween projects. We explored color in kindergarten, watercolor techniques and compositional space in 1st grade. Second grade learned about Aspen trees and how the leaves are changing. 3rd grade did silhouette drawings on coffee filters, 4th grade is learning about contour lines and shading and 5th grade just finished Tim Burton inspired self-portraits.

6. Middle School Report (Christine Spangler)

ELA: 7th grade: • We are writing our first big essay of the year. • After our essay is written we will move on to Halloween season and Edgar Allan Poe!	ELA: 8th grade: • We are crafting our arguments for Mr. Jordan's Boston Massacre trial • After the mock trial, we will write our first essay of the year and move on to prep for "To Kill A Mockingbird"
Science: 7th grade: The students are fine tuning their graphing, questioning, and hypothesizing skills. These skills will be used extensively during their science time at ACS and could prove to be quite useful beyond the classroom walls.	Science: 8th grade: The students wrapped up their studies of space by envisioning and describing a "space colony" and going to "Mars". Come check out their 3D printed solar system before it goes away. Up next: Earth's Natural History.
Social Studies: 7th Grade: Is covering the origins of law and Hammurabi's Code. They will be making a class set of laws.	Social Studies: 8th Grade did a fantastic job with their mock trial. They will begin learning about the origins of thought behind the Declaration of Independence and we will begin to decode the 18th century language as was used in the document.

7th Spanish: We are finishing up our reports/presentations on a Spanish or Latin Artist. We will enjoy learning this week about artists like Frida Kahlo, Pablo Picasso, and Salvador Dali, painter of the “Melted Clock”. Students will be educating me as well as their fellow classmates about the beginnings and messages of the artists they present. They will also be creating their own rendition of their favorite piece to display to their peers.	8th Spanish: In the middle of our unit on Family, we are taking a break to do a Spanish report/presentation of our favorite animal, IN SPANISH. I have enjoyed listening to students read and present their slides to the class, using the Spanish language with practiced pronunciation. This is a great way to increase confidence in the language and of being in front of an audience.
Tech: 7th Grade students have been learning how to use Microsoft Word, proper online research techniques, and daily typing. Students will use this knowledge to create a portion of a newspaper, have a class debate, and then move into learning about Microsoft Excel.	Tech: 8th grade students have been working on using Microsoft Word to create a pamphlet about a Native Coloradan animal. Students researched their animal, created the pamphlet, and then created a 3D design of their animal once the research was completed. After break, students will learn about Microsoft Excel and start their Stocks! project.
Math: Course 2: Students will be learning how to use prime factorization to reduce a fraction, find the least common multiple and the greatest common factor. Course 3: Students will be introduced to the Pythagorean theorem. We will reinforce the order of operation using PEMDAS. We will also practice scientific notation.	

Algebra: Students will be introduced to a graphing calculator. We will learn a variety of functions this year. We will also be analyzing data and how data can be misleading at times.

Special Events:

The NASA seeds have arrived! 7th grade students will be running a preliminary experiment with dynamic lighting and plants. The data from the experiment will be used to drive experiments on the International Space Station.

Special Events:

October 11: Challenger Learning Center: Expedition Mars Field Trip

Our NASA group will be starting soon. This group will write a proposal to NASA in which they design, conduct, report, and present data to NASA scientists.

- a. Outdoor Ed was great! It was so fun to see all the kids do such a great job. We had a little rain on the first day but the weather was pretty great. It was rough on Thursday and Friday because we were all so tired!
- b. We are finishing up Percy Jackson in reading and we are watching the movie on Friday. In science, we are working on cells and body systems. In social studies, we are in Ancient Greece and then we will move on to Ancient Rome.

7. Principal's Report (Erin McMillon)

- a. N/A

8. Social Report (Melissa Ferraro & Katie Buchanan)

- a. Parent Teacher Conferences - Friday Oct 27, 2023. SignUp Genius was sent out. Please take a look and tell your friends we need volunteers.

9. SAC Report (Carley Frohling)

- a. Update - School Accountability Committee. Had their first meeting in September. SAC helps support the school in their curriculum decisions. At this meeting, they elected officers, approved by-laws and made some slight changes. Every two years, school has a required unified improvement plan. ACS is doing amazing. Instead of improving attendance, we get to focus on growing character. We are fortunate that students come to ACS prepared to learn. Two goals: structured teacher mentorship and character development of the whole child. They set up meetings for the rest of the year. They have some specific goals to support the UIP and will look at new curriculum decisions. Had a really good turnout from parents interested in seeing the data.

10. Upcoming Meeting Dates:

a. November 28, 2023 @ Working (board) meeting 5:00 p.m.-School Cafeteria

Meeting Adjourned: 5:43 pm