PTO
BROOKSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Meeting Summary: Monday, March 30th @ 8pm
@ Lolita's, Westwood

Co-President Report

- 2026/27 Open PTO Exec Board Positions – 1 Co-President + 1 Co-Treasurer
    - **Final Call for Submissions**; If uncontested – we'll simply announce new officers with a July start

- Recent Wrap Reports / Feedback / Recognition
    - BEAR
        - Future Considerations:
            - Fall Bear (however, could be hard for teachers with start of the year and heavy fall sports)
            - Offering more sessions for the favorite classes (e.g. Munch Monsters)
            - Cheddar Up for sign-ups vs. Sign Up Genius
            - Communicating to new families how quickly these fill up (minutes not days) and how best to navigate signing up for multiple children
    - Read Across America & all things Penguins!
        - Low turnout on Boulders submissions (~30); but communication could have been stronger this year
    - Bash (general feedback from survey)
        - Great in-person feedback on a positive and great event!
        - Consensus that Seasons may be worth it compared to other venues for the extra $20 given open bar and good food
        - Incoming Committee should share a comparison of Seasons to 2 - 3 other venues to inform community and vote before committing (low interest in Community Center)
        - Consider a Wed night at Seasons to lower the cost further?
    - Valentine's Day Promos + St. Patrick's Pretzels + Devils
        - Consider Pizza Kit & Demo for Valentine's Day next year (Pompillos?)
        - Consider Sirens Women's Hockey game
        - All sport events (like Devils) stronger effort to book in advance so that all of Brookside can be seated together
    - Lego Night
        - This event needs a full refresh for next year — possible ideas:
            - One big build / project for all

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        - A Lego Masters Gameshow type event (e.g. teams build under a timeframe & theme with a panel of judges & prizes)
    - Science Fair
    - Smash house

- Field Day T-Shirt Design Contest & Volunteer Sign-Ups
    - Class Moms to please put out a call for submissions – deadline is April 13

- Spiritwear Update
    - Will set up a table alongside Blacktop Pretzel sales this spring

- BOE + WON Updates
    - Asks on what Building & Grounds is responsible for (e.g. PRIORITY: path clean-up behind the school – it is unsightly, but more importantly, dangerous and many students (5th grade) and families utilize this path)

- 5th Grade Committee Updates

<u>Upcoming Events</u>

- Upcoming Shopping Incentives
    - Tomorrow March 31st BINGO @ Hunt & Orchard (Ridgewood!)
    - April 15th @ Al Dente / Luciano's
    - April 21st @ Spenga in Montvale
    - *B&M Dinner (May BBQ dinner)*
    - *MarketHouse (May / Mother's Day)*
        - GENERAL FEEDBACK: Food / dinners do better than events; Consider events geared towards the kids

- Blacktop Pretzel Sales – continues to be a great fundraiser for PTO
    - Looking to bring back 1-2x a month in the spring
    - Consider other options for the fall (e.g. donuts & cider, etc.)

- April 16: Art Show / Open House / Book Fair
    - *Volunteers needed! Live in toolkit*

- Teacher Appreciation Week (May 4 - 8th) - Wild West Theme! Plan those doors (come out of class dues)
    - Teacher "Wanted" Posters!
    - Reminder: $15 for the teacher + $10 per aide (even if 1:1 aide) out of class funds; Nothing else for class parents to collect – let families do their own gifting beyond if they so wish

- Field Trips

- Beautification Committee Updates & Plans
    - Birthday Showcase to Student Work Refresh
    - Vestibule Entrance Refresh

Treasurer Report

- Statement of Accounts
- Upcoming Allocations
    - Administration Professionals Day (April 22)
    - National School Principals Day (May 1)

VP Report

- Teacher appreciation - Teacher & aid gifts
- Start thinking about EOY gift & parties

Open Forum for Questions, Thoughts, Concerns

- PTO Funds Brainstorm
    - Consensus that the digital message board is not necessary or well-used given the location of our entrance (not on a main road; many families don't use that entrance)
    - Basketball Hoops
    - Branded Gym Mats
    - Indoor Recess Carts (but storage of carts could be an issue)
    - Bike Racks (could be put by the Outdoor Classroom fencing/grass area)

- Police Department Assembly in fall / ahead of Walk to School Day on “walk to school” safety

- Check with Glen / Building & Grounds on the Outdoor Classroom upkeep issue and the previous approval process (Danielle)

- Overall Comms Feedback: Last minute & multiple comms wins over too far in advance where things get lost; Newsletter & social calendar have been helpful

- Meetings outside of the gym (with drinks!) are a nice way for conversation & feedback!

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