

# Vassar Kinry PTA July Team Meeting

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## Attendance:

Kelly Smith  
Kyra Tarquinio  
Barbara Moore  
Veronica Smith  
Barbara Coste  
Dianne Zanin  
Jennifer Pollock-Hurst

## PTA Supports New Principal Carolyn

The PTA discussed their recent meeting with Carolyn Fields, the new Vassar school principal, who is receptive to their support. They agreed to attend her August 20th meet-and-greet event and help coordinate various school activities, including picture day on September 25th and a potential Fun Run event in October. Carolyn requested that PTA members check in and follow school rules when visiting the school, and the group discussed adjusting their meeting schedule to accommodate her needs. They also planned to speak with Adam about the trunk-or-treat event and other upcoming activities.

## Fun Run Fundraiser Planning

The group discussed organizing a fun run fundraiser and the logistics of obtaining and displaying donor recognition banners or yard signs. Barbara reported challenges in securing donations from local businesses, noting that many were only willing to contribute if they received proper advertising recognition. The group agreed to pursue yard signs as a cost-effective solution, with a target of October 4th for collecting donations and signs that could be used for the upcoming trunk or treat event and other PTA activities. They also decided to wait before pursuing a school store initiative at Vassar, choosing to first evaluate the success of the upcoming book fair before making any major commitments.

## Principal Communication and Event Planning

The group discussed their interactions with a new school principal, who expressed a preference for one annual meeting or brief check-ins via Zoom rather than frequent in-person meetings. They agreed to establish a structured approach to communication, with 3-5 people meeting at a time to avoid overwhelming the principal. The team also discussed various school events including a welcome back breakfast, kindergarten orientation, and a potential fall festival, while establishing that each event would have a designated lead person to handle coordination.

## **School Events Planning and Leadership**

The group discussed upcoming events for the school year, with Christina compiling a list of events through the holidays including kindergarten orientation, teacher welcome back breakfast, mums, T-shirts, PTA meetings, parent Fridays, trunk or treat, picture day, book fair, rec night, school store, and fun run. Barbara clarified event leadership roles, confirming she would handle kindergarten orientation and mums, while Shawna would manage trunk or treat and picture day, and Christina would organize rec night and school store. The group agreed to add a penny social event, with each class contributing a basket, and Barbara confirmed she would collect raffle items including gift cards and merchandise for the event.

## **Reflections Contest Celebration Event**

The group discussed organizing an evening event to showcase Reflections Contest winners and entrants, tentatively scheduled for January after the December 15th deadline for regional judging. They agreed the event should be a brief, engaging meeting focused on celebrating the children's art, with simple refreshments like cupcakes, and would serve as an opportunity to introduce non-member parents to the PTA. Jennifer noted that while the exact date isn't finalized, it would be promoted to students once the contest entries are submitted.

## **Event Social Media Coordination Plan**

The group discussed social media coordination for an upcoming event called "Reflections," with plans for a meeting next week involving Kelly, Veronica, and others to align on posting strategies. They addressed the need to streamline the process of sharing content through Veronica, who currently handles most of the posting, and discussed timestamping documents to maintain version control. The group also resolved previous issues with Google Calendar synchronization and agreed that Barbara would manage the calendar updates going forward, with Jennifer offering to send over event information for inclusion.

## **Event Planning and Fundraising Updates**

The group discussed upcoming events, including a breakfast on the 3rd, a fundraiser on the 20th, and another event on the 26th. They agreed to meet in the next 1-2 weeks to finalize dates. Kyra and Adam will work on setting up a fun run fundraiser, pending principal approval of the date. Barbara offered to help with spirit wear and will email the group about potential flyers. The team also discussed the need to change some administrative powers in MemberHub, which Dianne will handle.

## **Theater Production Staffing Discussion**

The group discussed the need to find a musical director and director for the upcoming theater production, with Jennifer and Kyra noting they have two main prospects but are open to exploring other options. They debated the previous experience with 4th Wall, where some parents had complaints about organization and communication, despite the company delivering a show within budget constraints. Veronica suggested two potential candidates: Jonah, a district employee who could take on the musical director role, and Chris, who could volunteer for the

musical aspect, while the group agreed they would need either GayHead or John Finelli to direct the production.

### **Theater Production Strategy Meeting**

The group discussed challenges with a previous theater production and agreed to reach out to 4th Wall to set up a meeting to discuss future collaborations. They identified the need to select more recognizable shows and increase participation, with Jennifer suggesting they should target high school music directors for help. The team also emphasized the importance of the drama club for students and agreed to start conversations with various stakeholders, including Bonnie, to move forward with plans for the upcoming theater production.

### **School Production Staffing Challenges**

The group discussed challenges in finding a musical director and choreographer for a school production, with Jennifer sharing her previous efforts to contact various companies and individuals. They agreed to explore options like community colleges, BOCES, and potentially reaching out to 4th Wall, while also considering renting microphones for the performance. The team planned to meet with Adam on Monday or Tuesday at 12:30, and Jennifer mentioned she would meet with Carolyn the next day. They also briefly discussed the maturity levels of third-grade students compared to fourth and fifth graders.