

Garnet Mesa Parent Teacher Organization Meeting Notes
January 8, 2025
8:30-9:35am

1. Welcome
 - Hope everyone had a relaxing and healthy holiday break!
2. Financials
 - There is \$8048.50 in PTO account
 - No deposits in December
3. Food for Teachers—Christmas
 - PTO provided breakfast for GMES staff on Monday, December 16 (the Monday before Christmas break)
 - Cinnamon rolls, breakfast casserole, fruit, yogurt, hot chocolate bar
 - Went over really well, teachers and staff really appreciated it
 - Most of the food got eaten, not a lot of leftovers
 - Thank you to PTO members that helped set up and take down!
4. Christmas Books
 - Also went over really well
 - Teachers really appreciate new system where they chose their own books
 - Hopefully kids enjoy their books and spent time reading over break!
5. Penny Wars
 - Do we want to have a Penny War again this year? Yes!
 - Last year's Penny War covered the cost of color for the Color Run
 - Have a jar for each grade level, plus one for staff
 - Pennies and paper money are positive points, silver are negative points
 - Classes (K-2 and 3-5) that gets the most points wins a popcorn recess
 - PTO can cover for staff if staff wins a popcorn recess
 - Penny War will take place February 10-14 (the week before February break)
6. Looking Ahead: Spring Book Fair and Color Run
 - Book Fair: Scholastic is being "difficult" to work with regarding spring book fair; book fair may or may not happen.
 - Color Run: Will happen Friday, April 11—the Friday before April break
 - Walmart will order white shirts in advance (thanks Jenna Valdez for the hookup!)
 - Will be similar to last year: high school helpers, focus on health and nutrition all day, maybe bracelets to keep track of laps
 - Other ideas for how to keep track of laps?
 - Extra fruit and veggies served to students at lunch
7. Ms. Pam

- Service for Ms. Pam will be Saturday, January 18, at 10:00 am at St. Andrew's Church in Delta
- PTO will send flowers
- Discussion about how to properly honor the memory of Ms. Pam while not forcing students or staff to grieve in any certain way
- School district will honor Pam at Special Olympics

8. Mr. Renfrow

- Table for outdoor classroom on hold for now due to cold weather, has not been forgotten
- On the radar: An outdoor table for teachers, removal of modular building
 - Modular area could be cool place for a garden, outdoor seating, etc.
 - Create outdoor community area
 - Discussion of pursuing Great Outdoors Colorado (GoCO) funds for outdoor garden or play area
- Panorama Survey did not work well this year: errors from company; new questions this year made it impossible to see trends. School district is considering creating their own survey
- Student Council is considering asking for 2 representatives from each grade to attend meetings to help foster school community involvement.
- Math data is solid, Zearn is going well
- Reading scores: BOY 44%; MOY 56%. Expect to be in mid-70% for EOY
- CMAS will take place April 7-25 (the week before and the week after April break)
- Teachers will send home "Paws of Affirmation" for parents to write encouraging notes to students
 - 60-70% of parents return them, teachers write notes for students whose parents don't return

9. Other

- Discussion of holding a read-a-thon. How to do this in a developmentally appropriate way?
- Discussion of ALICE drill glitch (see email sent by Mr. Renfrow on Jan 8th)

Next PTO meeting will be Wednesday, February 5 at 8:30.