

Minutes for October 14, 2008 Parent Council Meeting

Michaelmas Report – Festival Team – Neave Karger-Megenhardt

Thank you especially to Neave Karger-Megenhardt & Sara Butters for all of their hard work to make this such a great event. A fun time was had by all! The event was a great success based on the feedback we received from many families. Next year this will be smoother and less work since the dragon costume is already made and the incoming 9th grade will know that they get to perform the play.

There were very few volunteers which we would like to improve upon next year. Neave and Sara did most of the organizing and work. Neave, Sara, Margaret Leanord, Carolyn Cox, Monique Reed, and Shelly McSweyn helped with the dragon costume & clean-up. Sara Butters did a great job working with the 9th grade on their presentation. Cindy Scheyer organized the family dance part of the event and she & Rick helped with clean-up. Cindy Davis helped with set-up. David & Joni Nabinger helped to build the bon fire and Cheryl Kordick & Sam Hranc were the fire monitors. Kim Bergstorm created the dragon bread and her husband Eric lent a hand in clean up. Thank you to all others who volunteered too including Mark Smith, Kristen Hammerback, Ziyi Wang, Michael Suzerris! Special thank you to Laurie Andres for once again providing us with great accordion music for the Family Dance. He also organized the caller and the other musician. Thank you so much Laurie!

The cost was \$375 for the dragon costume (which can be used for future festivals). The Family Dance cost \$200 and we collected \$100 plus in donations. We would like to be able to fund this from Parent Council funds in the future.

Winter Faire – Carolyn Cox – **Winter Faire will be on Sunday, Dec 7th from 10am – 3pm.** So far 14 vendors have been lined up for the craft sale in Huckleberry Hall. Cost is \$25/per vendor. There will be craft activities for children to participate in for a nominal cost. There will also be a Café and music performed by SWS students. We'll need bakers for the Café and volunteers to help out with shifts in the Café and for the craft activities.

Class Reps – can coordinate volunteers with Carolyn Cox & Shelly McSweyn.

Development & School Auction — Carolyn Cox – With the conflicts going on now in the economy, volunteers, and the fact that our auction was scheduled for the same night as the Bright Water Auction (March 14th), the decision has been made to move our date to February 7th and do a scaled down Auction instead of the other Parent Social evening we had been planning for Feb 7th.

The plan is to still have the event at the University Women's Club. We will still offer a banquet dinner and Dessert Dash. The auction part of the event will be mostly a Silent Auction. We will still have a 'Fund an Item' and kick off our Annual Family Fund. We would like to focus on appreciation for individuals and families who donate time and energy to our school and may often go unrecognized.

By doing a revised Auction model, we will save some of the traditional costs associated with a full-scale auction: \$5000 for an auctioneer, \$3500 for data entry, \$500 for set up the day before, \$100/hour for staff (up to \$1000). We will still have the costs for renting the club (\$1000) and for the dinner (\$3500). We plan to focus on larger ticket items for the Silent Auction.

The cost for each ticket will also be less! We hope to encourage more families to attend with a lower ticket cost. Cost will be in the \$30-35/ticket range.

Class Reps: Please let your class know about the new format and new date and request volunteers. Each class can also choose to make a class project to be auctioned off (parent or children made – you may want to discuss this with your teacher).

Team Reports –

Adult Education Team – See the school calendar for upcoming lectures

- ◆ Supporting Health of the Young Child, with Dr. Johanna Steegmans:
Thursday October 30, 7-9 pm Huckleberry Hall
- ◆ High School Curriculum with Douglas Gerwin:
Wednesday, November 12, 7-9 pm Huckleberry Hall
- ◆ How Waldorf Education compares to other Educational Philosophies,
with Nettie Fabrie: Thursday, January 8, 7-9 pm Huckleberry Hall
- ◆ Nine Year Change, with Dr. Johanna Steegmans:
Thursday, February 5, 7-9 pm Huckleberry Hall
- ◆ Twelve Year Change, with Dr. Johanna Steegmans:
Thursday, May 7, 7-9 pm Huckleberry Hall

After-School Sports Team – This team has met and discussed some of the issues around offering after-school sports, such as insurance. The high school will be offering some through the school. The middle school is organizing the Ski Club again this year for grades 5 – 8. Some parents asked if Ultimate Frisbee will be offered again.

Community Commitment Team – This team is the resource for volunteers for your event. Do you need bakers, envelope stuffing, photography, or something else? Contact Natalie Steiner who is keeping the database of which skills parents have volunteered for.

Crafting Team – Shelly McSweyn – The next Craft meeting will be Oct 30th 9 – 11am at Shelly McSweyn's house. Nancy Cherniss will be leading the group in a needle-felting project.

Farmer's Market Team – Cindy Scheyer & Sara Butters – This team needs more volunteers to make a Farmer's Market at our school a reality. We need volunteers to step forward to help create a Board, create Market rules, follow through on set-up logistics and marketing. During the market months, we will need volunteers to help run the market. The plan is for the market to run on Sundays from 11am – 2 or 3pm from May through October.

Class Reps: Please let your class know that this team really needs some volunteers. You can pass around a volunteer sheet at your next Parent Evening. Return the sign-ups to Cindy or Sara. Thank you.

New Parent Outreach / Buddy System Team – Nancy Mulcare

All new parents are matched up with a Buddy family. It's well organized for next year. We are still waiting on the Parent Handbook which would help all parents be on the same page and answer many questions. Nancy would like to organize two social events for Buddy families – one at the beginning of the year and one toward the end.

Class Reps – Let school parents know they can attend the Open Houses that are for prospective parents. This gives them a chance to learn more about the school and take a peek at a classroom. The Sound Circle workshops on Saturday mornings are also open to all school parents. Ideas: Book Clubs and Book resources for parents – you can get a list from your teacher and circulate it to the families in your grade.

Parent / Family Social Team –Cheryl Smith – Parent Hike on October 10th went well. Only a few parents were able to go, and they had a wonderful hike with clear weather to Rattlesnake Ridge. Thank you to Carolyn Cox for leading the hike. Team will hope to plan another parent hike for the spring. We will start the hike later next time to make it possible for kindergarten and pre-school parents to also attend.

Kaffe Klatsch is up and running again. Meet in the grade school lobby every Friday from 8:30 – 9:30am. Parents are signing up for a Friday to bring treats and make the coffee. See Cindy Scheyer if you'd like to sign up for a date! **Class Reps:** Please let your parents know about the Friday Kaffe Klatsch. It's a great way to meet other parents.

New Business –

Funding for Parent Council – Carolyn Cox & Neave Karger-Megenhardt

Carolyn has attended the PTA at Ballard High School and has learned that some of their funding for the PTA comes from their school auction and other events. They control the money and the school or teachers submit requests for the funds. Just an idea...

Ideas we came up with to fund the Parent Council:

PCC Scrip – the school relies on and has \$8000 budgeted for this. We would like to really promote this program and request that the Parent Council receive all funds made above and beyond the \$8000.

November Scrip Month! - School POP and other Scrip programs – The Parent Council would like to designate November as Scrip Month and really promote all of the ways that the school and the Parent Council can earn these dollars that are already being spent! We'll plan to have a booth/tent out at the school in the mornings and at pick-up and especially on Fridays. **Class Reps** – Promote November as Scrip month and let your parents know all of the ways they can sign up for Scrip. This info will be sent out soon.

School merchandise – All of the funds that are earned by selling school merchandise should go to the Parent Council.

Chinook Books – needs to be done in the fall – can do this next year

Chinaberry fundraiser

Dress Code – Nancy Mulcare – The parents would like to have the school expectations for dress code put in writing (in the school handbook) and would also like the teachers to reinforce the dress code uniformly!

School Library – Ruth Hendry – Proposed the idea of having a real school library. It may be possible to fund something like this in the future with Parent Council funds once we get our fundraising up and running.

Kindergarten website – Nancy Mulcare – Nancy is setting up a website to help all 3 kindergarten classes interact more together on a social basis.

Parent Council Website Update – The best method for doing this has been proposed. We just need to find a volunteer to set this up.

Parent Council Officers – We need to elect/find volunteers to serve as secretary, treasurer, etc. especially as the Parent Council grows. This should be done at the next meeting to relieve Cindy and Neave from having to take notes and run the PC meeting at the same time!

Thank you.