

Hearst Elementary School PTA Meeting
WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT
September 11, 2019

The first PTA meeting of the year was started off with an ice-breaker activity that welcomed new families. Attendees were informed that the PTA meetings are generally held the second Wednesday of every month.

1. PTA Board Introductions

2. What does the PTA do to support Hearst?
 - a. Funds need repairs of items such as SmartBoards
 - b. Funds non-classroom specific needs
 - c. Funds software and teaching materials such as Lexia and iReady
 - d. Funds field trips and field trip transportation
 - e. Funds enrichment management and supports parent and teacher-led afterschool classes
 - f. Plans community events

3. Opportunities for Volunteers
 - a. Auction Committee
 - i. Co-chairs needed!
 - ii. Auction is the big spring PTA fundraiser
 - iii. Former co-chairs and committee members will continue to help with auction planning
 - b. Gear Committee
 - i. Chaired by Romesh Ratnesar
 - ii. Help create new designs and ideas for gear sales such as T-shirts and water bottles
 - c. Enrichment Committee
 - i. Chaired by Keri Sikich
 - ii. Committee of parents are the liaisons for afterschool enrichment with Kaizen
 - iii. First meeting will be early October
 - d. Green Thumb Committee
 - i. Chaired by Christina Burnett
 - ii. Committee will help keep school grounds beautiful
 - e. Room Parents
 - i. Fun and easy way to help the PTA
 - ii. Room parents are the liaisons between the PTA and the individual classrooms
 - iii. Room parents plan social events for class/grade, organize birthday parties on a quarterly basis, etc.
 - f. Other volunteer needs
 - i. Teacher Appreciation Week
 1. Chair to organize appreciation events has been identified.
 - ii. Graphic Designer

1. Board is looking for a graphic designer to help improve the appearance of communications and website

4. Owl Fund

1. Elham Dehbozorgi and Hannah McDonald are heading the Owl Fund committee this year
2. The Owl Fund is the PTA's main fundraising push during the school year.
3. The Owl Fund benefits the school through providing the funds needed to purchase software (i.e. Lexia, iReady, Bloomz), field trips, field trip transportation and enrichment programming
4. Owl Fund Contest will run from September 16 to October 18 this year
 - i. Winning grade will receive a cupcake party with a special guest
 - ii. The goal of the contest is to get 100% participation from the school families
 - iii. Donations can be as low as \$1 or to as much as a family wants to donate
 - iv. Suggested donation is \$750 per child
 - v. Tracking of the grade results will be posted in the school atrium
 - vi. The kids and the teachers enjoy the competition across grade levels
 - vii. Testimonials from Ms. Haith and Ms. Prince included how they used PTA funds raised by the Owl Fund to provide hands-on experience on field trips, replace items that are broken in the classroom, provide field trip transportation (especially special buses for pre-K), and purchase Eureka math materials

5. Upcoming Events (Dates to be Determined)

1. Screen of the Green
2. Hearst E-Cycle
3. October 20 – Hearst Day at GWU Women's Soccer Game
4. Community Dining Night at Nando's
5. Community Dining Night at Potomac Pizza

6. Principal's Presentation

1. LSAT Introduction
 - i. LSAT is an advisory body of parents and teachers that discusses how to spend the DCPS budget allotted to Hearst and to determine the goals of the school for the year.
 - ii. The first meeting is September 19 at 4:30 in the school conference room
2. School Academic Data
 - i. Results of spring testing were only OK
 1. 83% of our students believe their teachers have rigorous expectations for them
 2. 81% of our 2-5 students finished the year on/above grade level on iReady, up from 44% at BOY
 3. 85% of our 3-5 students finished the year at proficient or advanced on RI, up from 64% at BOY
 4. 89% of our K-2 students finished the year on or above benchmark on DIBELS

5. 94% of our K-2 students finished the year on or above proficiency on TRC
 6. Our student satisfaction rate for the 18-19 school year was 90%
 7. Our in-seat attendance rate for the 18-19 school year was 96.5%, the third year of continuous growth
- ii. Gaps are still seen between males and females, English speakers vs. non-English speakers, etc.
 - iii. 2019-2020 focus will be to remove barriers to success in students so all kids are served the same learning opportunities
3. Language Acquisition Table
 - i. Principal Geoffroy noted that there are 26 different languages spoken by kids at Hearst, representing 33 counties.
 4. School Staff Introductions

Meeting concluded so that the Back to School Night Agenda could commence.