

Sakai PTO Meeting

Thursday, October 3, 2024 - 9am - room 223

Attendees

Erica Beyer, Brandi Cypher, Magda Pratt, Lara Deits, Wendy Corelis, Margaret Reeves, Tracey Harrah, Drew Crandall, Iris (on Zoom), Sarah Mann, Lara Deits, Teresa Yette, Jennifer Campbell, Charlie Layman, Kim Coletti, Maryanne Bellman, Deanna Morres, Magda Pratt, Kate Bryan

Agenda

Welcome and Land Acknowledgement

- Principal's update - Drew Crandall
 - School improvement plans are due soon. The main improvement needed is kids writing, and they're already seeing improvements in kids fluency. This writing work happens the first 10 minutes of flex time, and it's a free-writing exercise.
 - Another focus this year is technology, in various forms. You Tube has been blocked on Chrome Books. Some pages, like Kahn Academy, are still available. Chrome Books have been rolled out to 5th graders in a different way, they no longer take them home except for rare occasions.
 - No phones allowed in class and at school and also no smart-watches. This is also being enforced at Woodward.
 - Drew raised the idea of doing a parent book study on "The Anxious Generation"
 - September focus is building community and getting settled in school. October is focus on building growth and equity, and on how they see themselves and interact with others.
 - Bullying lessons happening in Coho time, Unity Day assembly will happen on October 16th. There will be lessons on identity and treating others respectfully.
 - The 5th grade arts tour happens in October as well. This highlights the Japanese-American community on Bainbridge. Moving away from having a Docent lead the discussion so that kids will be more engaged. This year, the kids are going to do self-led and teacher-led tours of the exhibits.

- Next week, exhibits to the BI Historical museum will start.
 - Ultimate goal is for 5th graders to connect to the community and the Sakai family.
 - Question re Digital Literacy education - They will be doing more in the spring around how to share their device and how to be responsible.
 - Question re Executive Functioning - the 5th grade planners are new this year and are based on guidance from an EF expert Sara Ward, intended to help them learn to time-block. In 6th grade they move to Google Keep. Ultimate goal is to try to create skills that the kids can use, but whatever works for kids is fine.
- Treasurer's report - Lara Deits
 - Lara ran through the proposed budget, which included items like the yearbook, 6th grade graduation celebration, clubs, field trips, staff appreciation, some curriculum expense, facilities, planners, school supplies, grants, etc.
 - Erica moved to approve the budget, Magda seconded the motion. Budget was approved.
- Coho Run Kickoff
 - Starts October 4, 2024. There will be a note in Parent Square and also an email that comes out (new format). There is also a new Sakai Instagram presence.
 - Drew will launch it at school with the kids once envelopes are printed. Communications will continue to come out on Friday's through October to highlight it.
 - Parents will register their children online individually. We're hoping to have 100% participation, meaning 100% of kids register somehow, NOT that 100% of kids collect money.
 - To meet our goal, we need \$160 per kid.
 - 25th of October is the actual run.
 - Volunteers are not really necessary but anyone is welcome to come that day and watch.
- Hogwarts (surprise!) Celebration **This is still a SECRET - don't say anything to the kids**
 - We need any and all volunteers - there will be a quick meeting on October 18th to take a look at materials and assign locations.
 - A SUG will come out to the whole school to collect volunteers. On the 25th, stations will be set up and prep will happen. Then on Sunday the 27th, all of the work and actual setup will happen.

- There are plans for some new decorations, and Drew mentioned that actual fresh pumpkins are fun to have placed around.

New Business

- Spirit Wear: Re-order for December? We want to order what sizes and styles people want, instead of just getting a variety and then having a bunch of extras.
- Halloween: Wednesday October 30th would be the day that kids could wear a costume if they want. It's going to be up to the teachers to determine how they want to handle costumes.
- Thanksgiving pie order from Sweet Dahlia: We under-bought last year so this year we need to get enough. There are 62 staff members in total at Sakai to buy pies for. Sarah Mann is to order all of the pies.
- Website updates: Jennifer Campbell will help update the website.
- Mini Mart will be happening on October 18th - this is run by student council and they get the money. Then at the end of the year they buy something for the school. Signs will be up that week to advertise what they'll be selling.
- Question re parent volunteers: Per Drew, it's really up to each individual teacher. Some teachers love having a lot of parents in to help, some teachers don't need it. There are other opportunities that are consistent, like art with Maggie, and there will be a game room during lunch that will start and we will need parent volunteers to run it.
- Drew would like the spirit wear moved out of the conference room and to somewhere else.

Adjourn