



1/9/2018 PRS PTO Meeting - Notes

AGENDA

6:30-6:40	Welcome! Help yourself to pizza!	
6:40-7:00	Cheryl Gerber, Recreation Supervisor from Parks and Rec, will be bringing brochures for everyone and will speak about special events and their bigger programs. In addition, she will discuss special needs programming and inclusion.	Cheryl Gerber, Supervisor SW Parks and Rec
7:00-7:15	Event Updates	Susan Ward
7:15-7:45	School updates including the Orchard Hill move	Mrs. Dixon
7:45-8:00	Budget review	Julie Dixon

South Windsor Parks and Recreation Department – Cheryl Gerber, Recreation Supervisor

- Cheryl distributed the Parks and Recreation Magazine from Spring/Summer 2017. The Department distributes a Magazine twice each year in March and August outlining all of their upcoming programs.
- The Department recently moved to Wapping School. They are excited about more space, and they are in the process of painting all of the rooms and sprucing it up.
- Upcoming events hosted by the Recreation Department:
 - **OPEN HOUSE:** January 20th at the Wapping School, the NEW home of SW Parks and Recreation. It will take place from 10:00am - 2:00pm complete with a magician, playful engineers, safari animals (ride-on), a DJ, food, and more!
 - Father/Daughter dance on February 9th
 - Annual Egg Hunt on Good Friday at the High School stadium (ages 2 through 2nd grade)
 - Fishing Derby in the spring
 - Star Wars event in May
 - All events are **FREE!!**
 - Sports offered through the department for a fee include youth and adult basketball, adult volleyball, men's softball, wrestling, Veteran's Memorial Pool, 4th R Camp (ACA Accredited), Learn to Skate, and more!
 - The Department also offers a highly popular preschool program
- The Department also offers programs for individuals with **special needs** some of which include:
 - Monday Night Social Club for both middle school and high school students (ages 13 and up), as well as young adults. They meet Monday evenings at the Teen

- Center and enjoy a variety of games while meeting new friends in an informal, supervised format.
- Challenger Basketball – A basketball program for young athletes with disabilities. This program provides boys and girls in grades 2-5 an opportunity to learn the basic skills and play the game of basketball.
 - Navigators Summer Camp (ages 16-21) – A camp for young adults with special needs in the South Windsor community.
 - *****An inclusion counselor can be provided for any of these programs. Do not hesitate to contact Cheryl to complete a special needs request.**

Mrs. Randazzo on communication to the PRS community

- Mrs. Randazzo shared that parents have expressed an interest in having speakers come in and talk at PTO meetings. A representative from a martial arts studio in Manchester will be coming to our next meeting to talk about self-defense and how to handle challenges at school.
- Mrs. Randazzo led a discussion on how to more effectively communicate the PTO's happenings with the entire PRS community. Many people expressed recently not receiving the weekly email (eblast) from the PTO. An idea was shared to have teachers include the link to the PTO website in their weekly updates to parents.
- Attendees were encouraged to like the PTO Facebook page and to spread the word! A private Facebook page may also be established so that members are alerted to updates more immediately.

Mrs. Dixon on School Updates

- Mrs. Dixon is looking forward to Bingo Night on January 26th and she hopes it can be a fun family learning night.
- The Connecticut Civic Ballet is coming to PRS on January 12th. All students will enjoy watching them at an assembly during the school day.
- Mrs. Dixon expressed her thanks for an amazing holiday workshop! She also thanked those who worked on the Scholastic book fair as the school was able to purchase standing desks and wobble chairs. The hope is to purchase more of these next year as they provide wonderful alternative seating options for students.
- The Student Leadership Team, which consists of 4th and 5th graders, will be attending a student leadership conference tomorrow at Asnuntuck Community College in Enfield.
- Mrs. Dixon talked about the *Shark After School Homework Club* designed for students who struggle to get their homework done at night. It is held on Mondays and Thursdays after school and it is supervised by the school social worker and the art teacher. Feel free to contact Mrs. Dixon if you have a student who would benefit from this club.
- SBAC testing dates for this year (*grades 3-5*): April 17th – May 8th
- Science NGSS Field Test (*grade 5*) – Pilot Test on May 17th. The school will receive no data from this test this year.
- Kindergarten registration to take place in February.
- On January 16th at 6:30pm in the cafeteria, Kate Carter and Mrs. Dixon will discuss the latest and greatest on the transition to Orchard Hill.
- A committee of parents and teachers have been talking about how to preserve the memorials that exist at PRS as the community is invested in them.

- A memorial garden is planned for the new PRS School; in the interim, there will a place to temporarily plant existing items.
- A brick fundraiser – bricks from our building can be bought and engraved. They will become a part of the memorial garden.
- The mural out front is a huge part of the school’s history but it cannot be preserved. There is a photographer within our community who will take a picture of it to help it live on.
- Time Capsule – ideas are in the works to help honor the building.
- On April 25th, an early release Wednesday, teachers will receive their room assignments for their classrooms at the old Orchard Hill building. The plan is for them to walk into a clean classroom with furniture, etc. This is already in the works!
- In May, on the two final Wednesdays of the month, kindergarten visits will take place at the old Orchard Hill building. At least one kindergarten classroom will be setup for incoming students and families to view.
- The entire school will take a field trip to the old Orchard Hill building later in the year. In June, an Open House will be held for parents.
- Mrs. Dixon expressed feeling really pleased with the design of the new PRS building. There will be room to expand above the kindergarten wing if additional classrooms are needed in the future.

PTO Budget Update

- The Holiday Workshop profited \$360.
- Book Fair Scholastic Dollars were used to fund wobble chairs and standing desks for the classrooms.
- Our budget continues to be healthy!