



5/8/2018 PRS PTO Meeting - Notes

AGENDA

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| 6:30-6:40 | Welcome! Help yourself to pizza! | |
| 6:40-7:00 | Guest speaker: Bullying self-defense and internet safety. | Joel Waldron, Academy of Martial Arts and Personal Development in Manchester |
| 7:00-7:20 | Guest speaker: Learn more about how Youth and Family Services can support your families. | Kelly McKenney, LMSW, FDC Parent Educator/SWAN Coordinator, Youth and Family Services – Town of South Windsor |
| 7:20-7:45 | School updates including the Orchard Hill move and PRS Brick Campaign | Mrs. Dixon/Marc Zirolli |
| 7:45-8:00 | Budget review | Julie Dixon |

Joel Waldron, Karate Master – Academy of Martial Arts and Personal Development in Manchester, CT

- Mr. Waldron is a martial artist and a life coach. He opened his Academy of Martial Arts 20+ years ago. The Academy has an after school program which offers transportation from PRS.
- Mr. Waldron also has experience working in the Bully Buster program at Manchester High School.
He informed parents of what “bullying” is and that each school must have a school climate policy.
- Mr. Waldron expressed the importance of communicating regularly with our children about school to ensure that they have an outlet to talk about what might not be going well.
- Mr. Waldron touched upon internet safety indicating that there are programs that can be purchased to block out certain websites and to protect children from certain domains.
- Mrs. Dixon assured parents that PRS has a bullying policy and a safe school plan. She invited parents to contact her with any concerns regarding their children, and she will investigate the situation. Mrs. Dixon encourages students to inform a staff member immediately if something is going on as she believes that the best time to intervene is in the moment. The PRS community makes an effort to emphasize the positive by utilization of kindness coupons, the availability of a Buddy Bench at recess, etc.

Kelly McKenney, LMSW – Town of South Windsor Youth and Family Services

- Ms. McKenney is the Parent Educator for the town of South Windsor, Youth and Family Services. Their mission is to create and foster opportunities for South Windsor youth and their families to learn and grow in positive ways.

- Ms. McKenney shared that they have two youth counselors who are available to work with children. Counseling and parent education services offered through the department are free. In addition, they offer in-home consultations regarding behavior concerns, toileting, etc.
- Youth and Family Services offer multiple South Windsor and Neighbors (SWAN) programs including 1, 2, 3, Magic: Effective Discipline for Children 2-12, Relatives Raising Children Support Group, New Parents' Group (prenatal – 10 months) and Fathers' Talk Support. These programs are free to residents of South Windsor and surrounding towns.
- The link to register for any SWAN programs is: <http://www.southwindsor.org/swan>
- There are additional programs including a Monday morning play group and Summer Chef in training (ages 7-11).
- They are hosting a Family Yoga Night on May 14th from 5:30-7:30pm.
- Like their facebook page for more info on upcoming events!

Marc Zirolli on the Brick Memorial Garden

- Mr. Zirolli shared an update on the progress of the brick memorial garden to be built at the new PRS building at the back of the building where the kids will play. The bricks will be purchased through New England Silica for \$50 each. The fundraiser will be open to the entire town in order to generate revenue for the PRS PTO. Sign-ups will be available at the upcoming spring carnival as well as the “Walk Down Memory Lane” event. The older bricks that are located in the garden at PRS will be incorporated into the new memorial garden, as well.

Mrs. Dixon on School Updates

- Mrs. Dixon extended huge thanks and appreciation for the very successful teacher appreciation week. She could not thank the committee enough for making the teachers feel so special.
- Mrs. Dixon shared that she had the students “award” kindness cards to their teachers. 812 kindness cards were given to teachers over the course of the week.
- A parent volunteer is needed to be Avery (the mascot) at the “Walk Down Memory Lane” event on June 11. If anyone is interested, please contact Mrs. Dixon.
- 112 students participated in the 1st annual Screen Free week! The idea was brought to Mrs. Dixon by a current 4th grade student.
- SBAC testing was completed this week! Mrs. Dixon noted that PRS was designated a “School of Distinction” this year due to SBAC scores from last year.
- The 5th grade students are taking the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) field test on May 17th.
- Mrs. Dixon thanked everyone for participating in the student driven programs and initiatives each month. She mentioned that the Student Leadership Team meets monthly to come up with ways to support the community.
- Summer Fun Packs! These will be online this year. In years' past, Kindle Fires have been the incentive. This year, Fit Bits will be offered as a reward. Students' names will be pulled at the first “Tiger Time” of the year in the fall.
- Upcoming Transition Dates:
 - May 21st – Volunteer Appreciation
 - May 22nd – Current PRS students visit the “temporary” PRS building

- May 23rd and May 30th – Incoming kindergarteners visit the “temporary” PRS building
- June 5th – Open House for PRS Families at the “temporary” PRS building from 6:30pm-7:30pm.
- June 11th – “Walk Down Memory Lane” – PRS Memory Lane Community Open House at PRS (current PRS building) from 6:00-7:30pm
- June 20th – LAST DAY OF SCHOOL FOR PRS STUDENTS!!

PTO Budget Update

- BINGO night profited \$1134.
- Movie Night profited \$160.
- Holiday Workshop profited \$441.
- Valentine Messages profited \$414.
- Art to Remember profited \$880.
- A current 5th grade student has been invited to attend the Invention Convention in Michigan. The PTO donated \$500 to support the cost of the trip.
- Our budget continues to be healthy!