Petrova Parents’ Club Meeting, 7 pm, Feb 4, 2013

Petrova Elementary School Library

Attendees: Zoe Smith, Bob Laba, Josh Dann, Polly Kelting, Jenn Small, Lori Mouranie, Marianne Burdeau, Mary Sue Dalton, Carrie Bradley

Presentation and Discussion of Pok-O-Mac Cready Outdoor Education Field Trips

* Julie Weinstein, 6th grade teacher and participant for 14 years to the facility with her new 6th graders each fall at Lake Placid Middle School
* Brian DeGroat, Assistant Director at Pok-O-Mac Cready . Brian has been at the camp since 2008. He is a former high school history teacher.

In the beginning LPMS 6th graders did a backpack trip at Loj to promote teambuilding and unity of the 6th grade class within the first 2 weeks of class in the fall. Then they found Pok-O to do an overnight trip where they leave school at 9 am on a Thurs and arrive back at dismissal on a Fri. It is a truly meaningful, experience for all involved. There is 1 adult for every 8 or 10 students. The adults are made up of teachers, guidance counselors, and other staff. There are no parent guardians. The excursion starts the year off on a positive feeling where teachers and staff bond to the students. The teachers get a better idea of the personalities of the children they are to be instructing. Teachers are not mandated to participate, most look forward to it. Memories are created for a lifetime.

The programs at Pok-O help the 6th grade class become more aware of themselves and how each individual fits as part of a whole through outdoor challenges such as low ropes courses, rock climbing, canoeing, and so much more. The experiences build self-confidence, trust and tolerance of each other, and problem solving skills. There are groups of 8, with rotations to different activities. All classes are aligned to NYS learning standards and can be customized to the teacher/student demand. Some activities include, but are not limited to:

* witness and live the Underground Railroad, the Revolutionary War, an 1812 homestead through living history and reenactments.
* ecology – wildlife, pond, winter, astronomy, sensory.
* Carpentry, blacksmith
* High Adventure-canoeing, survival, rock climbing, outdoor ethics, hiking
* sensory course

Lake Placid has a Citrus sale as their fundraiser to pay the deposit. Costs are approximately $40/student for a day trip and $95/student for overnight, depending on what activities are chosen. A deposit is required 2 months before the trip.

Next steps: contact middle school principal and teachers to arrange another informational meeting from Brian and Julie to all of the 5th and 6th grade teachers and others who will be working with 6th graders. Josh will forward slide presentation from Brian to appropriate staff. Brian and Julie would be happy to come and talk again about the program.

Petrova Winter Carnival

* Cake walk was at full capacity. Cakes were beautiful! Thank you to the Paul Smith’s College students for their creations.
* Great job on the carnival. Thanks Bob and all of the volunteers for another outstanding carnival!
* Maria D’Angelo and her husband will be treated to dinner on the PPC for all of the hard work they did for the carnival games.
* Polly to send letter head thank you to HighPeaks Distillary (Gatorade and SunnyD) and Price Chopper (carrots, ranch dressing, clementines, and apples) for Winter Carnival supplies.

Principal Update – new safety protocols

* Meeting with Trish Kenyon, middle school principal, this week to put signs up around the entrances and direct people to door 2 in order to make our school more secure.
* Parents will not be allowed to walk around the school or wait for their children near the auditorium. A letter and a flyer will be sent home with kids.
* Visitors may have to wear lanyards with an id left at the main door so that parents will come back to pick it up.
* It will be inconvenient, but it’s for the safety of everyone.

School Directory

* Josh brought a prototype of the school directory. Looks good. Thanks Josh and Ken!

Readers Day, Mar 1

* Mar 2 is Dr. Seuss’ birthday; Bill Wilson’s class will do a skit- Mar 1.
* The Rotary Club will be donating books to all of the students and have volunteers to read in classrooms.
* Teachers may want help and have parent volunteer readers too. Zoe will email GL’s to find out which teachers would like parent volunteer readers

Family Dance Night

* Hour long. Should we have an emcee?
* Zoe will talk to Katie Laba about the dance. Maybe get Bill Wilson, or Marcy could do Zumba.
* Contact Julie Weinstein about the music.
* Janen Streeter has a powerful sound system, see if we can borrow it for the night.

Winter Carnvial Parade

* Katie Laba has a list of children that are participating.
* Tracy Goetz has offered a trailer and has the float all in order.
* More than 50 kids, will carry fish, and art classes are making fish.

Pancake Breakfast

* April 27th, Sat am

Minigrant

* 5 applications totaling $2200, we approved $1923.
* We funded a field trip to the Graymont Quary, a new camera with higher resolution for yearbook pictures, 2 Rekenrek math classroom kits, an iPAD mini that teachers can sign out for student use, and money for supplies for an after school program.
* We accept applications for mini-grants up to $500 at the end of September and February each year.
* To encourage more applications, awarded grant items could be announced at faculty meetings.

Boxtops

* Lori will put a facebook reminder about boxtops
* Zoe will ask Michelle about Campbells soup labels

Other Discussion

* Budget was approved in June meeting.
* Jog/Walk a thon, may be better in the fall, right off the bat in September. If it is in May, it will conflict with hospice fundraising.
* 2nd grade snowshoeing Feb 22.
* Lori is going to work on the teachers lounge– paint, furniture, counter top stools, be on the lookout for some deals. May 7th teacher appreciation.
* Next Parent Forum meeting is Feb 13, 3:30pm in MS library. All are welcome.

Meeting adjourned 9pm

Next meeting Mar 4, 7 pm, Petrova Elementary Library