

PTA NEWS

March-April 2008

The last PTA Meeting was on Monday March 17th

The agenda included the final update on Math and Science Night, PTA budget concerns, school district budget update and information from each of the schools.

News from the Treasurer

The PTA was grateful to receive \$400 from Mr. Weiner's Guitar Workshop at WES. Thank you to Mr. Weiner who generously donated from his after-school program.

Recent PTA disbursements

Science Night -- \$708.00
Trophy case at EBMS -- \$1000.00
Justine Winters Annual Fund -- \$250
Indian Rock Schoolhouse Trunks --\$250.00

At this point there are ample funds to cover the Field Days in all schools. As in the past, the PTA will fund T-shirts and a special barbecue lunch for all students. Treasurer Pat Ackerman estimates that the PTA will possibly carry over about \$1200 for the beginning of next year.

Spring Fundraiser

Since we had to turn down a few requests these past months due to a tight budget, at the March 17th meeting, the PTA had a re-vote to have a Spring Fundraiser.

A PTA fun food spring fundraiser will be going on through April 23. The Marketplace, from the New Cherrydale Company, is a catalogue of frozen quality food items that requires a specific delivery time. A delivery date will be set before Memorial Day break. Please take a moment to look through the catalogue and support the PTA.

News from the Principals

Mr. Joel Freer, Elementary Principal, spoke about the need to replace equipment at the AES playground. Much of the equipment is in poor condition. In the interest of playground safety, a parent group, along with Mr. Freer, is working on this project. The playground equipment costs range from \$15,000 - \$75,000, depending on what is purchased. The funds for such a project will need to be raised and options are being considered

A volleyball tournament will be held early in May to begin the fundraising. Please watch for the event.

PARP (People as Reading Partners) was a success at both WES and AES. We hope all families continue to read throughout the year. "Diving into Reading" was the theme at AES and the building was turned into an underwater wonderland for the day.

The Honor Roll assembly at WES will be April 25th.

Mr. Jay Posephney, Webutuck High School Principal, informed everyone of a hypnotist show that was sponsored by the junior class – it was a big success and fun for the whole family. A return engagement might be planned for the fall.

The Red Cross Community Blood Drive was held on Friday, April 4th and 121 pints of blood were collected; the goal for the day was 100 pints. Many high school students participated along with community members.

Mr. Posephney also stressed to parents the need to be aware of the budget process this year because there are so many factors, including state funding, that affect cuts at our school.

School District Budget Process

The school board has been discussing the budget for the upcoming 2008-09 school year. The process has been going on since January, with many opportunities for the public to comment and question. Many district residents have taken an active role this year by attending the Tax Reform Meeting with Assemblyman Molinaro and attending the Board Meetings. Many also participated in the Virtual Lobby day on March 19th by sending emails to our legislators.

The budget will be adopted by the BOE on April 21, the Public Hearing is May 5th but if you would like to express your concerns to the BOE, there will be a final budget discussion on Monday, April 14th at 8 pm. The budget vote and the election of three Board of Education members is Tuesday May 20th

Please make every effort to stay informed about the school budget and vote on May 20th, the same day as the district Art Show

Scholastic BOOK FAIRS

BUY ONE GET ONE FREE

Dates: EBMS April 21 – 25

AES – April 28 – May 2

WES May 5- 9

To volunteer your time please contact Herb Johnson 373-6056, or Trini Stevens 373-7446.

Science and Math Night

Big thanks to Trini and Ella Stevens, and their committee, for organizing a very successful Math and Science Night on Wed. March 19th. Over 200 students and their parents attended and had the opportunity to participate in math and science activities. The Millbrook Zoo, Sharon Audubon, Dutchess County Canine Unit and Mad Science of Mid Hudson educated and entertained everyone. Many thanks to the community members who volunteered their

time and expertise to connect our families to math and science fun!

PTA Elections

Have you ever considered being involved in the PTA? Now is the time to come forward and volunteer! There are many positions open for the next school year since many officers have served the two year terms allowed by our by laws.

Nominations for 2008-09 PTA Officers will be at our May meeting. Please contact Joanne Boyd at 373-7805 if you're interested in any position.

Our next PTA Meeting will be on May 12th, 6:30 pm at the high school. We will also be discussing Field Days coming up in June.

Thank you again to Barbara Finelli, Chris Biscoglio, Cathy Christofel, Trisha Casler and Barbara Riley for their continued clerical support with this newsletter and other PTA business.

PTA Officers 2007-08

Val Corcoran PTA President - 373-7045

Joann Herald VP of WHS - 845 789 1111

Herb Johnson VP of EBMS - 373-6056

Sue Lopane VP of WES - 518-789-3159

Sharon Vesely VP of AES - 373-7795

Pat Ackerman Treasurer - 373-7192

Joanne Boyd 6-12 Secretary - 373-7805

Lenore Salmons K-5 Secretary - 373-7313