

PTA Meeting Minutes

Friday, November 4, 2011

- Minutes from previous PTA Meeting on October 4th were approved.
- **Melanie Lanni, new ELL teacher:** On behalf of Ames teachers, thank you to the PTA for Grandparents Day. The kids loved it!
Question: What is an ELL teacher? Answer: Ms. Lanni is a bilingual teacher who works with students whose native language is not English.
- **Dr. Jon Lamberson, D96 Superintendent**
 - Last year D96 students got the highest ISAT scores in history. D96 ISAT results are available on the district website (www.district96.org) under "About District 96/Report Card". The steady improvement in ISAT scores has occurred during a 42% enrollment growth.
 - D96 earned the Bright Red Apple award and Ames earned the Illinois State Board of Education Academic Excellence Award.
 - D96 was invited again this year by Apple to apply for the Apple leadership award.
 - D96 was among 20% of school districts in Illinois to receive the Illinois State Board of Education award for good fiscal stewardship.
 - The Board will be reviewing bids for capital improvement construction and will vote on whether to approve the bids in February. Construction would begin at all schools this summer, to be completed over the summer. Plans being considered for Ames can be viewed at www.district96.org and include the following:
 - Multipurpose room relocated to the first floor, and current multipurpose room converted into 2 classrooms, and a science lab where the kitchen was located.
 - New gym floor
 - Heating redone and A/C added
 - All classrooms renovated; including new floor and ceiling tile, lighting and fans
 - All nonfunctioning electrical replaced. Adding new electrical plugs as needed
 - Ceiling-mounted projector screen installed in every classroom
 - Phones in every classroom, and new intercom speakers
 - Individual cubbies for students
 - Switching the location of the school office and the library; this would increase safety in that all school visitors would proceed through front doors directly to the office
- **Colleen Lieggi, Ames School Principal**
 - Thank you to the PTA for the Halloween Assembly, and for Grandparents Day. There were 230 grandparents there! The teaching staff suggested that we consider switching the time so that the grandparents visit during the hour right before lunch.
 - Thank you to the Ames staff for their Fall Auction donations and for attending the Auction.
 - Veterans Day is Nov. 11th and students should wear red, white and blue, and invite any veterans they know to attend the assembly.
 - Report cards will go home on November 18th, and Parent/Teacher conferences are the following Monday. Parents should come to the conferences prepared and write down any

questions beforehand, as the meetings are only 15 minutes long and the teachers must keep to their schedules.

- A Global Connections Committee made up of teachers, parents, and administrators has been formed. The focus of the committee is to come up with global learning projects for each grade level.
- Ames School received the 2011 Bright Red Apple Award for the first time!
- Overall ISAT scores for Ames school are available on www.district96.org. The scores are used to identify strengths and weaknesses of student and of teachers. It can also identify at-risk students.
- **Lisa Freel, PTA co-President**
 - Fall Auction is coming up on November 11th and will be a great time! Please come and support the Cultural Arts program at our school. There will be heavy appetizers, drinks and a silent auction.
 - Look for your Spirit Wear to arrive next week.
 - Gift Wrap is available today for pick-up. Thanks to everyone who ordered; we met our fundraising goal of \$5,000.
 - Directories arrived later than usual this year because for the first time the contact information was provided to PTA/PTOs by the school district. Because of this, our directory was much more complete than in recent years.
 - We need a volunteer to take over the Aims Ames newsletter (there is one more issue for this year that would need to be prepared). If interested please contact Lisa Freel or Lisa Hennelly.
 - Next year is Ames' turn to run the community Halloween Window Painting program, so we will need a volunteer to chair this committee for next year. If interested please contact Lisa Freel or Lisa Hennelly.
 - Starting this year, all D96 PTA/PTO's will trade off being in charge of organizing a speaker to speak at Hauser on a topic that is of interest to D96 parents. Previously, Hauser organized the speaker every year, but starting this year, all D96 schools will share this responsibility.
- **Gelse Thlakec, R.A.I.N. representative**
 - Gelse will report at every PTA meeting on current RAIN (Riverside Area Inclusion Network) activities and events.
 - On November 17th from 5:30 to 8pm, Paula Kluth, an autism and sensory expert, will be speaking at the Maze Library in Oak Park
- **Nancy Moyer, Reflections Chair**
 - Reflections is a PTA program in which students have the opportunity to express themselves artistically based on a common theme. This year the theme is "Diversity is..." Students can submit work in dance choreography, film production, literature, musical composition, photography, and/or visual arts. Everyone who participates is recognized, and some projects may be chosen to be displayed at the state or national level. The deadline is November 28th. Look for a FeedBlitz with more information.

- Thank you to:
 - Susan Georgopoulos for another tremendous Grandparents Day!
 - Lisa Carlson for another successful Innisbrook Wrap sale – don't forget to pick yours up today!
 - Michelle Bushe and Karen Shook for handling and promoting the Spirit Wear sales - Go Dolphins!
 - Karen Quinn for all of the time, energy and creativity she put into the Ames Directory – we LOVE this year's cover!
 - All of the October Market Day helpers!
 - All of the Ames families who helped this month to get the grade-level projects ready for the Ames Fall Festival;
 - Susan Georgopoulos, Vicki Manchen and Brooke Schwarz for bringing us Fall Festival 2011 next week!

Announcements:

NOVEMBER

Ames PTA Meeting	Friday, November 4 at 8:45 a.m.
Ames Market Day Orders Due	Friday, November 4
Daylight Saving Time Ends!!!	Sunday, November 6
Ames Market Day Pick-Up	Wednesday, November 9
Ames Veterans Day Program	Friday, November 11 at 1:30 p.m.
AMES FALL AUCTION	Friday, November 11 at 7p.m.
Board of Education Meeting at Hauser	Tuesday, November 15 at 7:30 p.m.
Ames Square 1 Art Orders Due	Wednesday, November 16
Ames PUMPED Celebration	Wednesday, November 16
1st Trimester Report Cards	Friday, November 18
School Spirit Day/Bank at School	Friday, November 18
NO SCHOOL - Parent-Teacher Conferences	Monday, November 21 12:35-8:30p.m
NO SCHOOL - Teacher Institute Day	Tuesday, November 22
NO SCHOOL - Thanksgiving Holiday	Wednesday, November 23-Friday, November 25
PTA Reflections Deadline	Monday, November 28

DECEMBER

5 th Grade Band & Orchestra & 4 th /5 th Grade Choir Winter Concert at Hauser	Thursday, December 1 at 6p.m.
Ames PTA Meeting	Friday, December 2 at 8:45 a.m.
Ames Market Day Orders Due	Friday, December 2
Market Day Pick Up	Wednesday, December 7
Ames Grades K-3 Holiday Festival	Monday, December 12 7p.m.
Board of Education Meeting at Hauser	Tuesday, December 13 at 7:30p.m.
Spirit Day/Bank at School	Friday, December 16
NO SCHOOL – Winter Break	Monday, December 19