

Ames School PTA Meeting

November 1, 2013

Meeting called to order at 8:47am

Mr. Gierman's report –

October was a busy month:

- Cogat testing took place for 2-5 grades
- There were some parent teacher conferences in Oct and the rest are in Nov. - parents need to sign up online.
- Grandparents day was a big success, thank you.
- Two practice fire drills occurred – the kids did well, evacuated in 3 ½ minutes.
- Intruder alert drill happened just for Ames, practice with teachers and students. Will be constantly evaluating how to handle various situations. There will be a press release about next Intruder Alert drill. New procedures with walkie talkies. Very pleased with how it went.
- Chicago Steel hockey was here to visit, do drills and sign autographs.
- Kids had Field trip to Little Symphony at Hauser, went well and was enjoyed.
- Halloween went well yesterday despite weather and changes.
- Ames went live on Facebook and Twitter accounts – we do not plan to put kids pictures on the sites; please “like us” or “connect with us”.
- Thurs Nov 7th, Student Council is having a fundraiser at Culvers – thanks to Mrs. Orłowski and Ms. Levin. 10% of the proceeds between 5-8pm will go to Ames and the Student Council.
- Veteran's Day is coming up on Monday, 11/11, there will be an assembly from 1:45 – 2:45pm. Looking at doing something to give to the Veteran's to say thank you – working with PTA on this.
- Nicor Gas reached out to us about a program to teach 5th graders about efficiency and energy. Talked to Fifth grade teachers about it and they are interested in pursuing.
- End of trimester coming up and report cards will be 11/22; Parent teacher conferences are 11/25; 11/26 is a teacher institute day – kids are off school all week. Classes of 22 or less the conferences are 20 minutes; classes over 22 are 15 minute conferences.
- The Fall Festival is coming up, the parent help has been great and Ms. Klaus has been doing a great job. Looking forward to a successful Fall Auction.
- The Ames Budget was approved on Oct 15th.

Officer reports –

PTA Co-Presidents, Lisa Swicionis and Deanna Hall

- October meeting minutes - motion was made to approve, then second and meeting minutes were passed.
- **Fall Festival will be November 15th, buy your tickets! Raffle tickets are due next Friday, Nov 8th and so are reservations.** A lot of fun items donated by teachers/classes for the auction – example of some auction items: the after school party, 4-9pm; Miss Bursich is doing Hip Hop class; 2nd grade doing bowling & ice cream, etc. Thanks to Moey Dvorak for coordinating all of the parent volunteers for Art Projects. Ms. Klauska came up with all of the ideas and projects and they are amazing.
- Looking for donations for Fall Festival of Baskets, tubs and bags to place auction items in for presentation.

Treasurer's report – Tracy Stanard (presented by Deanna Hall)

Update on Innisbrook, slightly lower than last year, but still amazing fundraiser. \$3,000 for Spirit Wear, but don't have expenses taken out yet, so will report on that when finalized.

Fundraising report – Cristin

Brickpaver fundraiser, thanks to Terry Culloden to chairing again. There were 13 pavers purchased between last Spring and this Fall and will be laid in the Spring.

Chicago Steel – game on 11/22, ticket forms are out and there is a raffle that has been included \$1 for shoot the puck.

NASCAR car wash fundraiser – 2 month fundraiser in Dec & Jan. Business cards will be passed out to kids – 2 cards per child. Ames will get a certain dollar amount per car wash, depending on the wash (\$5, \$10, \$15 carwash).

Market Day – This is pie month, we make more money on Pies this month. We are also doing Pennies for Pies as well, and will be donating pies. Market Day orders are due online by Saturday 11/9 & pick up is Wed 11/13.

Cultural Arts – Flavio Gonzalez (Presented by Deanna Hall)

We had the Magician yesterday for the Halloween assembly – kids really enjoyed it.

Hospitality – Lisa Carlson (nothing to report at this time)

Room Reps – Maureen Dvorak (nothing to report at this time)

Other –

- Stephanie Hart mentioned that we may want to get the PTA meeting minutes out sooner in the month, so that the dates/information are provided in a more timely manner to those that could not attend the meeting.
- RAIN update – met with Dr. Lewis, Dr. Ganan, Ms. King. Working with Amy Garlinger, the districtwide social worker, on activities for Inclusion awareness week, which is the week of Dec 2nd. Doing a kickoff event with everyone in school reading the same book, discuss that we all fit together, and incorporating an art project. RAIN is working with Public Libraries, to show a Documentary that week as well.
- PTA Reflections program is coming up, generally an art based program – “Believe, Dream, Inspire” is the theme this year. Rachel Franchescina is our Chair and will have something come out on e-backpack next week, and she will be talking to the children about it soon.
- Thank you to Susan Georgopulos for handling another successful Grandparents Day@!

Meeting adjourned at 9:27am.

Please join us for the next Ames PTA meeting will be Friday, December 6th at 8:45am.