

Coventry Grammar School PTO Minutes
February 9, 2010

Principal's Report – Marybeth Moyer

We recently held the 100th day of school – lots of fun for the children. It is a great reason for lots of math learning.

Jump Rope for Heart – Activities were held all through the week. Thank you to Mrs. Caldwell and to parents who came in to help out.

Kids Caring for Kids – We are currently taking in donations for children in need. There are donation boxes in the hallway. We have lots of coming in. Thank you.

Valentines Day – This is a day to learn about friendships. There will be a lot of activities going on in the classrooms.

CT State Standards – Teachers are evaluating and looking at standards for all subjects and always looking to see how we can improve.

An article titled How to Talk to Children was handed out. The article states that adults need to slow down their rate of speech if we want children to be able to understand and comprehend what we are saying to them. Not to simply process but to process what we are saying with efficiency. Children from preschool age up to about third grade remain within the 120 words-per-minute optimal processing range. Teachers speak at a rate of about 160 words per minute and some are even higher than that. (If you are interested in having a copy of the article, please let me know)

Budget – Thursday 2/18, there is a special BOE Meeting – The budget is scheduled for approval. Monday, March 1st, copies of the budget are available to the public and Thursday March 11, Town Public hearing on the Budget. Monday March 15th, the Town Council meets with the Board of Education on the Budget. Budget is going in with a 3-4% increase.

CGS currently has 2 teachers up for retirement: Mrs. Dieter and Mrs. Beeching.

Teachers Report – Heather Zilora (school psychologist) & Terri Bitwinski (Kindergarten teacher) Mrs. Zilora has been attending all classrooms sharing the book “Have you filled a bucket today?” It teaches the children that when they are nice to someone, it helps that person feel better (i.e. fills up their bucket) as well as makes the sharer feel better (also fills up their bucket).

Ms. Bitwinski spoke about the 100th day of school and Star Words that are coming home with Kindergarteners. Star Words are high frequency words. It helps to build the students vocabulary. Post them around the house and make them present and visible to the kids.

Just a note that there are several dishes, pots and pans left in the Teacher's lounge. If you are missing any that were left over from Teacher Appreciation, please stop in the Teachers lounge. They are on top of the refrigerator.

Acceptance of January 2010 Minutes – Beth Hassett

Motion passed by Margie Stickle and seconded by Haley Small.

Treasurer's Report – Darby Muia

Balance is \$8120.00

New Business

Spring Book Fair – Martha McKerley

Book Fair this spring will be held April 27, 28 and 29th. It is held during parent conferences. It's a buy 1; get 1 free program so not a huge profit maker but great for shopping.

Rock Cats game – Kari Bennett

June 5 at 6:35 pm. Gates open at 5 pm. Fan fest inflatables will be out. A child from CGS will be able to throw out the first pitch.

Family Fun Night - Soccer Night – Kari Bennett on behalf of Michelle Corrigan

March 25th - Thursday night Fun night

Cultural Arts – Darby Muia

Ms. Klaneski and Mrs. Beeching have asked for \$3,000 to be able to hold two Cultural Arts events. Motion was accepted by Kim Powers and seconded by Carrie Houk.

Committee Reports:

Talent Show – Amber Culp

"Tryouts" will be held at CGS on 3/1 from 5-7 pm. If your child would like to be in the talent show, they need to attend this "tryout" night. We just need to see the show; everyone who attends will be able to be in the show. If you are unable to make it, please contact Amber Culp.

Kids Fun Fair – Beth Hassett

A decision was made at the meeting to change the format of the Kids Fun Fair. Majority decided to combine the event with the Ice cream social to be held on June 4th and make it a summertime carnival event. It will be held at CGS. Families will be welcome to bring picnic dinners and the kids can have fun on bounce houses, games, face painting and tattoos. And of course, our awesome raffle baskets will be part of it as well.

Maynard's Plant Sale – Kari Bennett

We will be holding a plant sale for Easter time. Kari Bennett is coordinating with Maynard's and more information will be coming home.

Yankee Candle Fundraiser – Kim Power

Packets are going home before the break. They are due back on Friday 2/26. We are in need of helpers to coordinate pick up. Please contact Kim if you are interested.

Box Tops – Haley Small

We will be having a box tops contest amongst classrooms. Each grade will have a winning class for a pizza lunch. Details will be coming home soon. Contest will be held 3/1 – 3/31.

Big Y – We have hit the million point mark!!!! Mrs. Moyer is going to review the catalog to see what we are eligible to get to redeem points.

Old Business

Wolf pack game – Kim Power

We sold 119 tickets. We will get \$2 per ticket back. We were not eligible to get the \$5 per ticket back due to the fact that we were not able to sell 200 tickets. Still a good deal and it was a lot of fun for those that attended. Thank you Kim!!

BJ's Fundraiser – Leslie Poland

A check for \$95 was received from BJ's and a second check for \$75 coming in. We will be holding this opportunity again shortly. Thanks Leslie for doing a great job and coordinating!!

Suggestion:

A suggestion was made for the school to come up with a wish list so that we can put on our fundraisers what we are putting the money towards. Parents think that it will help in the sales if they can see specifically what the money is being used towards. Mrs. Moyer will talk to the teachers and come up with a list. One big item that is needed is white boards.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:15 pm. Next meeting is Tuesday March 9th 7 pm. Free babysitting. Please consider joining us!!!