

Ferson Creek Elementary PTO Minutes

October 6, 2015

Call to Order & Treasurer's Report

Meeting called to order by PTO President, Shannon Sullivan, at 9:30 am.
There were 25 people in attendance.

Service Learning Presentations (Handouts available)

Lara Hoepner, Cal's Angels

A pediatric cancer foundation that grants wishes for kids fighting cancer and provides financial assistance to their families.

Ideas: Read-a-thon, Penn Wars, Duct Tape Mr. Adkins, Walk-a-thon, Funny sock/hat day

Tina Koral, GardenWorks Project

A project that works to relieve hunger in Chicago's west suburbs by providing families facing food-insecurity with the resources to grow food at home.

Ideas: hands-on activities that teach students about philanthropy, volunteerism, and gardening, classrooms can grow seedlings to be transplanted into the gardens of families in need and used on-site at Ferson, start a school garden, involve families to volunteer and build gardens for clients in 2016

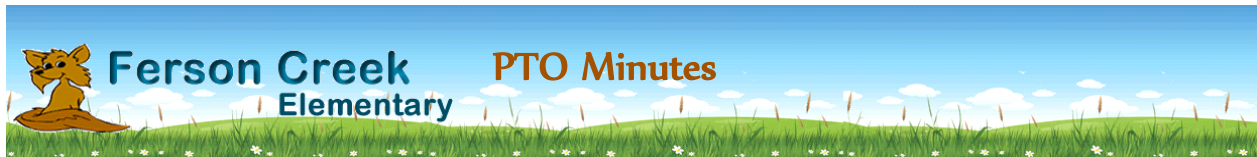
Donna Bauer, Lazarus House

An organization who strives to give hope and a future to our neighbors in crisis, who daily face challenges in which they often feel they have no place to turn for help. Our mission is to offer guests connected to St. Charles, Geneva, Batavia, and western rural Kane County, hope for the future by providing hospitality, food, safe shelter, and education – "tools for life."

Ideas: pack and provide sack lunches, collect donations of daily and urgent need items, create placemats for community holiday celebrations, students and families can provide hands-on help with special projects such as cleaning the play yard at the Women's and Children's Center and assisting with the Special Community Holiday events, assist with donation pick-ups at local businesses, help spread the word that we have help in our community for our neighbors who are experiencing crisis in their lives

Lunch presentations to Ferson Students: October 14, 2015 11:30 am – 12:45 pm

Summaries will be sent home, an e-blast with website links will be made, and teachers will discuss the nominations.



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Treasurer's Report

The WAC campaign has brought in over \$11,000, with over \$2000 from PayPal (and more is still coming in).

The cost from the yearbook company is \$17 / book. Last year, the yearbook distributor mistakenly charged us a lower cost than expected, resulting in a profit; however, they have agreed to maintain the lower price. This year, pending a contract revision with the company, the plan is to lower the cost to families to minimize a profit on sales.

Committee Chair Updates

Spirit Wear - Kathy Mourafetis

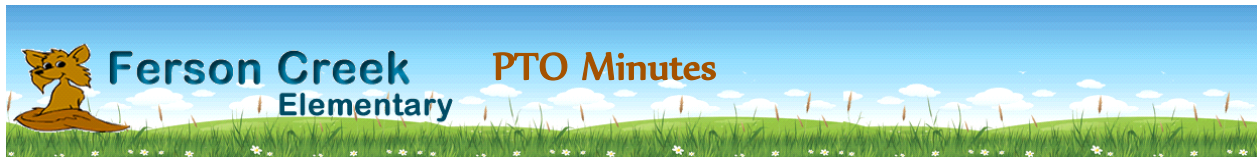
Some Spirit Wear orders were missing names. If you are missing an order, please contact Shannon Sullivan or Kathy Mourafetis.

Assemblies – Kathy Murray

Please contact Kathy with suggestions for upcoming assemblies and performances. Possibilities include Face-to-Face Productions during the week of October Oct 19 performing "Writing Royalty" about improving students' writing. Others may be in 2016, potentially coordinating with Science Night. Other suggestions included Jeffery Austin (St. Charles alumni and *The Voice* contestant) and Alphabet Soup Productions.

Boo Bash Fall Festival (October 24, 5:00 - 8:00 pm) - Shannon Sullivan / Bob Werderich / Darron Weasler

Bob is the mastermind behind this year's theme, which has not been made public yet; however, there will be a meeting tonight at Panera (8:00 pm) regarding Haunted Hall Decorations. There will be a new obstacle course this year, the Ferson American Ninja Warrior Course, which is larger than last year's obstacle course. We would love to have new carnival-style games to supplement or replace games we have. We also need volunteers to manage various areas of the event, including game sections, bake sale, and costume contest judge (who awards grade-level trophy). Arrangements with a DJ, bounce houses, and haunted hall are in progress. Taylor Street Pizza will be providing pizza slices and drinks. Pre-order forms will be due October 19. The Uncut pumpkin contest will start October 19.



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New Business

Working Parent Committee – Amy Rodgers

The new committee had their first meeting in September. A call-in number will be available for future PTO meetings for those who would like to attend via telephone.

Principal's Report - Chris Adkins

On October 27 at Ferson Creek, Dr. Schlomann will be talking about enrollment vs. options for schools, redistricting, and boundaries. There will be a question/answer opportunity. If you are unable to attend, please visit the district website for information about presentations at other schools in the district.

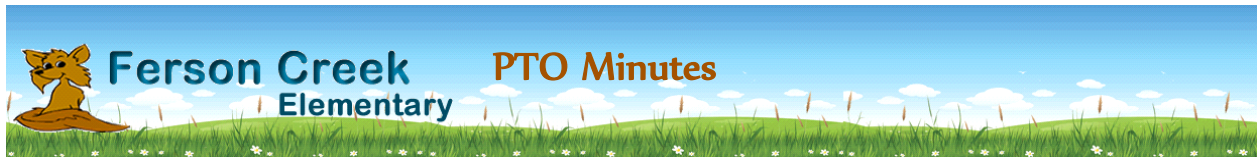
Please ask students what small moment they wrote about each day. Ferson is implementing new writing programs with a focus on components of writing and using language to convey meaning versus narrative, expository, or persuasive styles.

Mrs. Tjaden's son (Andy, 31 yrs old) recently passed away. The family has asked for our respect and understanding in preserving their privacy during this very difficult time. Memorials may be donated to Anderson Pet Shelter. Cards from children are appreciated and Ferson can help deliver; however, Ferson will not disclose any personal information. Our thoughts are with the Tjaden family.

PARCC testing results are available at the state level; however no Ferson or District 303 information is available. The average state elementary score was ~30% passing; no high school passed the reading test. Ferson often has a higher than state average on assessments, but no data is available yet and we do not know when we can expect more information. Changes have already been announced for this school year: there will be one testing session, not two, which will run sometime in March-May.

As a safety reminder, please refrain from using cell phones while driving in the school zone during school hours, including hands-free devices. This is a state law. Also, please maintain a safe speed.

The school is in dire need of substitute teachers. There is an easy application process with a small fee. Substitutes can choose how often they work and have a very flexible schedule and preferences. There is a 4-year degree requirement. Lunchroom help also needed.



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Student Advisory Board – Nicole Cournaya

Student Advisory Board will be getting more involved this year.

Teachers' Report - Karen Johnsen

Newsletter recipient list is being amended. Teachers are reminded to send PTO information home in a timely manner.

Please tell Shannon Sullivan if you would like to be on the next agenda.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:39 am.

Upcoming Dates:

October 19 – BOO Bash Pre-Order Forms DUE

Oct 19-23 Un-Cut Pumpkin Decorating Contest

Oct 24 – BOO BASH 5:00 – 8:00 pm

The purpose of the PTO at Ferson Creek Elementary is to provide funding, volunteers and materials to the teachers and students in order to enhance the curricular and extracurricular educational experience of all the children including the support of programs, which would otherwise not be supported.