

## November 30, 2022 - PTA Meeting Program Notes

Call to order 8:03 pm

Reminder - NO PTA meeting in December

### **Principal's Report** – Presented by: Michelle Makrigiorgos & Jennifer Condra

- Thanks to the PTA for organizing and coordinating in-person events prior to the Thanksgiving break (Sock Hop, Cultural Arts Assembly).
- The week prior to Winter break will be Spirit Week. The music department will be ending that week with an in-person sing-a-long
- The renovations continue to go really well. Michelle and Jennifer have weekly meeting with Fairfax County and the construction crews. The weather has been good as well, which helps them stay on track.
- Going to find some way to connect the kids to the construction process to help them have a better understanding of what's happening. More information on that in January.

### **President's Report & Program Announcements** – Presented by : Lynde Herzbach

- **Join the PTA** – different membership levels available; join for this year at the Louise Archer PTA website, which is <https://louisearcherpta.org/>
  - **Loyalty Programs:**
    - **Amazon smile loyalty program** - the PTA has received generous donations due to members choosing the Louise Archer PTA as their charity of choice on both the smile.amazon.com website and the amazon app. Don't forget to add the Louise Archer PTA to your amazon app! It's easy, first choose the three parallel bars at the bottom right to open the settings menu, then under the "Gifting & Charity" menu heading, select Amazon Smile. On the next page, you can search for and choose the Louise Archer Elementary PTA.
    - **Harris Teeter loyalty program** - The Harris Teeter Together in Education Program has started – Please link Louise Archer to your VIC card! Earn money for Louise Archer when you shop at Harris Teeter. With 13 families participating last year, we earned \$180.27 for the 2021-2022 school year! Next time you step into a Harris Teeter, just remember to ask at check-out or at the customer service desk to link your card to Louise Archer ES #6189.

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- **Scheduled Events:**
  - **Dining for Dollars:** Two upcoming ways to support the PTA and eat delicious food!
    - December 13 - Social Burger (4-8pm)
    - January 11 - Chipotle (4-8pm)
- **Sock Hop Recap**
  - First a huge thank you to Molly Peng and Reshma Patel, as well as all the volunteers who donated time and supplies
  - The sixth graders have an excellent start to their sixth grade celebration plans
  - Items that went well:
    - Communications through: social media, flyer in Tuesday folder, class parents (week of event)
    - SUGs - using the templates helped (will make minor tweaks for next year)
    - Pizza - 80 to 100 good number for the school about 70/30 split cheese-pepperoni
    - Set up early ~ 4pm onwards on the day of event to get organized
    - Basketballs and hula hoops on hand were good to have
    - Awesome parent volunteers that were UBER appreciated
    - Great attendance and attitude from LAES families
    - We had extra waters on hand that we gave out at the end because it got HOT
  - Ideas for Improvement:
    - Have a 'fast pass lane' or separate lane for folks who had purchased tickets ahead of time
    - No direct handing out of food from the stations, but to 6th graders only
    - If possible, even traffic flow so the gym doesn't get super chaotic (this might have been a little due to the delay of the DJ this year)
    - Add gloves to the SUG for food service
    - Ensure 2-3 parent volunteers for the pizza & soda station each
    - Explain the ticket pricing to the students / posters with the menu hung up
    - 2-3 tip collection jars

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- More signage in general
- More prep for sixth grade "hoppers" on how the flow of the food service would work
- Different DJ company
- Ask the LAES custodial staff to turn the temperature down in the gym and cafeteria that day (if possible?)
- Maybe have a temporary tattoo station in the hallway or some other thing for kids to "do" so that it's not so crowded in the gym and cafeteria

### **Treasurer's Report** - Presented by: Steve Soliday

- Sock Hop Report :
  - PTA expected about \$1,900 in ticket sales; actuals \$2,325 (beat it by 22%)
  - 6th graders collected \$477.36 in tips.
- Budget Update :
  - Student programs are \$40k in revenue which is likely all going out the door to pay the leaders of those different sessions
  - We budgeted to be about -\$27k this year and right now we are sitting at \$12,778 but if you subtract out the programs amount it comes to almost exactly that amount - all that to say we are pretty much where we are supposed to be.

### **Mini Grants** - Presented by : Cathy Chen

- Thank you to LAES staff for coming up with creative ways to support our students.
- Granted 10 requests this Fall; had \$12k in budget, spent \$5,116.
  - PE teachers - pickle ball equipment for Spring (\$910)
  - IEP students - teacher presentation books for the VMath program (\$674)
  - Math resource teacher - purchased resource tools with games & strategies to help build fact fluency for students (\$625)
  - Music - Double Bass Instrument Stand for 4 basses (\$525)
  - Kindergarten resource books, language comprehension FCPS recommended (\$323)
  - Speech Therapy - materials to assist in special education (\$300)
  - 5th graders - materials to assist in complex science (\$309)
  - 5th graders - FCPS Portrait of a Graduate traits text (\$132)

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- Social & Emotional Library - The Ninja Life Hacks series (\$180).
- 4th grade teachers - scholastic subscription (\$1,138)
- Second round of mini grants planned after winter break

### **Sunshine Times** - Presented by : Lynde Herzbach (in lieu of Reshma Patel)

- First request for submissions went out in the Sunbeam this past weekend
- Submissions for the first paper are due on **January 30th**. Kids should have their parents send a short story, poem, artwork, recipes, reviews, etc. (one item per child)
- All submissions to be sent in to the [sunshinetimes@louiseacherpta.org](mailto:sunshinetimes@louiseacherpta.org)
- Additional communications planned - Tuesday folders (before the December break)
- Please reach out to Reshma Patel or Sarah Couchman with any questions

### **Yearbook Committee** - Presented by : Kelly Liang

- Yearbook Cover deadline is 12/09. We will send out one last reminder this coming Sunday 12/04 through Sunbeam. Winner will hopefully be picked by 12/16 by school administration staff. Latest decision by 01/06.
- Student portraits will be uploaded into the Lifetouch Dashboard 3 weeks after 11/18 make-up day, so hopefully by the end of next week 12/09, we'll be able to hand out class rosters out to all teachers for review and hopefully flow them into their appropriate pages during the month of January.
- Google photo link and final deadline reminder for "Sock Hop" photos was quite successful. It decreased the number of emails tremendously. We still had several families submit photos the old school way - through email. We collected about 115 photos (some duplicates of the same photo uploaded by different parents who probably shared the photo with the other parent). The next challenging part will be selecting photos for the yearbook. Our goal will be to include an average of 2-3 photos from each class grade for the "Sock

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Hop” spread and a few others will randomly be placed on the other pages throughout the book.

- Booster Ad for 6th Grade. Previous years, the link for payment of Spirit Ad was sent out from 01/19 to 02/02/2022 (2 weeks), then extended 2 more weeks for the other grades.
- As events get added throughout the year, we’ve been asking for an average of 1-2 photos and collecting them within 2 weeks. We will include 1-2 from the Cultural Assembly. Junior Optimist (Tree Lot & Toy Drive). Will want a photo of Madison Food Drive (#OneKindActVienna). We have about 10 days left? Are we at our goal of 300 cans??? Reflections Award Ceremony photos- deadline 12/04.
- Kelly is currently working on the layout of the yearbook

### **Cookie Carry** - Presented by : Lynde Herzbach (in lieu of Lauren Padgett)

- Dec 12 - Staff appreciation event - buy or make cookies to bring into the school.
- Make signs if possible, with ingredients
- Reference the Sunbeam Newsletter of and FB for more info

### Questions:

1. FCPS calendar survey proposed changes to school calendar / possibly clustering holidays or even shortening the day. Can we get clarification?
  - Essentially, it’s for planning time for staff. The elementary school teachers don’t have enough time per day to plan their student schedules. FCPS is trying to come up with any ways to offer time for teachers.
2. The construction chaos has definitely lessened and is noticeably different. Thank you so much to everyone that helped with that.

Call meeting to close (8:30pm)