

Greenbriar PTO Meeting
Greenbriar School Staff Lounge
Monday, December 6, 2010

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order in the Greenbriar Staff Lounge at 9:05 a.m. President Carol Currie led the meeting. Attending: Carol Currie, Jennifer Able, Susan Schueler, Carla Martens, Katie Clemens, Audra Casey, Maureen Wimbiscus, Greta Satek, Julie Propes, Kelli Abboud, Sharon Farrell, Nancy Treleven, and Heather MacDonald.

After the meeting was called to order, Katie Clemens reviewed our budget. Some of our fundraisers profited more than we had expected (Free Will was one that exceeded the budget by several hundred dollars to date). Some details include holiday gifts coming in at budget. Spirit lunch remains budget neutral. The PTO gifts for the school have also been paid for as well. Sharon Farrell made a motion to approve the budget. The budget was unanimously approved.

There was one correction to last month's minutes. The correction was related to what day to pick up the boxes for the cookie walk. The minutes were corrected. Susan Schueler made a motion to approve the minutes. Katie Clemens seconded the motion. Minutes were approved.

CARNIVAL

Kari Knebelkamp (via notes to Carol Currie) reported that Carnival is scheduled for January 29th. Set-up is Friday, January 28, at 4:00 p.m. If anyone is interested in lending a hand, it is always appreciated! You can bring your kids - they are often great helpers at set-up! The theme for Carnival this year is *Kindness Counts*. We will be having a "Kindness Contest." The contest encourages children to do random acts of kindness. After each act of kindness, the kids fill out a "*Kindness Counter*" with their name, grade, and act of kindness. After they fill out the form, they will be required to have it signed by an adult. The kids are also encouraged to fill out a 'Kindness Counter' if someone did an act of kindness for *them*. They would simply put the other person's name on the form. Having an adult sign the form will help discourage ballot stuffing. ☺

Beginning the week of January 10, children will have an opportunity to win free game tickets to the carnival through the raffle system. After we return from holiday break, Kindness Counters will be distributed to teachers with an explanation of the contest. Any suggestions for the Kindness Counts contest are greatly appreciated.

The ticket prices for Carnival remain the same: 4 for \$1.00. Kari Knebelkamp is also looking for anyone 16 years and older who needs to earn service hours (Eagle Scouts, traffic tickets, etc) to work our infamous cotton candy shifts. Otherwise the volunteering will be handled through signmeup.com (or signupgenius.com- Kari is deciding). This is the same system that Mr. Zinnani used for field day volunteers last year. It is quite easy. There are 5 categories from which to choose: games, selling tickets, bingo room, redemption center and face and nails. The shift times are the same,

10:50 a.m. - 12:20 p.m.
12:10 p.m. - 1:40 p.m.
and 1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Some ideas for decorating include smiley faces and kindness quotes. Kari hopes to start the week of carnival to do a little each day.

Audra Casey reported some great ideas for Grand Prize Raffle. Mrs. Mohr will send out a newsflash regarding "request for donation." This will also go out in our Gazette.

Discussion ensued about raffle tickets that have previously been sent home for purchase ahead of time. We discussed the most efficient way to handle the pre-sale of tickets. We will be changing the way these tickets are sold. We will no longer send the tickets home via backpack. You can buy tickets on the day of the Carnival. If you cannot make it to carnival and would still like to purchase some tickets, we can fill them out and put them in the appropriate box for you. If you would also like to buy ahead, you can fill out a form and send it back to school. You can then pick the tickets up at "will call," fill out and stuff the bucket yourself. More information will be released about this new format.

The Food Drive and the Mitten Tree will be available until 12/15/10 (the day of Winter Sing). Sharon Farrell graciously offered to take the mittens, hats and scarves to Youth Services of Northbrook and Glenview. Carla Martens offered to take the food to the Northfield Township Food Pantry. Many thanks, ladies!

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

We asked for five delegates for our Nominating Committee. The positions which need to be filled will be

PTO President

First VP/Programs

Recording Secretary

Treasurer

Kelli Abboud, Carla Martens, Greta Satek, Katie Clemens and Jennifer Lawrence offered to serve on the Nominating Committee. Thank you so much for taking on this very important task. The Nominating Committee will meet in January at a time that will work for all members of the committee.

Principal's Report

Principal Jennifer Able reported about a school sponsored art show that some students are participating in at H. Marion Framing at Plaza del Prado on December 7th. Twenty two Greenbriar students, as well as students from other District 28 schools, will have their artwork in a children's show at the gallery. The show included an Open House in the Gallery at 2771 Pfingsten Road.

Between Thanksgiving and Winter Vacation, some students are undergoing a language arts assessment. It will help measure where they are at currently. This is not formalized testing.

Jennifer Able reported that she completed her first issue of *The Greenbriar Gazette* (Carol Currie had taken over the writing and preparation of *The Gazette* since Jill Weininger left the school in August 2009). Jen reminded us that the school continues to send as much information home through *The Gazette* as possible. This includes sign-ups for various clubs and other critical information. The school is looking to streamline as much information as possible. Additionally, *The Greenbriar Gazette* will continue to be archived on the District 28 website as it has been for the past several years. (www.northbrook28.net)

Welcome Julie Propes who will fill in for Jackie Hoyland while she is on maternity leave. Julie will act as our teacher representative until Jackie is back to school.

Artist in Residence

Carla Martens and Jennifer Able both received positive feedback regarding the professional storyteller, Sue Black. Mrs. Black has already been featured at one assembly. She performed various stories using a variety of voices. She is teaching the students about storytelling. The students are now finding a fable, myth, or story which they will use to practice storytelling themselves. They will develop their characters and use expression, etc. Some classrooms will be using their buddy class to practice their storytelling. Sue Black will come back and continue to teach the students more techniques for storytelling. There is an evening planned to showcase stories at a Story Café. The Story Café will be for students who sign up ahead of time who want to showcase their story in front of their parents and peers. The Story Café will likely take place in several classrooms and have PTO reps helping out. The Story Café is scheduled for February 16, 2011.

StoryCorps Project

We discussed some of the StoryCorps interviews that were done on the National Day of Listening. Ryan Currie interviewed his grandma and her brother (Ryan's Great Uncle) on Thanksgiving Day. Carol Currie discussed some of the special dynamics which occurred while the interview took place. If interested in having your child participate, the form will be on the website. These are simply suggested questions from StoryCorps. They are available for you to use in your interview if you are interested.

Susan Schueler - VP Room Parents

Susan reminded Room Parents about informing teachers of holiday party plans. Please let teachers know (about two weeks prior to the party) what you have planned when organizing a classroom party.

Sharon Farrell - Corresponding Secretary

Sharon purchased holiday gifts using *Gift Card Plus*. Her gift spending came in under budget and benefitted PTO Council at the same time. Thank you, Sharon.

Nancy Treleven motioned to adjourn the meeting. Kelli Abboud seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 10:29 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Wimbiscus
Recording Secretary