

Stony Lane PTA Meeting Minutes
October 3rd 2017 at 7.30pm in the Library

Executive Board Members in Attendance: Michelle Bedosky, Jenn Libby, Krista Ibrahim & Helen Khanji

PTA Members in Attendance: 22 people in attendance (list attached)

Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Marshall welcomed the new presidents and everyone in the room introduced themselves

PTA Executive Board introduced themselves

Principal & Teachers Report

The School Counselor, Mrs. Andrea Stone, introduced herself and spoke about her role in our school. She divides her time among several Paramus schools but is always at Stony Lane on Mondays and Tuesday mornings. She deals with any social and emotional issues that the kids may have. She teaches how to distinguish conflict vs bullying. Friendship groups begin next week and more groups are to come throughout the year. Please use Mrs. Stone as a resource, if you have any questions, her email is astone@paramus.k12.nj.us

Mr. Marshall continued the theme, explaining that we must be careful when we use the word “bullying”. By law, once that word is used, the school has to begin an investigation. The kids are being taught about the difference between bullying and conflict, the goal is to teach them to have “appropriate relationships” with one another.

Mr. Marshall introduced us to the learning theme for the year: “Study Problems Way Up Close and See the Gems Inside”. The kids are working on solving problems in their classrooms and for every problem they solve, they receive a “gem”, when the whole school has successfully accumulated 100 gems, they get to find out what is inside the mystery treasure chest!! The kids working on solving problems ties in with the growth mindset that they are encouraged to have, they should never feel defeated or as if a challenge can take over, they continue to explore new ways to get around a problem.

Mr. Marshall reminded us about:

- **Families As Reading Partners** (week of October 9th) – come to your child's classroom and read to them at 2.30pm on the assigned day.
- **Halloween Parade** will be on October 31st at around 1.15pm on the blacktop. Kids do NOT wear costumes to school. Costumes can be sent in in a bag or parents can pick their children up at lunchtime, change them at home and get them back to school by 12.50pm
- **Maker Spaces** – the school is still look for lots of donations for their maker spaces, please send in any items that could be used – aluminum foil, pipe cleaners etc
- **@stony1lane** – Stony Lane now has a Twitter handle, please follow us on Twitter

Mr. Marshall shared 2 articles with us:

- A blog post called “Learning is _____” - how you complete the sentence matters!
- An article called “What's Your Play Personality”, the importance of play and the 8 different play personalities.

Review of Last Meeting: Helen Khanji read the minutes from the June 6th meeting

Treasurer's Report: Krista Ibrahim shared this years budget and we voted to approve it. We have budgeted to have a net income of \$18,400, with expenses budgeted at \$18,175.

Corresponding Secretary Report: In Ushma Trivedi's absence, Helen read correspondence that was sent to the PTA. Thank you notes from 2 former Stony Lane students and the recipients of scholarship money. Thank you notes from teachers for the gift cards they were given in June to use toward their classrooms.

Committee Chairpersons Reports:

- Jenn Libby reported that the Welcome Breakfast and the School Supply Kits Fundraiser were both successful.
- Ann Marie Marciano announced that families and individuals have purchased a total of 96 PTA memberships, we are significantly down from last year when there were 136 memberships purchased. Ann Marie will send a flyer home as a reminder that families can still join.
- Michelle Bedosky told us that the Kidstuff Book Fundraiser is over.
- Helen Khanji spoke about the student directory and what a wonderful job Joy Kim did putting the document together!!
- Jenn Libby explained how we participate in Free Money Programs – Box Tops, Stop & Shop, Shoparoo & Amazon Smile
- Michelle Bedosky informed us about the 4th Grade Activities plans and how the car wash was so much fun!
- Michelle Zakko and the third grade moms asked for a date in May to do next year's 4th grade car wash, that way they will have a better idea at the beginning of next year as to how much fund-raising they need to do. Everyone agreed that it was a great idea
- Mr. Marshall shared that the first PTA funded Cultural Assembly had taken place on Monday, Jake Ballentine visited our school and sang lots of songs with messages of friendship and respect. The kids really enjoyed it. Also that author Amy Ludwig Vanderwater will be coming on February 1st, we had bid on an opportunity to have her come to our school in an auction whose proceeds went to hurricane victims.

New Business

- Can we nominate you to be our new Treasurer in September? Krista is happy to work with you this year to teach you how to do the job. It is good for anyone who is organized and good with numbers. It is a role that you can do on your own time from home so it is suitable for working parents as well as stay home parents.
- The Paramus Scholarship Show Committee needs a representative from Stony Lane, this person would attend the Scholarship Show meetings and report back to Stony Lane PTA.
- A new “Curriculum Committee” is being formed at the Board of Ed. They are looking for

a parent and a teacher for every school. Wendy Martinez (mom of Alexander in 1st grade) volunteered to be the Stony Lane rep depending on the times of the meetings and if that suits her schedule. Jenn Libby will let Wendy know once she has more info.

Upcoming Events

- The Ice Cream Social & Tricky Tray will take place on Friday, October 13th. It is going to be great fun, there will be a DJ, crafts, games, ice cream, a kid-friendly tricky tray with super prizes. We hope everyone can join us there!!
- Our playground desperately needs updating and unfortunately the Board of Education don't have it in their budget to buy us a new one. The PTA have set aside \$10,000 (from surplus income from the previous past few years) to contribute toward a new playground. Mrs. Carter, our gym teacher, is going to use that \$10,000 to replace certain parts of the playground with new equipment. Looking ahead, we need to figure out how to fund the total renovation of the playground. Mr. Marshall will find out if any extra funding is available for playground equipment that suits children with special needs.
- Michelle Bedosky went to 5 Below & Toys R Us and purchased balls and jump-ropes for each classroom, using money that was donated by parents (\$5 toward recess equipment).
- The Thanksgiving Feast will take place the Tuesday before Thanksgiving. Class Parents will work with their classroom to make side dishes for the meal. Lots of volunteers are needed. Food Pantry donations will be requested and cooked turkeys will be requested. More info to follow...
- Class Pictures take place on October 10th – dress your kid up!
- The Holiday Boutique will take place December 8th - 11th
- Next PTA Meeting will be December 5th at 7.30pm in the library

Questions and Comments

- A Kindergarten dad, Michael Wang, asked a GREAT question. Why are we not promoting Amazon Smile more? Everyone shops on Amazon and our earnings to date are pretty dismal. What can we do to promote Amazon Smile in our school and to make people sign up and set their accounts to default to Amazon Smile? He thinks we could earn several thousand dollars from this alone if we push it harder. We are going to work on this...

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8.26PM