

Jefferson Elementary PTA Meeting November 8, 2007 School Library, 6:30-8:00 pm

All PTA meeting notes are available at:
<http://jefferson.berkeleypta.org/communications/ptaMeetingNotes>

Thank you's

- *Dinner tonight:* Adam Sanchez
- *Translation:* Veronica Urdaneta
- *Cody's School Days:* Katie Sanbongi
- *Halloween event:* Christina Franco and *many* others!
- *Day of the Dead dancers:* Suzanne Teran, Gloria
- *ALP:* Margaret Miller, Katie Whitty, Kathryn Cohen, Angela, Betsy Saunders, Margaret Palmer, Billie Romain, Rita Geary.
- *PTA classes:* Patricia Mok, Maureen Sullivan, Casey Schooner, Cathy Malmrose, Catherine Betts. Also Lorraine Sandoval and Sabine for the efforts last year.

Halloween Event

- The event was really great. It was very well attended and everyone had a wonderful time. One parent at the event had said that he attended Jefferson many years ago and he can still remember the Halloween event. So this is quite a tradition at Jefferson!
- Alisa said she really liked that she met a lot of parents that she hadn't before.

Book Fair

- Aaron and a bunch of kids had an assembly line to start the set up on Thursday.
- There will be a teacher tea on Tuesday afternoon.
- The sale starts on Wednesday and continues through Friday.
- Traditionally we have taken the proceeds as book credits. We then use that to give every child a coupon. Last year it was for \$7.00, but that was a bit problematic because of the challenge of getting multiple books plus tax to equate to just under \$7.00. The proposed idea for this year was for a coupon good for one book of value up to \$7.00. Miss Thiele points out that often the books for the younger children are only \$2 or \$3 and that it makes sense to let them get multiple books. Suggestion is made to make the coupon for \$6.00 and the PTA covers the tax. Note that the children can augment the coupon with their own money too.
- The coupons do not cover knick-knacks like rulers and erasers – just books.
- Last year the amount of the coupon was raised from \$5 to \$7.
- ***Paul motions that we provide every student a \$6.00 voucher that they can use only for books and that the PTA cover the tax.***
- ***Seconded.***
- ***Motion passes.***

Sally Foster gift-wrap update

- In the final accounting the fundraiser raised about \$5,000. Most everything has been picked up.

Fund-raising committee

- They have not done any grant work yet.
- They got the fundraising letter out. The letter was written by committee. Billie and her husband did lots of work on the mail merge. Sabine did lots of work on the database.
- They changed name from Dollar Drive to Jefferson Giving Campaign. This was because Dollar Drive makes it sound like you should just donate \$1.00.
- Alina is working on a Spanish translation.

- There was an envelope stuffing party at Mimi and Jon's house. Someone from Berkeley Arts Magnet came and gave a little presentation on what they do at BAM for fund-raising.

Cody's

- School Days starts tomorrow and goes through the weekend.
- Make your purchases and then bring the receipts to school. Jefferson will get a percentage of the purchase amount.
- You can buy gift certificates too.

Gold Rush Request

- Miss Thiele and Sean polled all the Berkeley 4th grade teachers looking for Gold Rush ideas. The resounding answer came back - "Coloma". They have a whole program (2 days) that lets the kids see what it was like to live during the Gold Rush. Pan for gold, dress up, make shelters, go to Sutter's Mill, etc.
- The total cost is roughly \$8,000. There has been lots of fund-raising by the classes. But they are asking for \$4,000 from the PTA. \$2,600 is due this week.
- Sharon comments that the hope is that this will become a Jefferson tradition.
- It is planned for January 14-15. This is actually during the cheaper time slots, but in future years we could consider moving it later in the spring.
- Lodging is in bunkhouses with parent chaperones.
- Aaron comments that he still remembers his 4th grade "Trip Across California". He thinks it is a fantastic idea.
- A comment is made that we should be thoughtful about this. We need to be sure it is sustainable especially given that we have added an extra outlay of \$21,000 for Physical Education this year.
- Could some of the parents pay more and subsidize others in the class? Miss Thiele thinks that would be potentially problematic with the kids.
- Paul is worried about the specific fund-raising for the 4th grade trip because he thinks it may dilute the general fund-raising. He would prefer that it be funded via the general fund.
- Are there any other over-night trips traditionally? Sean does an overnight in Tilden for whatever grade he is teaching. Barry is planning to take the kids to Mendocino. Dana and Rick both already did a camping trip with their classes together.
- Gloria points out that this request should be considered especially carefully since it is coming from and has the support of a teacher.
- Sean's trip was also subsidized by PTA. It has educational aspects but is primarily a community building exercise. This trip is a bit different because it is explicitly tied to the Gold Rush which is one of the units in the California State curriculum.
- Someone thinks that the French School does a three-day trip to Coloma every year.
- The children have been involved in the fund-raising which helps them feel ownership and responsibility for the trip. The kids are very excited about this.
- The idea is mentioned to fund the trip with the gold that they will find!!
- ***Paul motions that the PTA will fund half of the 4th grade gold rush field trip in the hopes to establish it as an on-going Jefferson tradition. This year that is expected to be \$4,000.***
- ***Seconded.***
- ***Motion passes.***

Mayfair planning

- There will be a kickoff at the Jenny household in the near future.

Principal's update (delivered by Beth Trevor)

- Maggie and the teachers give a big thank you to everyone involved in the painting parties, organization of the basement, shelving, etc.
- There is another painting party on Nov 17th. Hopefully this will also include other projects too.

- Thanks to the new toys, the sandbox has become an extremely popular place with the younger children! It has really helped change the atmosphere in the yard. Maggie wants to call it "Sand World". It would really be good to get more playground sand delivered. We should explore if the district has such sand. We will put a request on the etree for someone to volunteer to investigate this.

Treasurer's Report

- There is not much to report this time. We delivered the money for Physical Education. \$500 has already come in from escrip! The gift-wrap fundraiser netted \$5,000 which was right about what was hoped for. The trash receptacles were purchased. The direct fund-raising letter has brought in \$1,700 so far, which is ahead of last year's curve.

Shelving Project

- This was spurred by Betty last year. A few years ago a pipe burst and they lost a lot of supplies, so it would be better to get the supplies up off the floor. Adam has been trolling Craigslist looking for good deals. The Elmwood Hardware store is going out of business and gave us the shelves for free. They will be used to help organize the basement. Several of the shelving units have already been painted and there are more to go. Annie's (2nd grade) parents report that she had a blast working on the painting job!

T-shirt coordinator

- The PTA is looking for a new T-shirt coordinator. The job covers bringing the shirts to events, mobilizing people to sell them, and taking care of the inventory. It is quite a manageable and focused job.

Garden Update

- Annie, Sean, Randi and Eric met several weeks ago to figure out potential activities. As an outcome of that there are now Garden Socials on Fridays from 2:30-3:30. Everybody is welcome, and we focus on garden upkeep stuff. They are fun and allow any teachers who want to try to incorporate the garden into their academic curriculum to not have to worry about the upkeep. Molly Wampler (5th grade) wrote a nice article about this in the most recent Jefferson Independent.
- At the November 16th Garden Social we will plant some winter crops (weather permitting).

Comments, Ideas, Suggestions ...

- One of the parents mentions that many of the younger children are not managing to eat much food at all in the 20 minutes allocated to lunchtime. There is lots of head-nodding in the room at that. People say that lots of food is going in the trash or coming home. There is concern that this creates energy level problems for some of the kids for the rest of the day too. It is also pointed out that the lunch comes fairly quickly on the heels of snack. Katie noted that at John Muir they switched the play and the eating parts of recess with great success. Beth Trevor will convey this concern back to Maggie.
- There is a discussion about concerns around certain aspects of school climate. Beth Trevor will convey these concerns back to Maggie.
- A status update is requested on the bike racks. Eric will get that for next meeting.
- The new librarian visited and introduced herself. [Dilwara Fletcher@berkeley.k12.ca.us](mailto:Dilwara_Fletcher@berkeley.k12.ca.us). There is a district-wide library committee meeting at Berkeley Arts Magnet on November 29th at 7pm. All are welcome to attend.

Announcements, upcoming events, and other business

- Veterans' Day Holiday, 11/12
- African American parent group, 11/15
- Ice Cream Social, 11-13-11/16
- Book Fair, 11/16
- Project Color work day, 11/17

- School Governance Committee, 11/19
- Thanksgiving Holiday, 11/22-23
- BUSD Library Committee, 11/29
- December Jefferson Independent deadline, 12/7
- December PTA meeting, 12/13
- Kwaanza celebration, 12/14