

**Jefferson Elementary PTA Meeting  
January 10, 2008  
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:* Eric Wells
- *PTA website:* Kira Reoutt
- *Kwaanza event:* Marissa Saunders

**Treasurer's Update**

- Arnold Schwarzenegger has proposed a state budget that drops \$4.1 billion from K-12 spending statewide, or ~\$650 per student. **WRITE LETTERS TO YOUR REPRESENTATIVES INSISTING THAT EDUCATION BE FUNDED!**
- Paul gives an overview of budget status.
- The Giving Campaign has been tremendously successful so far. \$18,500 has been raised from one mailing versus \$9,000 at this time last year. **THANK YOU PARENTS!!!** This really helps fund the Physical Education program!
- Escrip was budgeted to bring in \$1,500 for the year and has already brought in \$1,140.
- We'll be slightly under on Operating Expenses. So more or less we have stabilized those expenses.
- As a reminder, this year Gold Rush, Reading Recovery, Physical Education, principal's fund, and playground equipment have all been added or upped.
- After-school scholarships are spending ahead of plan, so we'll probably have to revisit that expenditure before the school is out.
- Back to school BBQ and Halloween Night were over-spent on but a lot of that is people being better about turning in receipts than in prior years.
- All in all this year was expected to be an investment year of approximately \$33,000 and it looks to be down to approximately \$22,000.
- We are up to date with the PTA dues and with Federal Government tax filings.

**Family Art Night**

- Thanks to Megan for working so hard on this event!
- And to Chris Silvey for providing music this year.

**Mayfair Planning update**

- Mayfair planning meeting to be held at Paul's house. He is aiming to have that before the end of the month.

**Principal's Update**

- Principal Maggie Riddle needs PTA help to prepare Jefferson for emergencies. The staff is working on site level emergency preparedness and will attend a training on Monday, January 28th. Maggie sent home letters promoting the "It's in the Bag" program and will need help getting the bags organized and stored in the emergency container. A part of the emergency preparedness work that needs PTA assistance is getting first aid kits in every classroom in a backpack that will hang near the classroom door. She also asked for volunteers to refresh the water supply in the container. Maggie would like the PTA to form an emergency preparedness committee.

Here is what she needs volunteer help for:

- Organizing student "In the Bag" storage in the emergency container.
- Filling up water containers
- Making first aid kits to hang in classrooms

She needs PTA financial support in:

- Paying for CPR and first aid training for the staff
- Buying bottled water
- Buying first aid materials
- Black History Month  
Principal Maggie Riddle asked for financial support for our first Black History Block Party on February 22nd. This is an evening event with food, dancing, music, displays, activities for kids and more. We will also have a morning assembly with student performances.
- Yard Supervision  
Our school needs more staff for yard supervision. Maggie has a qualified candidate and requests approximately \$5,000 to fund the position for the rest of the school year. The hours for this position are 9:15-1:00.
- Kindergarten Tours.  
Maggie will lead Kindergarten tours this year rather than having the self guided tours of past years. Kindergarten night is January 29th. Maggie would like to ask a few parents and guardians of K and older students to come to the Kindergarten night at 7pm in the library.

#### **Fund-raising update**

- Other Berkeley schools do two letters and then a follow-up call. There has been some debate as to whether that is pressuring parents too much. Some people feel that the call puts people on the spot to explain why they can't give. Maggie suggests using the phone machine instead. She also has the idea of getting a gold Chinese pig in the office for donations. A parent mentions that we want to keep a healthy balance between directing our efforts at fund-raising and at increasing parent participation.

#### **Origami cranes at February PTA meeting**

- The idea of using the February meeting for a more lively activity is discussed – specifically folding origami cranes as part of the school's 1000 Cranes project. The idea is agreed to and some suggestions are made. We will try to incorporate any critical business items into the evening as well.

#### **Translation**

- There was a temporary issue that caused Veronica to not be able to translate at this meeting. Maggie says that Veronica will be able to translate at future meetings though.

A volunteer is needed to supply dinner for the next PTA meeting. Contact [ericwells@gmail.com](mailto:ericwells@gmail.com) (704-1894).

#### **Announcements, upcoming events, and other business**

- February PTA meeting, 2/7
- Lincoln and President Day Holidays, 2/15 and 2/18
- Black History Assembly (AM and PM), 2/22