

# Pine Ridge PTO General Meeting

## September 29, 2016

### Guest Speaker – Tamasha James

- I. PBIS – Positive Behavior Intervention Support
  - a. Our school is developing a set of expectations for the children’s behavior at school. We will teach the students these expectations.
  - b. In school, behavior should be taught to the students. Teachers and staff will teach them what to do, rather than what not to do.
  - c. This program:
    - a. Alters the environment
    - b. Teaches appropriate skills
    - c. Rewards appropriate behavior
  - d. At Pine Ridge, we show P R R – which stands for Pride, Respect, and Responsibility
    - a. We use hand signals to remind students of expected behavior, and also to compliment students without talking.
      1. Pride – show arm muscles
      2. Respect – touch finger to your heart
      3. Responsibility – touch finger to your temple
  - e. To truly change behavior, appropriate behavior must be:
    - a. Taught
    - b. Modeled
    - c. Practiced
    - d. Acknowledged
      1. We are still working on what we will offer as rewards for good behavior. A possible example is if a class shows their P R R, they might be granted an extra 5 minutes for recess.
  - f. The students in Mrs. Dood’s class have put together a “rap” that both tells what PBIS is all about at Pine Ridge, and demonstrates all of the hand motions. The kids did a great job!
  - g. PBIS can also be used in the home environment
    - a. Different homes have different expectations for their children’s behavior. Whatever you expect from your children’s behavior, you have to first set expectations and then follow through.
      1. Use positive wording
      2. Be a teacher – instruct children on appropriate behavior at a time away from an incident.
      3. Acknowledge appropriate behavior
      4. Decide on expectations

5. Have a family meeting to discuss expectations
6. Use positive reinforcement for appropriate behaviors
7. Use consequences for inappropriate behaviors

## **II. Principal's Report – Tamasha James**

- a. We currently have 502 students at Pine Ridge. We had approximately 35 Newcomers this school year.
- b. Troy Cummings will be here Monday to spend the day with students.
- c. August 29 was the first day the teachers spent with Mrs. James. The PTO sponsored a Pedal Pushers event. This was a team building activity in which the staff broke up into groups to build bikes for needy children. The finished bikes were donated to needy Pine Ridge students, which was a surprise for staff. The message of this exercise is that we (the staff) impact students every day *immediately*.
- d. Friday, October 7<sup>th</sup> will be a half day of school

## **III. Teacher's Report – Mrs. Cardoso**

- a. Thank you to the PTO for the staff gifts that the PTO gave to each Pine Ridge staff member to buy classroom supplies. This really helps the teachers to get their classrooms ready for the students
- b. Thank you for buying the clickers
- c. Thank you from Mrs. Zietz for purchasing the furniture for the library lounge.

## **IV. President's Report – Sarah Streit**

- a. Thank you to Trish McGovern for chairing the Head Room Parents this year. Thank you to Tara Evans for chairing Spirit Wear. Thank you to all of the committee chairpersons, co-chairs, and volunteers.
- b. Buddy Benches - The PTO is funding buddy benches for the playground. A child can sit on the bench if they have no one to play with and the other children will see them and ask them to play. Mrs. VanSkiver will instruct the students when the benches arrive.
- c. The school directory will be out to the parents in early to mid-October

## **V. Vice President's Report – Kylie Rowland**

- a. The PTO website is going well. We have new people going to the site all of the time.
- b. Sign-up genius – rather than putting all of the sign ups for the entire year at the same time, we are going to send out a SUG closer to the time of each event. We will send out the link to each new SUG by list serve, Remind, and Facebook to make sure we reach as many families as possible.

- c. Chair positions
  - a. Auction Chairperson – Anne Gorman. We are still looking for an Auction co-chair.
  - b. Babysitting Chairperson – we are still in need of a person to coordinate babysitting for the PTO meetings and for the celebrations.
  - c. Cultural Arts – we are still looking for a person to work with Lynn Smith with the intention to take over the committee next year.
- d. Cultural Arts Update acclaimed author of Natural Born Chinese
  - a. The 4<sup>th</sup> graders saw nationally acclaimed author of Natural Born Chinese
  - b. Troy Cummings, author of Notebook of Doom, is coming to Pine Ridge
  - c. Tom Woodruff, artist, is coming to Pine Ridge January 25-26
  - d. The Cultural Arts committee sent out a teacher interest survey to see if they would like to see Paul Adams – Mr. Molecule Show – the week before Christmas break.

#### **VI. Treasurer's Report – Karen Witham and Michelle Ptak**

- a. Grand Rapids Gymnastics event will be December 28 from 1-3. You can drop off children 5 and up. There is no need to sign up in advance.
- b. Expenditures:
  - a. Troy Cummings books for the media center
  - b. Magazines
  - c. We have spent \$3000 on the furniture for the media center
  - d. Pedal Pushers - \$3000
  - e. \$250 for the cups we purchased for the Newcomers

#### **VII. Ranger Rally**

- a. We received \$206 from the Vitale's fundraiser last week
- b. We have enough granola bars
- c. Most classrooms have enough walkers. A couple more volunteers are still needed.
- d. Each grade will have a different color T-shirt. These shirts can be used for Field Day too.

#### **VIII. Head Room Parents – Trish McGovern**

- a. We have had lots of volunteers for HRP
- b. About 60% are co-chairs
- c. We will incorporate some more traditional type of party fun this year
  - a. Halloween – same as always
  - b. Winter – Service project
    - 1. We are going to encourage each grade level to choose one charity, but the decision will be up to the head room parents.

- c. Valentine's Day – Community service project
- d. End of the Year – organized by the teachers

**IX. Original Works – Missy Bonner**

- a. Students create a piece of art which can then be put on projects to be used for gifts. Lots of items are available this year. The students are working on the projects right now. We will be ordering online this year.

**X. PAC – Parent Advisory Council – Darcy Afman**

- a. Sarah and Darcy represent Pine Ridge
- b. Forest Hills Foundation wants every PTO to present information about their Gala, which will be on November 16<sup>th</sup> at Frederick Meijer Gardens. This is their main fundraiser and really helps to provide funds for the foundations.
  - a. The Foundation now has a Support Our Schools Initiative. This means that when Pine Ridge Parents donate to the foundation, they can choose to provide things needed for Pine Ridge. Right now, our school has a request for funds to provide K-2 reading libraries.
- c. Transportation – the beginning of the year is going very well. They are installing a GPS system for all busses this year. For the 2017/2018 school year there will be an app available for the parents so they can track the busses.
- d. Budget/Financial Challenges are ongoing. Student count day is 10/5. Forest Hills receives \$8229 per pupil. It is very important to get your child to school that day. We only received a \$60 increase per student over last year's amount.
- e. School Calendar – The district has added in a few half days to help make up for the 5 additional days required by the State of Michigan. Thursday before Spring Break is now a half day. Originally, the calendar showed this as a day off. It has been added in as a half day so we would not have to go to school the week of June 12<sup>th</sup>.
- f. FHC/Ottawa Hills game – there was no mal-intent by the students. Teachers are using it as a discussion topic in the classroom.

**XI. Box Tops and other fundraisers**

- a. First collection deadline for Boxtops – October 26
- b. Box Tops Across America – Please encourage students to ask out of state friends and relatives to donate box tops. Ask them to put their return address on the envelope. We are going to put all of the envelopes on the flag in the case by the gym. The goal is to get boxtops from all 50 states. The 2 classrooms that get the most out of state envelopes will get an ice cream party.
- c. Aunt Millies – worth 5 cents each
- d. Tyson A+ - worth 25 cents each

- e. Campbells – they are phasing out Labels for Education, but they still can be turned in through August, 2017
- f. Please donate Pop Tabs. These go to support Ronald McDonald House.

**XII. Recording Secretary – Janet DeLapp**

- a. The minutes from the May, 2016 meeting were approved as written.

**XIII. Global Learners Initiative** – Each year the district has GLI and asks for groups that represent the schools to discuss issues and problems, and find solutions. We are looking for a parent or two to go through the GLI training. This training helps us keep our eyes open to our whole school community. It teaches how to look at things through a whole new lens. It works on inclusion and making all feel comfortable. There are 6 GLI meetings throughout the school year.