

**LYNDALE COMMUNITY SCHOOL**  
**PTO Meeting Minutes**  
**March 8, 2016**

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

The PTO is seeking volunteers for a number of roles currently filled by parents of 5<sup>th</sup> graders who will not be attending Lyndale next year. These include:

**Community Fundraising Programs:**

**Box Tops for Education** – This program generates roughly \$1000 annually. Activities include promoting the program, collecting and counting box tops, and sending them in. This position has been filled!

**School Mall** – This program raised approximately \$400 for Lyndale and about \$600 in supplies for teachers last year. School Mall sends a booklet home with postcards that kids are asked to address to family and friends. The company then solicits those households to purchase items. Students receive prizes for the number of cards they get filled out and Lyndale receives \$2.25 for every 10 cards that are turned in. Some parents have expressed frustration with this program.

For more information about what this entails, please contact Adrienne Bisping at [adiemadeit@yahoo.com](mailto:adiemadeit@yahoo.com). Thank you for running these and the Labels for Education programs Adrienne!

**Scholastic Book Fair:**

The book fair has been spear-headed by three Lyndale parents of 5<sup>th</sup> graders. Scholastic Books facilitates this program which it designed with parent volunteers in mind (very volunteer-friendly). Volunteers coordinate the dates of the fair (fall fair is the week before the School Carnival; spring fair is the week before International Night). When items are delivered the space takes approximately 1 hour to set up. The first day is open to students previewing the sale with their teachers. The rest of the week the fair is open for sales from 8:15 – 9:00 AM, and the night of the event. Participation in the Scholastic Book Fair results in approximately \$2000 in credit for the library to use purchasing Scholastic Books.

If you are interested in running future fairs or helping with this one, please email Becky Dankowski at [dankowski.healey@msn.com](mailto:dankowski.healey@msn.com). Thank you Becky and other parents for making this happen!

**Summer Play Dates**

Lyndale arranges play dates for incoming kindergarten families in May, June and July. Having a set time to meet at the playground helps kids and families get to know one another prior to the academic year. August play dates are open to all students. Managing this program involves setting dates and working with the communications committee to promote them. This position has been filled! (But if you are interested in helping, let us know! [LyndalePTO@gmail.com](mailto:LyndalePTO@gmail.com) )

**Read-a-thon**

Parent Sara Weingartner would like help running a Read-A-Thon next year. This week long event raises money for the school while encouraging kids to read. Students find family or friends to sponsor them by pledging money to support their reading. T-shirts, class or grade competitions, and visual representations of accomplishment (maybe add a feather to an eagle for each book completed, etc.) can help motivate kids. While raising funds is nice, the primary goal of this program is to encourage reading. If you can help or have ideas to offer, please contact Sara Weingartner at [sara@creativesoul.com](mailto:sara@creativesoul.com).

**Fall Carnival Co-Chair**

Because the fall carnival is so early in the school year it is a big project for one person to manage. Thus, the PTO is seeking a Carnival Co-Chair to help Katie Diaz next fall. Contact:

[LyndalePTO@gmail.com](mailto:LyndalePTO@gmail.com).

## **PTO Positions**

**President Elect** – The PTO presidency is a 2-year position allowing for the president elect to be trained in by an acting president. As Bridget Gernander completes the first year of her term, the PTO is looking for someone who would like to be president during the 2017/18 and 2018/19 academic years. For more information contact Ms. Gernander at [bridget\\_cathleen@yahoo.com](mailto:bridget_cathleen@yahoo.com).

The following committees are always ready to welcome new volunteers! Contact [LyndalePTO@gmail.com](mailto:LyndalePTO@gmail.com) for information:

### **Landscaping Committee**

Plans clean-up days, helps the school facilitate new plantings, and other landscape-related activities.

### **Communications Committee**

Creates promotional material for prospective families, manages website and social media content, produces school directory, connects teachers with volunteers to update class web pages, creates videos and other material.

### **Fundraising Committee**

Fundraising has, for the most part, been at the encouragement or direction of the PTO president. However, having a committee dedicated to this activity would help solidify our objective and implement plans for achieving goals.

## **ONE-DAY COMMITMENT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

### **5<sup>th</sup> Grade Recognition**

Seeking 4th grade families to help with the 5<sup>th</sup> grade recognition event on Monday, June 6. Volunteers needed from 12:30 – 3:00. If available contact Christine Daves [christinesddaves@gmail.com](mailto:christinesddaves@gmail.com).

### **Teacher Appreciation Day**

Looking for help planning and facilitating Teacher Appreciation Day which is Friday, May 3. The PTO provides breakfast and lunch to faculty and staff and draws names for gift cards. Volunteers are needed to solicit donations, order food, and help on the day of. Contact [LyndalePTO@gmail.com](mailto:LyndalePTO@gmail.com) to help out!

This instigated a discussion about ways to attract volunteers. Attendees felt that many people are happy to volunteer, but don't always know when there is a need and how to sign-up. Phone calls seem more effective than paper communication (notes sent home with students). It was also suggested that the PTO looks into electronic sign-up.

## **LYNDALE VIDEO**

The Communications Committee will be working on a video to update the one created in 2009. (See existing video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QaHKqlzdAwg>). A professional videographer, who is also a Lyndale parent, has volunteered to work on it. If you have suggestions for what should be included please send them to [LyndalePTO@gmail.com](mailto:LyndalePTO@gmail.com).

## **LABELS FOR EDUCATION**

Campbell's Soup is discontinuing the Labels for Education program but there is still time to get labels in for this year! These and Box Tops for Education can be put in the containers near the lost and found.

## **UPDATE FROM ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL STAUDUHAR**

Minneapolis Public Schools have approved budgets for the 2016/2017 academic year. Lyndale will have the same number of classrooms and a slight increase in specialist teaching hours. There are three

teaching vacancies for 2016/2017 (two in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, one in 4<sup>th</sup> grade), and a literary specialist position available. The literary specialist will be providing support to teachers to help kids who are not at level.

Unfortunately, Arabic will no longer be offered at Lyndale. While this decision does help balance the budget, it is largely instigated by the phase-out of Arabic underway at Ramsey Middle School and Washburn High School. Ramsey offered it online but only 5 kids took the course. With similar lackluster interest at Washburn, the program is not sustainable at this time.

A new program, Lyndale Eagle of the Month, recognizes leaders in classroom each month. Classes nominate the students they feel best represent Lyndale's monthly theme (see school handbook). March's focus is honesty. Selected students are profiled at the top of the stairs near the art room. Stop by and see it!

Pleasant Pathways will start as soon as weather permits.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **International Night**

Thursday, March 24, 5:30 PM

Volunteers needed! If available please contact LyndalePTO@gmail.com

### **Somali Tea**

Saturday, April 16, 3:00 – 5:00 PM

Light snacks will be served including samosas, crepes and bur. The suggested donation for attending is \$10 a person or \$20 a family. Proceeds will benefit the Lyndale Foundation.

### **Minnesota Twins vrs Detroit Tigers**

Friday, April 29, 7:10 PM

Lyndale, Ramsey and Washburn families are invited to a Twins game! A flyer will be sent home in late March with more information.

**NEXT MEETING:** Wednesday, April 13, 6:00 PM – 7:15 PM. All are welcome!

Minutes prepared by Christine Daves, PTO Secretary and mom to Elliot (4<sup>th</sup> grade).