

Prepared by Christine Daves, PTO Secretary and mom to Elliot (2nd grade)

**Lyndale Community School**  
**PTO Meeting Minutes**  
Monday, February 11, 2014

**PTO/SCHOOL EVENTS**

Lyndale hosts four all-school events annually:

- \* Fall Carnival
- \* Turkey Bingo
- \* Math/Science Night
- \* International Night

In years past the PTO has provided one 'chair' position for each event. Currently, the PTO runs the carnival while the teachers run the other events. Principal James said that the teachers appreciate collaboration with parents. Because school faculty already have the programs running well, parent involvement would focus more on assisting the school than providing direction. If you are interested in helping in any of these events please contact PTO president Carrie Swanson.

**INTERNATIONAL NIGHT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

International Night, coming up on March 27th, is being run by Ms. Jacobs-Andresen and Natasha Villanueva.

In the past parent volunteers have helped find and arrange vendors and pick items up the day of the event. Volunteers are also needed to run the Scholastic Book Fair on International Night and that week. Principal James is following up with a person at Scholastic to inquire about having including Somali books available.

**CLOTHING DRIVE**

This year there will be a collection of new or gently used youth clothing items during International Night. These would be stocked for when kids need extra clothes at school. They are especially in need of non-gender specific pants. Sweat pants, and other clothes that can fit a range of sizes are very appreciated. Anything highly unique or identifiable will be donated to avoid kids seeing other kids in their old clothes. The PTO will purchase bins for storing these at the school and Christine Daves offered to organize the donations.

**LYNDALE BANNERS**

Sara Weingartner has offered to design a banner for use at public events. The cost to print the banners is \$30 -

\$35. Discussion ensued about what should be on the banner with the general consensus being that the banner should be generic enough to be used for a variety of functions. Getting two banners was discussed - one that would read "Lyndale Community School" and another reading "Lyndale Community School. Parent Teacher Organization." A suggestion to have the word 'Welcome' written in Spanish and Somali was warmly received. If

you have ideas or would like to participate in creation of these banners please contact Sara Weingartner at [sara@creativesoul.com](mailto:sara@creativesoul.com)

**LYNDALE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION OPEN HOUSE**

Vice President Essa Hassan attended a meeting with the Lyndale Community Association who will be hosting an open house at Lyndale Community School on April 11. The PTO is interested

in having a table at the event to promote the school and invite more family participation in the PTO. The table would have a game to attract interactions with the public. "Are you smarter than a 5th grader" was suggested.

## **SOCIAL COMMITTEE**

The goal of the Social Committee is to Compliment Lyndale school vision and programs by providing opportunity for regular fun social gatherings for Lyndale parents and students to connect in our community. The committee

would like to have one event every other month, but realize that may be difficult to pull off right away. Ideally Lyndale parents would offer their talents for workshops or to host an event.

For example, if you are a master scrap-booker then you might do an end of year 'Scrap Book Your Child's School Year' workshops. Attendees would pay a suggested donation and need to sign-up ahead of time. Other events would be less structured -

perhaps just arranging a time and park to meet at. Other ideas presented:

- \* Tour at the Somali Museum
- \* Ethnic food potluck/cooking lesson
- \* Earth-Day community sponsored clean-up (Youth Farm connection?)
- \* Ice skating and hot chocolate
- \* Host picnic/kickball games at local park
- \* Lessons on making friendship bracelets
- \* Teacher appreciation -
- \* Host teachers to an evening to an evening of appreciation and recognition
- \* Music and eating at Mid-town global market
- \* Parent teacher happy-hour/parent's happy hour
- \* Guitar sing along
- \* Yoga before school
- \* What are you talented at? Bring and play with it with other families!

While events would have a 'suggested donation', no families would be turned away for not paying. Childcare would not be offered at events but interpretation/translation would be. All events will need to be well promoted to all Lyndale families.

Discussion followed suggesting the following:

- \* Look at the Lyndale Neighborhood Association's Great Gatherings events as a potential model or an opportunity to for collaboration.
- \* Would be good if these events could raise money in addition to building community.
- \* What about a family sock-hop? Dance parties used to an incentive for contributing box tops and they were very well received.
- \* A number of people have been to dance events hosted by 'Robin'. She teaches international dances to groups, is affordable, and good at getting everyone involved. It was mentioned that Somali women might not be interested in dancing with a large group.

Assistant Principal Arredondo is enthusiastic about the plan. He did mention that it is ambitious and that we don't want to offer so many events that families need to choose what not to attend. It was suggested that some of these events might be coordinated with existing events.

There is an opportunity to host a group event on March 7 at the Midtown Global Market. Having

a table for people to check-in at would cost \$200. There is a family music performance and attendees could purchase food at any of the vendors. There were concerns that this may be too soon to pull off successfully which led to a discussion of an Earth Day event. This might be something that could be tacked on to an existing community event.

Carrie Swanson reiterated the importance of doing a teacher appreciation event or program.

### **YOUTH FARM**

Principal James talked to Phil at a recent event and suggested that the PTO consider funding Youth Farm because the organization already collaborates with the school (by having a garden on school property) and it serves many Lyndale students during the summer. There is also interest on behalf of teachers to integrate gardening into the curriculum because there are so many ripe opportunities for learning. (Ripe - get it?)

Phil from Youth Farm will be giving out real food samples on February 20th and parents are invited to volunteer.

It was suggested that Youth Farm could do a Lyndale community workshop.

### **PTO FUNDING REQUESTS**

The Media Center is looking for a simple system to keep books closer to the outside of shelves. Carrie Swanson suggested that Brian Daves be tapped for some carpentry skills. Essa Hassan would be interested in helping.

The kindergarten classes have requested a subscription to scholastic news that would provide a science and social studies magazine to each student every week with topics that could be integrated into teaching. The class would also benefit from some headphones that allow kids to hear themselves reading.

**Next PTO Meeting: 2nd Tuesday in March, 6:00 PM**