

**Lyndale Community School
PTO Meeting Minutes
September 9, 2014**

WELCOME

PTO President Carrie Swanson welcomed new and returning families.

PTO OVERVIEW

The PTO at Lyndale Community School was created to cultivate open communication and understanding between parents, guardians and staff. In addition, the PTO promotes, sponsors and organizes fundraising and school events to strengthen the Lyndale community and enrich educational, social and developmental experiences for each student.

PTO meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month from 6 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. All Lyndale families are invited to participate. Free childcare and Spanish and Somali translation is provided.

The PTO promotes upcoming meetings and events via a digital newsletter which is emailed about once a month. If you would like to get on the recipient list send a request to: LyndalePTO@gmail.com

2014 - 2015 FAMILY NIGHT DATES

Lyndale Carnival - Thursday, October 9 (5:30 - 7:30)

Turkey Games - Thursday, November 20

Math/Science Night - Thursday, February 12

International Night - Thursday, March 26th

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteer opportunities at Lyndale include: family events, field day, school tours (in spring 2015), School Choice Open House, 5th grade graduation, in classrooms, the lunch

room, media, art...etc. Specific opportunities will be listed in the PTO Newsletter and the Lyndale News. For specific information contact Lyndale's volunteer coordinator - Patricia Casey at Patricia.Casey@mpls.k12.mn.us. Parents and guardians are also encouraged to ask their students' teachers for opportunities either in or out of the classroom.

The PTO Communications Committee is seeking volunteers. If interested please contact: Bridget Gernander bridget_cathleen@yahoo.com. The upcoming school carnival is also in need of volunteers. Please contact Katie Diaz at mplsdiuz@hotmail.com

Volunteers are needed to walk students to and from the classroom on vision screening days, September 17 and 18.

UPDATE FROM MS. JAMES and MR. ARREDONDO

- All Lyndale families should have received the MPS Application for Educational Benefits/Free or Reduced Price Meals form in the mail. The school receives Title 1 funds based on how many of these forms are returned, regardless of how many are interested in or eligible for the programs. PLEASE COMPLETE AND SUBMIT THIS FORM. Title 1 funds support many programs at Lyndale. You may simply write 'not interested' instead of filling in personal information. There are extra forms in the office.
- The Lyndale Student/Family handbook has been updated and will be sent home with students shortly.
- Lyndale has the opportunity to host an after-school violin class, El Sistema, for 24 1st graders. Taught by musicians with the Minnesota Orchestra, students will learn how violins are made and be provided one to learn with. The cost of the program is \$8000 but will be offered free to students. It would be offered to 1st graders only this academic year, the selection process has not yet been

determined; 4 days per week; 3:10-4:45P (Monday-Thursday).

- As of September 11 Lyndale is slightly below capacity in every grade. Classroom enrollment is at or below district average in every grade.

	Enrollment	Capacity		Enrollment	Capacity
High Five	26		3rd Grade	88	104
Kindergarten	87	104	4th Grade	90	96
1st Grade	95	104	5th Grade	84	96
2nd Grade	101	104			

- RT Rybak, the previous mayor of Minneapolis and the current Executive Director of Generation Next, has asked if Lyndale would consider being a pilot school for the program. He spoke to the leadership team and Lyndale teachers who were both enthusiastic and supportive. For more information about Generation Next see: <http://www.gennextmsp.org/>
- The Pleasant Pathways program will be starting at the end of September and running until the weather gets too cold. This has the school buses drop kids off four blocks from school (on 38th and Pleasant) where they are met by teachers and staff that walk the rest of the way with them.

WEIGHTED STUDENT FUNDING (WSF)

Minneapolis Public Schools is considering a change in how funding is distributed to schools. Weighted Student Funding (WSF) is a way of "...differentiating funding to schools based on specific student needs and aligning funding with strategic priorities." If the district changes to this format Lyndale's funding could be increased. Parents from other schools have been very vocal in their opposition. If families are supportive of this new program they should make their voices heard. The best place to do this is the Area C Parent Advisory Council Meetings. The next one will be held

September 17, 2014, Field Community School 4645 4th Ave. South, 6-8pm.

For more information about the meeting see:
http://osfce.mpls.k12.mn.us/area_c_pac

For more information about Weighted Student Funding see:
http://www.mpls.k12.mn.us/fy15_introduction

PLAYGROUND UPDATES

Lyndale will be installing 4 picnic tables on the playground near the purple benches. Each table seats 8 kids which allows for an outside learning space. This led to a discussion about adding some trees for shade. PTO President Carrie Swanson had reached out to the Park Board about trees, but because the land belongs to the school, it is out of their jurisdiction. (They only manage the wading pool.) The Tree Trust program was suggested as an option to look into and one attendee has a relative in the tree industry and will look for possible resources there.

On a less happy note, a Lyndale student found an item of drug paraphernalia on the playground. While the school monitors the playground very closely during the day, there is little that can be done to watch it overnight. Suggestions responding to this included asking the Lyndale Community Walk Patrol to add the playground to their route, asking the police for more frequent drive-bys, and asking neighbors to call police when they see anything suspicious.

BIKES UNDER THE STAIRS

A parent asked why there are bikes under one of the stairwells. A few years ago the school purchased 12 bikes for an afterschool bike-riding program that taught kids bike maintenance and safety. Unfortunately the staff who ran it are no longer able to. If YOU would be interested, please contact Ms. James.

BI-LAWS

The Lyndale PTO has always been an active organization that was managed casually. Over the summer, a few parents looked into what other schools use as bi-laws that would establish committee and volunteer guidelines. We are starting with a copy of the bi-laws used by the PTO at Windom and will alter it to be a good fit for Lyndale. Any and all feedback welcome!

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, October 14, 6:00 p.m.

Prepared by Christine Daves, PTO Secretary and mom to Elliot (3rd grade).