

LYNDALE COMMUNITY SCHOOL
PTO Meeting Minutes
September 8, 2015

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

PTO President Bridget Gernander welcomed everyone to the first PTO Meeting of the 2015 – 2016 year and announced that Megan Elliason has volunteered for the PTO Treasurer position.

GEMS & GISE PROGRAM

Visitor Anne Lewerenz introduced GEMS and GISE, an after-school program that will be offered this fall. Girls in Engineering, Mathematics, and Science (GEMS) and Guys in Science and Engineering (GISE) are designed specifically for K-8th grade students in the Minneapolis Public School District. The goal is to have measurable and significant gains in mathematics and science performance. The program will be available at no cost to 4th and 5th graders. This is a similar but separate program from Lego Robotics which will continue to be an after school option.

Assistant Principal Mark Stauduhar introduced an additional partnership with the University of Minnesota, the District STEM Department and the Science Museum of Minnesota, that also integrates STEM academics. Professionals from these organizations will partner with teachers to allow students to explore STEM topics in the classroom. At the upcoming Carnival they will have a room where kids can sample and respond to carnival games. Each grade will then select one game that they will improve with feedback from Science Museum Professionals. On Math and Science Night, in the spring, each grade will present their project.

OVERVIEW OF BUDGET EXPENDITURES

To frame a discussion of the budget, PTO President Bridget Gernander reviewed what the PTO has funded in the past including:

- Teacher recognition events
- Teacher reimbursement for classroom supplies
- Special classroom or grade requests (ex. new seat sakes for the kindergarten classrooms)
- Welcome/Back-to-School Coffee
- 5th Grade Recognition Event (refreshments)
- Communication tools (directory software, Constant Contact, directory printing)
- School Carnival

Separate from the PTO, the Lyndale Foundation is a non-profit organization that accepts larger donations and to fund the purchase of new instruments and music sheets, or other larger projects. These funds can be used at the discretion of school administration to fund projects that expand academic offerings or improve facilities. This year the East Harriet Neighborhood Association is donating \$12,000 to replace the piano in the Multi-Purpose Room. Thanks East Harriet!

2015/2016 FUNDRAISING GOAL: \$10,000

The PTO raises money in a variety of ways including:

- **Chinook Book Sales.** (Usually raises \$300 - \$700.)
Chinook Book helps you save money at local businesses that do good things for the environment and the community. Chinook Books can be purchased at the school office for \$22 through the end of September. Lyndale receives \$11 for each sale. There is also a digital version available for \$15. Ask John in the office for details.
- **Carnival.** The carnival goal is to build community, but it has generated up to \$800 in the past.
- **The Giving Tree.** The Giving Tree request for donations is made at the Muffins for Moms event. These funds support the Lyndale Foundation, not the PTO budget. That said, all contributions, to both the foundation and PTO will be counted towards our goal of raising \$10,000 this year.
- **Community Events & Other Activities.**
 - Families and community members are always welcome to raise money for the school! Last year Lyndale Parent Ryan Pitman, hosted a social at their brewery, East Lake Craft Brewery, and had a bucket available contributions. A fun night for everyone who attended that generated about \$500 in donations!

- On September 26, Megan and Josh Eliason, along with co-hosts Laura Flynn and Mike Rollin, are having a Tiki Party for Lyndale families. A suggested donation will be posted for attendees.
- On behalf of Lyndale, Bridget Gernander applied to be one of the selected charities funded by the Lowbrow's Dine Out and Give Back Mondays.
- **Give to the Max Day.** Last year Lyndale generated over \$1000 from Give to the Max Day. This year it is November 12.
- **Box Tops for Education.** (Usually raises \$300 - \$700 annually.) Box Tops can be contributed any time. There are collection containers near the lost and found.
- **Target Red Card.** Target Red Card shoppers identifying Lyndale as the school they support contribute to an annual donation of about \$1000.

All efforts are designed to be opt-in and presented with a soft-sell approach.

MURAL PROJECT

Thanks to dedication and hard work by Lyndale parent Laura Flynn, Lyndale is thrilled to announce that we are the recipient of a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board. The grant will fund the planning and creation of murals by local artist Greta McLain. Through a series of public events, Ms. McLain will brainstorm with school and community members to identify what makes the Lyndale community great. Using these ideas as a foundation, McLain will design a large mural for the exterior wall facing the playground, and two smaller murals that will face Grand Avenue. Lyndale students will paint the mural (on panels that are then adhered to the wall). Learn more about Greta McLain at <http://www.gretamclain.com/>

The first event to collect ideas from will happen at Nicollet Open Streets. McLain and Lyndale volunteers will host a booth asking visitors to draw or write their thoughts about Lyndale. **Volunteers needed! Especially Spanish and Somali speakers!** See details below in 'VOLUNTEER' section. The second idea collection event will be at the Lyndale Carnival on October 8. ***Do you have a truck? Looking for someone who can drive the booth tent and a few tables and chairs to 35th and Nicollet (and back again) on Sunday, September 20th.***

CARNIVAL THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8

The annual Lyndale School Carnival is coming up on October 8, from 5:30 – 7:30 PM. One of Lyndale's most lively events, the school carnival invites all families to participate in carnival games, dinner, inflatables, raffles and flu shots (optional of course). Last year the Dunk Tank was a great hit! While the prize goldfish were a great hit with the kids, they will not be offered this year. (But I am proud to say that one of my son's prizes is still swimming!)

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! Especially for clean-up afterwards. Please contact Carnival Coordinator Katie Diaz at mpdsdiaz@hotmail.com

RAFFLE DONATIONS NEEDED! If you can contribute an item or gift card to the raffle please contact Christine Daves at christine@think-organized.com. Previous year items have included a selection of board games or art supplies, MCAD summer youth camp scholarship, hair cuts, Treats from Sun Street, T-shirt and drink tokens to East Lake Craft Brewery and tons of other fun things!

VOLUNTEER NEEDS

- Kindergarten teacher Mrs. Olson would like volunteers to help in her classroom. Contact: marie.olson@mpls.k12.mn.us
- First grade teacher Mrs. Larson is looking for classroom volunteers to listen to her students read. Contact: karen.larson@mpls.k12.mn.us
- **Help in the Media Center:** Media teacher Kim Becker would like help with shelving books in the library. Contact: kim.becker@mpls.k12.mn.us
- **Classroom Webpages:** Can you update the classroom webpage for your child's teacher? It's easy, doesn't take too long, and can be done from home. We will train you. Contact Carrie Seib at carrieseib@gmail.com
- **Don't Forget:** You can always check in with your classroom teacher, specialist, or school staff to see if they need help!
- **Help Lyndale School launch our mural project at Nicollet Open Streets** on Sunday, September 20th. Muralist Greta McLain will be at our booth to lead kids and adults in drawing,

painting and writing about their dreams for their school and community. Ideas and images gathered at Open Streets will feed into the design of the mural we will all paint together and then install on the wall of our playground next spring. Volunteers are needed to help set up and staff the booth from 10am - 5:30pm on Sunday the 20th. If you are able to be at the booth, please email Laura Flynn at LauraMFlynn@gmail.com

- **The PTO is seeking a Fundraising Sub-Committee chair. The group has 4 volunteers, but is seeking a person to head it. If interested contact LyndalePTO@gmail.com**

REPORT FROM PRINCIPAL JAMES

Principal James reported that current enrollment is 590 students, which is a great fit for us!

The opening of the new kitchen has been slightly delayed due to training new staff for serving hot meals, delays in equipment shipping, installation delays, and other unavoidable obstacles. However, the salad bar will be open by the end of the week and hot meals will be available next week. (My son reports that the changes to the Cafeteria/Multi-purpose Room are AWESOME.)

Principal James reminded all families to talk to their students' teachers about any questions or concerns. The start to the year has been wonderful with happy students, parents, teachers and staff!

OTHER

Sara Weingartner, who has designed the Lyndale banners used at special events and the welcome sign hanging near the office, shared new designs for Lyndale Spirit Wear. Attendees were able to put a checkmark near the options they most preferred.

David Weingartner mentioned the need for some landscape maintenance and clean-up. This discussion resulted in the forming a Grounds & Landscape Subcommittee. David has some ideas about integrating gardening into classroom projects and having a volunteer day for weeding. In previous years Lyndale has used the free mulch provided by the Minneapolis Parks, however, that program is being phased out. If you have any connection to mulch – please let us know! Contact LyndalePTO@gmail.com.

CALENDAR

- September 18 Pleasant Pathways begins. (Regular education buses drop students at 38th and Pleasant where they are met by Lyndale staff. Children continue down Pleasant Avenue accompanied by staff and supported by parent volunteers and the school patrol.) For more information see: http://lyndale.mpls.k12.mn.us/the_pleasant_pathway_2
- September 20 Open Streets on Nicollet. Find the Lyndale Booth near 35th and Nicollet!
- September 21 5th Grade Curriculum Night, 6:00 – 7:30 pm
- September 22 3rd & 4th Grade Curriculum Night, 6:00 – 7:30 pm
- September 23 1st & 2nd Grade Curriculum Night, 6:00 – 7:30 pm
- September 25 Stay and Chat (Join fellow parents for coffee and casual conversation on the last Friday of the month for the Lyndale Stay & Chats.) 8:25 – 9:00 am
- September 26 Tiki Party at the home of Megan and Josh Eliason. Watch for details.
- October 8 Carnival!!!!

CONTACTS:

LyndalePTO@gmail.com
President: Bridget Gernander, bridget_cathleen@yahoo.com
Treasurer: Megan Eliason, melliasen@yahoo.com
Secretary: Christine Daves, christine@think-organized.com

PTO SUB-COMMITTEES:

Communications Chair or Contact: Carrie Seib at carrieseib@gmail.com
Fundraising Chair or Contact: Katie Diaz, mplsdiav@hotmail.com
Grounds & Landscape Chair or Contact: David Weingartner, davidweingartner@hotmail.com

NEXT MEETING

Everyone welcome and invited! Tuesday, October 13. 6:00 – 7:30 PM. Free childcare provided.

STAY IN THE LOOP

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/LyndaleCommunitySchool>

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