

VILLAGE PINES SCHOOL

PTO – GENERAL MEETING

Meeting Date: September 21, 2011
Meeting Time: 7:30 PM – 8:45 PM
Attending Members: Kazu Abe – President - kazu73@bellsouth.net
Meredith Perreira – Vice President - meredith.perreira@gmail.com
Maria Cristina Arrazola – Treasurer - mariaarrazola@aol.com
Susana Cetta – Communications Coordinator - scetta@palmertrinity.org
Linda Ketchum – Teacher Liaison - ketchum6@aol.com
Luisa Shah – Secretary - luisashah@gmail.com

Meeting started at 7:30 PM:

1. Meeting Time for General PTO Meetings
 - a. 7 PM the 2nd Wednesday of every month
 - b. Except for December when there will not be a meeting
2. Room Parents
 - a. To determine with teachers about classroom Halloween decorations
 - b. To be present at all PTO General meetings, if possible
3. Goals
 - a. Focus on fundraising
 - i. Goal 20k for the year
 - ii. Last year 14.8 k was raised and went towards Smart Boards
 1. Fundraising events
 - a. Pizza Day
 - i. It is on a monthly basis and every Friday of the month (or last day of the week if no school on Friday)
 - ii. The PTO cannot accommodate special requests, once purchased, the fee is for the entire month
 - iii. Pizza money is due on DUE date – no exceptions
 - iv. Participation increased when availability was switched to weekly
 - v. We thank the parents that have come to help and would love to see more parents stop by
 1. Fridays from 11:15 to 12:30 PM
 - b. Entertainment Books
 - i. Great profit per unit – Price \$30 and we keep \$15
 - ii. Easy to sell because coupon savings pay for the book
 - iii. There is something for everyone
 - iv. You can go online and sell to family and friends outside of the area and still get credit for it
 - v. Sales are being tracked in the classrooms

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- vi. Students are excited and want to win the class prize
 - 1. Tickets to see a theater show
- c. Halloween
 - i. Monster Mash
 - 1. Dance
 - 2. DJ to direct kids on the dance floor
 - a. We need to hire an affordable MC/DJ for this bash (must be kid-friendly) – does anyone have any suggestions?
 - 3. Food and refreshments
 - 4. Goody-bags for children
 - ii. Trunk or Treat is not being considered this year due to the rain we have had in the past and damages and expenses incurred by those decorating their cars
 - 1. If you highly object and would like Trunk or Treat to happen please send an email with Subject: “Trunk or Treat” to Luisashah@gmail.com
- d. Box Tops
 - i. Please **cut** and send in with student in a bag or paste it on one of these sheets
 - 1. <http://www.boxtops4education.com/Image.aspx?Id=44>
 - 2. <http://www.boxtops4education.com/Image.aspx?Id=64>
 - 3. <http://www.boxtops4education.com/Image.aspx?Id=6115>
 - 4. <http://www.boxtops4education.com/Image.aspx?Id=6292>
 - ii. Alyse Lancaster in charge of submission
 - 1. She will try to complete a summary for parents so they know what Box Tops are and why they are so useful to VPS
 - 2. A \$5 gift card will be awarded to the student that brings the most Box Tops this year

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- e. Winter Raffle
 - i. We are focusing on fewer but bigger ticket items
 - ii. We are looking for donations of big ticket items that can sell raffle tickets easily
 - iii. If anyone knows or works for a certain organization that can donate, please send us an email and we can contact them and request their help, example:
 - 1. Cruises
 - 2. Tickets to events
 - iv. Mrs. Amerling has already donated a one month tuition free for one child
 - v. Time is limited so your help and input is greatly appreciated
 - f. Gallery Night
 - i. For those of you that could not attend last year's, it was FUN!
 - ii. No kids allowed on this night
 - iii. Provided to you:
 - 1. Food
 - 2. Cocktails
 - 3. Music
 - 4. Silent Action
 - iv. Mrs. Tejada will decide on the date and art to be produced by students
 - v. Parents if you have any new small ticket items that you wish to donate for the silent auction please contact the PTO
 - vi. Expect the event around end of February or during March
2. Use of funds for
- a. Upgrading Smart Boards – already purchased and to be delivered next week
 - b. Upgrading playground
 - c. Risers and/or bleachers for presentations
 - d. Seating for parents for school events

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- b. Improving Communication
 - i. Directory
 - 1. Notices have been sent to determine who does not want to be listed
 - 2. To be printed within two weeks and distributed to parents
 - ii. Friend-raisers
 - 1. Events where we as parents get together and form a stronger bond with other children’s families, the teachers, and the entire school staff
 - a. Lectures
 - b. Classes / training
 - i. CPR Classes
 - 1. Mrs. Sanko to provide more information
 - iii. Do you like the emails?
 - 1. Parents like the reminders via emails
 - iv. Sign Outside
 - 1. Parents like the sign
 - c. Community Service
 - i. We want your suggestions
 - 1. Please send emails with subject line saying: “VPS Community Service” to:
 - a. luisashah@gmail.com
 - 2. Example: Last year we had pasta and sauces during Valentines
 - 3. Idea from Mrs. Rodriguez
 - a. Collect new baby items
 - b. Have the kids make baskets for low income mothers at Jackson Maternity Wing
 - d. Field Trips
 - i. The Science Lab will be an in-house field trip for all VPS students
 - ii. Ideas for field trips:
 - 1. Miami Dade Environment Center
 - 2. JCC Curious George
 - iii. Circus
 - 1. Mrs. Sanko to provide more information on this to PTO for further consideration
 - iv. Cake making classes for Mother’s day – in-house field trip
 - 1. Mrs. Pauly can be the instructor on this
4. Newsletter
- a. To be run by Jill Sanko
 - b. With the assistance of Susi Cetta
 - c. 5th graders to cooperate with input
 - d. Will be sent via PDF file to parents
 - e. Add teacher anecdotes of the month

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5. Yearbook
 - a. To be started earlier
 - b. Consider accepting ads
 - c. VPS cost per book is \$21
 - d. Cathy Campbell assigned Yearbook Coordinator
6. Facebook
 - a. We have a Facebook page
 - i. Go to: <http://www.villagepinesschool.org/>
 - ii. Under the calendar you will see the “Like” button
 - iii. Select it and write a recommendation for VPS
7. Questions from Parents
 - a. Will VPS ever consider offering after school activities for students at parents’ expense?
 - i. Chess
 - ii. Math
 - iii. Yoga
 - iv. Ballet
 1. PTO to discuss with Mrs. Amerling
 - b. Will there be a book fair?
 - i. Yes there will be
8. We NEED your HELP - looking for:
 - a. Donations for Gallery Night and Winter Raffle
 - b. DJ/MC for Monster Mash
 - c. Contractors/Builder to help upgrade playground
 - d. Field trip ideas
 - e. Community service ideas
 - f. Used computer donations accepted at VPS for VPS
9. Thank you to those parents that were able to make it.
10. To all parents and teachers, please review these minutes and send us your thoughts.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.