**Middlebrook PTA Meeting**

**September 19, 2013**

**Minutes**

1. Principal’s Report – Maria Coleman
   * Thank you to our wonderful Hospitality Committee for hosting our back-to-school luncheon on Aug 22. Our staff thoroughly enjoyed the sandwiches and treats you generously provided for us on that day.
   * We successfully started the school year with 1057 students: 6th grade, 341; 7th grade, 347; 8th grade-369 students.
   * 41 new student registrations over the summer, students from as close as Norwalk to as far as Beijing.
   * Students engaged in meaningful team-building activites across the grade level. Most recently, 6th grade held a team day which culminated in a tug-of-war.
   * I-STEM and culinary arts programs off to a great start.
   * Two Open Houses held, 6th and 7th grades, 8th grade next Tuesday.
   * Thank you to Luisa for stepping up as our new Teacher Representative.

II. Teacher’s Representative—Luisa Nanos

6Red/6Green/6Yellow Updates

* Sixth grade teams enjoyed making tie-dyed shirts and shared a great team day outside which included team-building activities and a friendly tug-of-war competition with the trophy going to 6G this year
* Team names chosen: 6 Red Dragons, 6 Yellow Lightning Bolts, and 6 Green Leprechauns
* Looking forward to our shared field trip to the Bronx Zoo on Oct. 24

7 Yellow Updates

* Teachers modeled the 7 Yellow Change Agents shirt last Friday as a marketing move to promote PTA t-shirt sales.
* We are doing a low key Technology Scavenger Hunt wherein each class has, or will have, an assignment requiring some technological aspect - for example accessing United Streaming, setting up a blog, or viewing a document on Edline. Students will finish with a self evaluation and reflection which will give us insight into their skills and areas of concern.
* The 7 Yellow Acts of Random Kindness (ARK) group will be starting this week.

7 Red Updates

* Much activity is focused on the team's first interdisciplinary project of the year: BOW or Biomes of the World. It does not begin till early October, but in classes right now we are working on the following activities that will be part of that project:
* Developing ideas in writing with good supporting evidence
* Evaluating information from online sources
* Studying the major religions of the world
* Studying the vocabulary that explains the world's major types of governments

8 Green Updates

* In social studies students are starting their first research project.  The project, called Sentries, requires students to work in small groups to become experts on a fifty-year time period.  Each student chooses one person or event from the time period to research.  This project will give students the opportunity to practice essential research skills and techniques, work in collaborative groups, practice public speaking skills, and defend a written argument using historical evidence.
* Students are performing their first lab in Science class, the Consumer Scientist. The purpose of this experiment is to determine the most effective detergent on stain removal. Once they have completed the lab they will be writing up a formal lab report. Students will be encouraged to follow a detailed lab rubric and will have a peer editing session (students will exchange their lab reports and critique them).
* We are looking forward to meeting many of our 8G parents at our Open House on Sept. 24th. We will be presenting information about the team’s projects, field trips, and curricula at this time.

8 Red Updates

* We are wrapping up our Odyssey Project team-building activity with our Museum Touring Day on Friday!
* Info regarding our November field trip to Philadelphia went out to students and parents today!

III. President’s Report – Savet Constantine

* Read Julia’s thank you for the retirement gifts given by the PTA. Asked how people viewed the new delivery of the August Messenger via email for 7th & 8th graders, everyone very positive about getting it on email and saving paper. Asked for ideas as to how PTA can help out providing recess activity items, suggestions were for more balls, frisbees, chalk, jump ropes, etc. Will look into how we can proceed. Mentioned PTA Council website as a source to place district/cross-school info.

V. Officer Reports:

a. Vice President – Pam Hickey

* Membership underway. PTA membership includes the directory. Registered parents during the Walk-thrus. Will be at each grade’s Open House also to register.

b. Treasurer – Maria Wilcox

* Good financial position.  See financials
* Insurance was paid
* Membership dues were sent to the state
* Accountant has financial records and is working on the 990. Should be done very soon.

c. Parent-At-Large – Stacy Crameri:

* The Board of Ed has selected a Head Hunting firm to assist with their search for a New Superintendent. Many of the districts facilities were worked on over the summer in regards to Middlebrook all the bathrooms were redone as proposed except for the two near the auditorium and the building had roof work done. There were a large number of new students through out the district for the start of the new school year. Middlebrook had 41. A attorney representing Wilton Youth Football. Lacrosse. and Field Hockey show a proposed rendering of the turf field at Middlebrook and the board said they supported the proposal.

VI. Committee Reports:

1. Weekly Messenger: Asked if everyone can confirm that they are receiving the Weekly Messenger, currently about ¼ of families are not as they are not signed up on Edline. If anyone has news for the Messenger, to email Liane by Fridays.
2. Fun Nights: 6th Grade Fun Night: on track for the 6th grade fun night for October 4th, had booked DJ, arranged TOP Inclusion models and approx. 30 parents had volunteered. 7th Grade Fun Night: actively looking for volunteers to head up committee. Will mention this at 7th grade Open House.
3. Science Fair: Science fair project help sessions are scheduled for several dates in October following the presentations to each grade. Entry forms due by November 15th, students must have sign-off from parents and their science teacher.
4. Nominations: Still looking for 7th grade Fun Night chairs, all other positions filled.
5. Special Education: Gearing up for disABILITY Awareness Month for April, to make sure all event planners, for events involving students, know about the Top Inclusion Model Club and to touch base with Janine Kelly (the SPED Chair for MB) if they to have the TIM club help facilitate at their events.
6. Wilton Youth Council:  Start of Red Ribbon week. Matt Bellace will speak to kids and parents.  Matt, a psychologist comedian and author, will talk about natural highs and empower the kids to make positive decisions.

IX. Adjournment