



Friends of Warren & Mindess

September 13, 2016

1. VPs' Welcome
2. Combined meetings K-5 - This year we will be combining meetings for parents of students K-5 rather than a monthly meeting at both Warren and Mindess. We found many parents have students at both schools and do not want to attend multiple meetings a month. Meetings will alternate between Warren and Mindess Librarys.
3. Friendship Campaign - "guilt-free giving"
 - Last year we decided to move away from selling bags and wrapping paper at the beginning of the year.
 - We heard from a lot of people they just wanted to write one check to the PTO at the beginning of the year and not feel obligated with participating in every fundraiser. Hence the term, guilt free giving.
 - If every family in Ashland paid \$20 per student, we could fund all of our programs without any additional fundraising.
 - PTO funds \$30,000 for Enrichment programs K-8. Such programs include author visits, field trips, and science programs.
4. PTO website, FB and Twitter accounts:
 - Ashlandpto.com - Please go to our website and check out our new "Volunteers" tab. Also on our website you can donate to the PTO AKA become a "Friend of the PTO" and sign up for our newsletter. Flyers for our upcoming events are also on our website.
 - Facebook.com/ashlandpto is our Facebook page. Please like us on Facebook to see what we post- flyers, tips, reminders, etc.
 - Twitter.com/ashlandpto is our twitter handle. We are working on starting to tweet out at our events.
 - New this Year! On the district newsletter sign-up page, we now have a PTO Listserv. We will be sending our a monthly newsletter with a calendar of events for the month- not just PTO events, but other school-based groups events so families can be reminded of all the different things going on in town.

5. Overview of events for Warren (see attached list for events and descriptions)
 - Check the Volunteers tab on our website to sign up to help plan events, teacher appreciation week, field day, and fundraisers. By signing up, all you are agreeing to do is get additional emails regarding this event and ways we need help.
 - Our big events that we need a lot of volunteers for are fun and cost little for families to attend do not raise a lot of funds. The purpose of these events are to build community at each of the schools.
 - Our big fundraisers that tend to raise a lot of money do not typically take a lot of volunteers. They include our read-a-thon, box tops, and other raffle fundraisers.

6. Overview of events for Mindess (see attached list of events and descriptions)
 - We are working currently with Mr. Caira to determine the types of events he would like to have at Mindess this year. He has mentioned having a different kind of Literacy and/or Math night at Mindess. We will need help coordinating these events.

7. Open discussion
 - At the moments, there is not a plan to hold our popular “Sip Shop and Spa” shopping event this year, but we are looking for someone who might be interested in running it. There are detailed notes about what was done last year as well as contact lists of vendors who have participated.
 - Meetings will alternate between schools. Each meeting from this point on will be planning specific events. Check the agenda to see what events will be discussed.

There are 4 easy ways to give to the PTO without making a straight donation:

1. Scrip program- buy gift cards and a percentage is given back to the PTO.
2. Amazon bookmark gives us a percentage (bookmark can be found on our website). Percentage varies by item.
3. Box tops for education. They can be send into schools via your child’s backpack or placed in the soup-shaped container in Warren’s lobby.
4. Paper recycling behind the schools. Paper is picked up and weighed and we receive a check from the company.

Other fundraising ideas suggested and discussed

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- There was a suggestion that Price Chopper and/or Stop and Shop may provide instant rewards to the PTO through a program. If anyone has additional information, we would greatly appreciate it.
- Donor's Choose plus Clorox give more money back. Needs to be created by a teacher.
- Garage Sale
- Community Exchange
- Teacher Wish List- for Teacher's Lounge
- Savers- fundraiser spring clean out, could ask 126 Storage to donate an empty unity or Goodwill sometimes supplies a pod.
- Costume Swap
- Cleat Exchange/Dance Shoes Exchange
- Tricky Tray- gift baskets or donations for raffle items and then raffled off at an adult event.
- Tea Cup- raffle event (similar to Tricky Tray)

Contact us:

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NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday, October 18th 7:00pm @ MINDESS LIBRARY

We will have people outside of Mindess to greet you for those who are not familiar with the Mindess School.