**November 8, 2023**

**Manoa Elementary PTO Meeting Agenda**

* **Attendees:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Erin Sarson | Kristen Osborne |
| Nicole Stahl | Elena Alma |
| Melissa Carroll | Erin Canuso |
| Colleen Brooks | Leah Hoffman |
| Joe Mignone | Elizabeth Marshaleck |
| Mandy Gunlefinger | Torri Jones |
| Maggie Esteves | Jenni Dzeiwit |
| Nicole Bumbaugh | Mr. Fulton |
| Dr. Mosser | Mrs. Cirillo |

* **Welcome and Introductions**
* **Approval of Minutes: October Meeting**
  + 1st: Mandy Gunlefinger
  + 2nd: Elena Alma
* **Faculty Reports:**
  + **Mr. Fulton:** Parents may have noticed the changes in the playground. We have spaces throughout the playground for students to go to at recess. Previously, there was only the buddy bench and we have added a calming corner, workout zone and the mindful walk. The workout zone has different exercises they can try. Kids have been using the stations on their own. We do send students to the calming corner when they need it. If you get a chance take a look that the stations.
  + **Mrs. Cirillo:** I don’t have much other than Reading Olympics subscription. We’d like to renew this but not sure how we should go about it. This is something the PTO has provided in the past. Nichole Bumbaugh asked that Mr. Feldgus forward the information to the Manoa PTO email.
  + **Dr. Mosser:** Thank you for the Halloween crafts and activities. Halloween was a professional development day with the staff. We had a mindfulness presentation and activities that focused on trust and working to build a trusting school community. The School Pass app is the preferred method to report absences. If you cannot use the School Pass app, an attendance email is also available. Picture retake day is 11/10, indoors. We are excited to have the American Legion Grasslyn Post for our Veteran’s Day clap out. Thank you, Mrs. Cirillo, for arranging this. Book fair is coming up. It will be Friday to Friday with an e-wallet available for teachers. IT is also American Education Week. Family members that plan to attend must pre-register. Conferences are this month as well!
* **Treasurer’s Report & Budget Approval** – Elena Alma
  + Membership Update: We just met our membership goal of $7,500!! Thank you to everyone who already paid their dues!
  + Unfortunately, we will no longer be using Venmo. We will continue to use PayPal, cash, and checks.
* **Old Business:**
  + **Trunk or Treat –** Leah Hoffman forAndrea Martin
    - We had 20 trunks this year. Thank you for all the donations of candy and trinkets. Thank you to our families that put together a trunk. The winners were the Pumpkin Bar, Minions, and Barbie.
  + **Halloween Classroom Parties, October 31st** – Nicole Bumbaugh
  + Thank you to homeroom parents and helpers for the Halloween parties. Please make sure to submit your receipts. We have been discussing how to handle snacks at classroom parties. We are gathering feedback from homeroom parents and helpers. We would love to hear feedback from the teachers as well.
* **Updates:**
  + **Fundraising –** Nicole BumbaughforSarah Charlton
    - Panera Bread fundraiser raised $314, which is great. The Urban Air wasn’t as successful with only $75 raised. December’s fundraiser is December 13th at PJ Whelihans from 5-8 for either take out or dining in.
  + **Assemblies –** Nicole BumbaughforLorie DiPaul
    - The students loved the acrobat assembly. Dr. Mosser added that she engaged the students by having them move around with ribbons. They really loved it. She shared her story with the students and staff. Everyone enjoyed it. The next assembly is KIT, a live action storyteller. We are looking forward to it.
  + **IDC –** Nicole Stahl
    - **Dr.** Reusche and PTO Presidents and Vice Presidents from all district schools attended our last meeting. It was expressed that PTOs exist solely for the purpose of enriching the students experience at school which separates them from other outside organizations that use school facilities. Representatives expressed frustration on the current communication policies. PTOs contributions to schools via Book Fair, Field Day, Unity Day, etc. were brought up as examples of our role within in schools. We discussed communication strategies available to PTOs. One potential option discussed was parents can opt in to receive information from their school’s PTO when registering their student with the district. Our next meeting is next week, and we will be reviewing the health curriculum, specifically the 5th grade Lankenau trip and students no longer being separated by gender. Jenni Dziewit added that her daughter went through the Lankenau visit last year and it was a not an issue for her daughter. She added if there was a need for a different perspective, she’d be happy to share. Elizabeth Marshaleck added that her son had a similar experience where this was not an issue for him as well. She would be happy to offer that perspective if needed as well. December’s meeting will focus on Threat assessment policy and Vaping, specifically at the middle school. January’s meeting will have school board members in attendance.
* **Calendar of Events – Nicole Bumbaugh**
  + **Book Fair –** November 10-17, Kristen Osborne, Maggie Esteves, Maggie Fox
    - Thank you from all three of us! We’ve had great support and are excited for the book fair. This is a school event that the PTO coordinates because it is a big undertaking, but all profits go directly to the school. Your student should receive a Scholastic Book Fair flyer in library or from their homeroom teacher. You can send your child in with cash or set up an E-Wallet in scholastic. Please make sure to account for 6% tax in whatever payment method you choose to send in with your child. If there is leftover money in your E-Wallet, it will remain in the E-Wallet. New this year, teachers can set up an E-Wallet for their classroom. This allows parents to contribute to their teacher if they chose. We are also asking teachers to set up a wish list which parents and students can purchase books directly off the list for the classroom. We’d ideally like these by Tuesday before family shopping day. For students who are not shopping during library time or who are finished early, we have a few games. There will be gold coins that they can make a guess and the closer student without going over will win, per grade. We will also have a scavenger hunt for a hidden treasure.
    - Can parents transfer leftover balances in their students E-Wallet to the teacher? Maggie Esteves was going to contact Scholastic about this but at the very least they can print the bar code and give it to the teacher who can then apply it to their purchase.
    - Profits will be redeemed in Scholastic dollars this year. Our Autistic Support class will get to shop for a book again this year. We are excited for a great week.
  + **Young Writer’s Day,** December 1 - Jenni Dziewit
    - Each writer will have a 45-minute session to do a presentation and an activity with the class. Each class will get one or two sessions depending on the grade. Our 5th grade ambassadors will be escorting the writers to their classrooms and to lunch. We do not need volunteers for this event other than for lunch. We have a sign-up genius for food donations and a few slots for people to help that day setting up. Can a reminder be sent to teachers to have their students write thank you notes for the writers? We will be sending a survey link and asking teachers to fill this out about the writers that are in their classrooms. This is extremely helpful with planning for the following year.

* + **Winterfest,** December 2nd **–** Mandy Gunlefinger
    - We have lots of fun things planned! We have changed the location of the kids’ secret shop to the library to give more space for our performers. The kindergarten hallway will be used for kids’ activities with someone making balloon animals, face painters, etc. The vendors will be in the gym and hallway. We have a ton of vendors, fingers crossed we squeeze everyone in and it’s going to be great! Make sure to visit our sweet shoppe where we will have full sized treats and other baked goods. In the cafeteria we will be selling food like pulled pork sandwiches, pizza, and other snacks. We do need volunteers so please sign up and join the FUN!
  + **Quizzo Night,** January 19th - Erin Canuso
    - @ the CREC with a 7pm start time on January 19th. This will be a BYO event for food and beverages. It will be in the large multi-use room. Please be on the lookout for more information.
  + **MLK Day of Service –** Mellissa Carroll
    - We will have the drive-up collection again. This has been extremely successful in the past. In addition, we will be making blessing bags again for a few organizations. We will be collecting donations for the bags closer to the event.
* **Announcements**:
  + **Spirit Wear** pick up is at Hockeytown in the Skatium.
  + **Manoa present The Lion King Jr.**: December 8th and 9th
  + **No December PTO Meeting**
  + **Next PTO Meeting**: Wednesday, January 17 @ 7pm with Dr. Mosser, Mr. Fulton, Ms. Henry