

Santan Elementary PTO Meeting Minutes
October, 26 2016
6:30pm

Board members in attendance: Bridget Arenson, Bekki Patzer, Chisa Hauber
Meeting called to order at 6:30pm by Bridget Arenson

Approval of Minutes:

- Minutes from the August 4, 2016 PTO meeting were approved

Principal's Report (Amy O'Neal):

- Mrs. O'Neal talked about the first big assembly of the year that was held last Friday
 - Kicked off Red Ribbon week, Drug Free & Bully Free Week
 - Announced winners for the poster contest for the new anti-bullying poster
 - The two girls who won received a 16x20 size of their poster and will get a free yearbook
- Santan Elementary is working on our A+ application – we are applying this year for first time
 - There is committee formed to gather input/feedback from staff, parents, students
 - Putting together information that showcases what this school is doing that is amazing
 - We want to tell everyone what we are about at Santan Elementary
 - The goal is to have a solid rough draft by mid-November, with final draft due by beginning of January
 - District is doing things to help us and are very supportive of the effort
 - District is having our grass redone, replanting plants, and hopefully repainting the steel columns, trusses, and walkways

Financial Report (Bekki Patzer):

- Our big fundraiser in the first quarter (Q1) was the Check Writing campaign
 - We raised about \$12,000, but are still waiting on some matching funds from companies
- Biggest spends so far this year are for subscriptions (such as Scholastic)

Committee Reports:

- **Back to School BINGO**
 - This is the 2nd time we have done it, and it is a nice (free) activity for the families
 - We had a wonderful turnout and everything went well – we had some sound system problems that we will work out for the next big event
 - This is not a money making event for the PTO, but due to sales at the event, we raised between \$300-500
 - We will be leaving this event in August (even the monsoon didn't affect the event!)
 - Principal O'Neal let us know that if we give District advance notice of the event, they can have the temps lowered in the room
 - If you have any feedback on the Bingo event, please email [Bridget Arenson](mailto:Bridget.Arenson)
- **Check Writing Campaign**
 - This is the 3rd year of doing this – the PTO board will decide if we do it again next year
 - We had about one quarter of the students participate this year
 - We will be looking at success of Run-a-Thon in the Spring
 - Feedback from a parent to not run grade level fundraisers at the same time/week
 - Grade level fundraisers are for specific grades, and may still require selling of items

- **Grandparents Day**
 - We had a lot of families this year - breakfast in MPR and then time spent in classrooms
 - Teachers said it was great turnout and grandparents really enjoyed themselves
 - Some finished breakfast early and wanted to go to the classrooms before school started (8am), so we may want to take a look at the start time for breakfast
 - For some kids who didn't have grandparents there, it was hard for them during the classroom activities
 - A lot of teachers had group activities for kids without family there, and kids seemed to really enjoy that
 - Parents can come too instead of grandparents
 - Feedback that some Grandparents said they wanted more than just a donut for breakfast, even if they had to pay for it
- **Box Tops**
 - Counting of the first round of Box Tops is now complete, and we raised \$1353 (we receive \$.10 per box top, and more for bonus box tops)
 - We are on track to hit our goal of \$4000 for the year (3 collection rounds)
 - Feedback from teacher coordinators to have more parents volunteer to verify classroom envelopes to help the process go faster during final counts/verifications
 - Box Tops turned in on the sheets of paper are easier for the coordinator, as long as they are doing only 25 to a sheet and none are expired
 - Sign up at the Box Tops official website for coupons, more info, bonuses: <http://www.boxtops4education.com/>
 - There is also a Box Tops app that you can download
 - To see the list of Q1 Classroom winners or get more info, visit the [PTO Box Tops page](#)
- **Frys Card – Community Rewards**
 - Renewal timeframe is now, so please make sure to renew or link your Frys card
 - It is an easy way to earn money for Santan
 - Link to link/renew your Frys card: <https://www.frysfood.com/topic/new-community-rewards-program>
 - Special Note: The new Frys store is open and it is worth checking out!
- **Otter Pops**
 - We raised over \$800 from Otter Pops during this first round
 - PTO is looking for new coordinator to manage this for the Spring
- **Santan Carnival**
 - Santan Carnival is on Friday, November 4th
 - We are having a Western theme this year
 - Pre-order forms went out this week – save money/time and buy tickets early!
 - This is entirely a fundraiser for the teachers, not the PTO/school
 - The teachers do their own games, and we will also have tons of inflatables, performances, food trucks and a silent auction
 - We are desperate for volunteers, and you can sign up for ½ hour to 1 hour slots
 - Link to the Sign Up Genius for the PTO Carnival Volunteers: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090c48a5ac2dabf94-santan>
 - Please note that the Teachers will also need volunteers for their booths and may send out their own Sign Up Genius
 - High school National Honor Society kids are also volunteering
 - There are two contests this year that the students can participate in – a Baking Contest and a Pumpkin Decorating Contest (don't carve the pumpkins, craft pumpkin is fine)

- Teacher Lunch – make sure to put in your raffle tickets into the lunch bag of the teacher(s) of your choice for a chance to win lunch with them (will be located in MPR)
- The MPR will have all of the Silent Auction items, Teacher Lunch Raffle bags, Contest entries/winners, and the groups will be performing in there this year
- **Harkins Sales**
 - Flyers for Harkins sales will come out the first week of November
 - You can order Harkins T-shirts, cups, or gift cards
 - Same cost as Harkins, but if you buy through Santan, we get a percentage of each sale
 - Need to submit order forms by Nov 14th
 - These make great Christmas gifts!
- **Food Drive**
 - Food drive will be starting Nov 1st
 - Proceeds will go to Chandler Care Center
 - Information will be sent out regarding this before end of week
- **Toy Drive**
 - We will be doing the Toy Drive again this year – last year was a great success!
 - Will be held Nov 28th to Dec 16th
 - You can turn in any new, unwrapped toys and/or gift cards
 - All donations will go to the Chandler Care Center
- **2 Lunch Tuesdays**
 - We have two 2 Lunch Tuesdays coming up in Q2 (Nov 8th and Dec 13th)
 - Any lunch will be accepted, but it is best to try to keep them all as consistent as possible (sandwich, snack/chips, fruit, drink)
 - Lunch bags need to be dropped off before school at the playground ramada
 - Lunches are delivered immediately to the Phoenix Rescue Mission
- **Santa Shop**
 - Santa Shop will be held Dec 13th through Dec 16th
 - Emily Slater and Kacey Frey are the coordinators for the Santa Shop this year
 - Will give students budget envelopes to help them buy gifts for different family members
 - They have already placed very large order for toys and other merchandise
 - They will need volunteers to help in the Santa Shop – a Sign Up Genius will be sent out
 - Santa Shop will be held in the Music room near the MPR
 - They will have a collection box for the Toy Drive for any leftover money
 - Santan Elementary merchandise will also be for sale

New Business

- **Santan Safety Committee**
 - Parent Volunteers (in orange vests) are working hard in the parking lots after school to make sure all safety rules are being followed
 - Please be nice to these volunteers and follow the rules!
 - If you are interested in volunteering and helping out, please sign up via this Sign Up Genius: <https://m.signupgenius.com/#!/showSignUp/10C0E45A9AF29A75-safety> or contact [Bekki Patzer](#) or [Emily Slater](#)
 - If we get more volunteers, we may start doing this in the morning as well
 - We need enough volunteers to cover all the entrances
 - Feedback that a lot of kids are skipping crosswalks and walking out into the street

- Reminder from Principal O'Neal that riding scooters to school is NOT allowed (it is noted in the District Handbook that the district does not allow scooters anywhere on school grounds)
- Riding a bicycle to school is ok if you are in 2nd grade or above (Kinder and 1st Graders must ride with a parent if they want to ride their bike to school)
- **Run-a-Thon**
 - Emily Slater is leading the Run-a-thon, and it is in the planning phases
 - The students will collect pledges, learn about being active and raise money for the school
 - We are running it ourselves and will get all of the money raised directly for the school (we are not using an outside company)
 - We will need a planning team, other volunteers, as well as sponsorships and donations
 - Students will have a Bib that goes on their shirt with their number, and after the race the Bib will come off and go onto a certificate for them
 - Students will get a pedometer to track their steps during the week
 - The run itself will be held on Feb 3rd, and the students will be running around the Santan Jr. High track – we will be doing things to make it fun for the kids during the run
 - We need corporate sponsors to help pay for all of the costs associated with the Run-a-Thon, so that all of the money raised will go to directly to Santan
- **Opens**
 - Principal O'Neal mentioned that we will NOT have a Friday lunch for parents during the Santan Carnival day (Nov 4th) since there will be no extra seating available in the MPR, and all parts of the MPR will be used in preparation for the carnival

Meeting adjourned at 7:20pm by Bridget Arenson