

# ZAHARIS PTO

## COMMUNITY MEETING MINUTES

6:00pm - Thursday, September 8, 2011

- 1<sup>st</sup> Community Meeting of the 2011 – 2012 school-year opened with KeriAnne Zimmerman, Zaharis PTO President, welcoming all attendees. All PTO Board Members were introduced: Vice President; Edith Foster, Treasurer; Alyson Sawkiw, Secretary; Kelli Nelson Bond, Members-at-large; Sherree Butterfield, Cindy Huffman, Shalee Jenkins, Carrie Kerns and Rebecca Squires (not in attendance). Introductions continued around the room, including Mr. Oliver, Principal, and four families who are new to the Zaharis community.
  
- Benefits of the Box Tops & Dining / Shopping Programs
  - Kelly Bickle, chairperson, reported
    - a brief summary of the Box Top program to explain the monthly collection, preparation and packing process, data tracking for purpose of rewards, examples of 'Box Tops' products, the total income from last year (\$3400) and the allocation of these funds for teachers to use for the classroom
    - Summer Box Top Collection resulted in the students turning in approximately 11,000 Box Tops in the first week of school which equates to \$1,160 of income
    - Grocery / ESCRIP / Restaurant / Marketplace (online) Programs
      - Albertson's Community Partners card: year-round, without a maximum contribution (cap)
      - Frys card: during school-year calendar, (must re-link Fry's VIP card to Zaharis each school-year), cap of \$2,000/year
      - Escrip.com:
        - \* Safeway card: nation-wide (out-of-area family/friends may also link 'give-back rewards' to Zaharis)
        - \* Link credit cards for transactions at participating businesses and restaurants to automatically qualify for give-back program
      - Target.com: able to link credit card for percentage of sales to be donated to Zaharis
      - Zaharis' 1<sup>st</sup> Restaurant Night of the school year, at Barros, brought in about \$185
  
- Treasury Report
  - Alyson Sawkiw provided an amended version of the 2011-2012 budget report in order to highlight the income and expenses thus far this year, such as;
    - Entertainment Book sales as fundraiser is projected to bring in a profit of \$8560
    - Carnival expenses of approximately \$300 has not yet been offset by the revenue of the wristband and ticket pre-sales
    - The 'percentage of kickback' from support of the dining and shopping programs last school-year resulted in an income of \$6500
    - Media Center recently supported a visit from author Karma Wilson (in which numerous books were autographed and sold)
    - Social Activities: these such events typically are an expense for the PTO, although some may break-even
      - The first social activity of the school-year, Splash Back to School, was held late August at Skyline Pool. The net cost for the PTO was \$252
      - The next scheduled social activity is Bedtime Stories

- Six Flip Cameras were purchased (\$570) under the category of School Improvements which are being kept in the Media Center and checked-out to teachers as they need them
  - PTO observed Staff Appreciation on September 1<sup>st</sup> with a luncheon which was an expense of \$370
  - \$150 per classroom is allotted to each teacher for supplies
  - Alyson distributed suggestion forms and contact information ([zptotreas@gmail.com](mailto:zptotreas@gmail.com)) while explaining that PTO money is ultimately 'parent donations' for which to make 'school improvements' based on the feedback and input from parents on how to reinvest the funds
- PTO Committees & Volunteers
    - KeriAnne addressed the need for assistance and involvement with various subcommittees
      - Fall Book Fair Chairperson appointed; Sherree Butterfield
- Annual Zaharis Carnival!
    - Friday, September 30<sup>th</sup> 2011 from 5:00pm to 9:00pm
      - In preparation for the big event, the PTO is seeking additional volunteers; anyone interested in helping make this event successful may contact the carnival volunteer coordinator, Diane Taylor, for more details
      - Pre-orders/sales of wristbands and game tickets will begin Sept. 12<sup>th</sup>
- ECA (Extra-Curricular Activity) Contributions
    - KeriAnne, along with Mr. Oliver, provided a brief explanation of the ECA (AZ state and federal) tax credit program which allows for up to \$200 / \$400 (individual / couple) per year to ' earmark ' for a particular school / grade / field trip / supplement the school experience for the benefit of your child; more information is available on the Mesa Public Schools website, mps.org, also where forms and payment options are available online
- In Efforts to Reduce & 'being Green'
    - In order to cut back on the number of copies being printed for flyers to be sent home, the list will include 'youngest and only' students
    - A list has been compiled consisting of teachers who prefer to communicate with students' families / caregivers via electronic methods and pdf flyers versus paper flyers (therefore, PTO will not include their classes when making copies)
- Mr. Oliver, Principal, commented on the fact that a member of the Mesa District governing Board had spent a few hours that day visiting the school and had mentioned of the observations he had made regarding the great number of parent volunteers in the classrooms, the special parent / staff relationships he noticed and an obvious sense of community / 'great-feel' within the school. Mr. Oliver also remarked on behalf of the staff who, throughout this journey over the last 10 years, are humble and continue to better themselves as they are still figuring things out while evolving as Zaharis Elementary school grows.

#### **Upcoming PTO Board Meetings:**

*\* All Board Meetings are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month \**

Monday, September 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:30am

Monday, September 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:30am

Monday, October 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:30am