

PTO meeting 11/20/24

A. Principal Russell update

- a. 1st Parent/Teacher meeting to design the Shepherd Matrix was Monday 11/18/24
 - i. Looking for more parent volunteers for Matrix (school wide norms and expectations ie in hallways, cafeteria, bathroom, etc)
 - ii. Meets every Monday 3:35-4:30pm
- b. Hiring updates
 - iii. 1st grade teacher position is unfilled (The school thought that there was a great candidate, and given offer, accepted, went through onboarding, but had to decline due to family priorities
 1. Interview this week which was promising hoping to extend offer in the very near future
 - iv. Hiring for special education teacher
 - v. Hiring for educational Aide for CES classrooms
 - vi. 4th grade ELA position
 2. Hired a candidate, almost completed onboarding, waiting on final DCPS clearance
- c. Musical/play
 - vii. Confusion re dates, practices etc, so are coming up with a solution to ensure children can participate in multiple activities (ie Cheer and play etc)
- d. Questions from parents
 - viii. Plans to improve social/emotional culture -what is the update there?
 3. Principal Russell said that the solution is the Matrix and also 4th grade strong Start
 4. Working with becoming team who is planning a lesson for the 4th grade
 - ix. Question about school musical. Ie what is the issue with the delay in having rehearsals etc
 5. We have sought to find a way to schedule the rehearsals, so students have option to participate in multiple activities and finding time/space to fit in
 6. When will we have an update about rehearsal to start etc (ASAP is the answer)
 - x. Question about why the 5th grade camping trip/Nature bridge trip was canceled

7. Every grade level has 2 field trips (3rd-5th have been working on IB trip)
8. It was canceled because it is an overnight trip and there isn't the staff capacity
- xi. Clubs, is there an update?
 9. With budget cuts, not able to fund clubs
 10. Cheer and the musical are not apart of the budget, which is why they continued

B. Slide: Your involvement makes a difference

- e. Book-o-week
- f. Family social @ The parks
- g. Greenery Sale
 - xii. Order Pick up planned for 11/21/24
- h. Donuts with Grown ups
 - xiii. Important event as it creates a way for parent engagement with classroom
- i. Coffee and Conversation
 - xiv. RSVP per parent (1 parent per family)
 - xv. No siblings allowed

C. Fall Art Show

- j. Shout out to Ms. Brown for a fantastic event
- k. Also, Thanks to the parent volunteers
- l. Request feedback to event (Link will be in PTO bulletin)
- m. Stay tuned for the glow in the dark show

D. TAP

- n. Mr. Chamovitz, First grade, nominated by Kimberly Hauge
- o. Mr. Chamovitz, will receive Wishlist fund bonus!

E. Upcoming activities

- p. Bulb plating 11/24/24 11-3p
- q. Donuts with Grownups 12/11/24 8:30-9:10
- r. Holiday Concerts
 - xvi. PK3&PK4 12/11/24 in MP

xvii. K-5 12/12/24 at 5:30pm at UDC (students arrive 5:15)

xviii. Turkey Trot 11/28/24

F. Many ways to engage

s. Call to donate raffle items for staff holiday party

xix. Looking for new items or gift cards to (Target, Starbucks, amazon,etc)

t. Join committees which have openings for chairs

xx. Fundraising and grants

xxi. Gala

xxii. Curriculum

u. Give to 180 fund

xxiii. \$1 dollar/school day

v. Stocking the Teachers' lounge

G. Engage logistics

w. Parents/Caregivers need to complete DCPS Clearance application (link in newsletter)-
contact person is Ms. Offor

x. After clearance received, parent keeps a copy and send a copy to Ms. Offor

H. Communications

y. Visit school's website

xxiv. PTO and LSAT meeting minutes

xxv. Links to mustang express and PTO newsletter

z. Class dojo

aa. Groups.io

ab. AtoZ connect

ac. Parent Questions

xxvi. Is there a "new Parent" guide on Shepherd website to connect them with how
to sign up for communications for New families and staff alike

11. Shepherd PTO and community thinks this is a great idea, and will work
on how to do this

xxvii. Question about dojo and requested teachers to post group.io info in class dojo
so that parents know to sign up

- I. Budget update (Liz gave update)
 - ad. Fall Fest (cost 8000), 180 fund, fall photo fund raiser
 - ae. YTD Revenue 28343.32
 - af. YTD expenses 21518.54
- J. IB Corner
 - ag. Understand the IB Learner profile attributes
 - ah. Ms. Alvarez gave overview of IB program
 - ai. Question from parent about social emotional support/improvement and is there an interaction with the new Shepherd Matrix and the IB profile
- K. December meeting 12/18/24 5:30-6:30pm virtual