

PTO meeting minutes 12/18/24

- A. Welcome & Appreciations
 - a. Donuts with Grown ups
 - i. See child's classroom and morning meeting
 - ii. Donuts for grown ups only
 - b. Winter concert
 - i. Thanks Ms. Pereira for the wonderful concert
 - c. Staff Holiday Party (12/13/24)
 - i. Celebrated teacher and staff at Jinya.
 - ii. Generous donations, each teacher was able to win at least 1 raffle prize
 - d. International day (12/19/24)
 - e. Pajama Day (12/20/24)
 - f. Winter break (return 1/2/25)
- B. 180 Fund
 - a. Push to end the year strong and we need atleast 50 families to donate in 5 days
- C. November TAP Winner
 - a. Winner: Ms. Saxton – 1st grade
 - b. Quote
 - i. She is very patient and warm with the students and creates a safe place for learning
 - ii. Ms. Saxton is currently teaching 27 (!!) 1st graders while another teach is sought. Yet, somehow she manages to respond to any message I send and she provides my daughter with extra help as needed (for example, by providing heart word flash cards). My daughter's ELA learning is progressing so fast! This is all thanks to Ms. Saxton's dedication to teaching and to her job
 - c. Can still nominate a teacher for December (parents may the find link in the newsletter)
- D. Summer Camp Auction coming soon
 - a. PTO has planned a silent auction for parents to bid on week of summer camp for 2025
 - b. When: 1/6/25-1/10/25
 - c. How: use the handbid app
 - d. Camps: Barrie camp, river school, soccer stars, loft collective, kids elite camp, club scikidz, happy little art studio, summer at sandy springs & more
- E. Stay connected
 - a. Unveiled the flyer with QR codes for how to get connected
 - b. Family engagement section on the Shepherd website
- F. Budget update
 - a. 180 fund (~12,000)
 - b. Fall Fest budget (~18,000)
 - c. Holiday greenery sale (600 profit)
- G. Principal update
 - a. Staffing update
 - i. Ms. McKinley (new ELA 4th grade teacher)
 - ii. Ms. Upshur (PRE-K3 Aide)
 - iii. 1st grade position open

- iv. CES position open/Aide position open too
 - b. Enrollment
 - i. Projection for next year 2025-2026: 409 students (currently at 394)
 - c. Playground
 - i. Playground looks amazing
 - ii. Playground should be ready for after the holiday break
 - d. Matrix committee: group of parents/teachers/administrators to make goals for expectations in shepherd
 - i. Mr. Satterfield gave the parent perspective on the Matrix (special thanks from Principal Russell to Ms. Murali Ms. Caola, Ms. Trotter, and Ms. Rajwani)
- H. IB update
 - a. IB minutes
 - i. IB parent corner (ie incorporating action)
 - 1. How can parents support the IB program (use learner profile words, know your child's central idea; go on trips together about the concepts from class; volunteer in class; look for examples to take action in your local community)
 - b. Question from parents: when is exhibition? March 2025
- I. What's next in 2025
 - a. Camp auction 1/6/25-1/10/25
 - b. Donuts with grown pus 1/15/25
 - c. Winter ball 1/24/25
 - d. Donuts with Grown-ups 1/12/25
 - e. Black History showcase at UDC 2/27/25
 - f. Donuts with grown-ups 3/12/25
 - g. Parent teacher conferences 3/13/25
 - h. The Little Mermaid 3/19-3/21/25
 - i. Exhibition pending
- J. 2025 Gala Committee
 - a. PTO announcements
 - i. 2025 is 20th anniversary
 - ii. Operations
 - iii. Fundraising
 - iv. Data entry
 - b. After PTO meeting (sub meeting)
 - i. Lauren looking to other venues
 - 1. June Berry
 - 2. School/MP room
 - 3. Westin downtown DC (magnolia) [old renaissance room]**
 - 4. Westin City Center DC
 - 5. Jinya
 - ii. Formal Gala meeting in January 2025
 - iii. Prefer venue where food is already there and we don't need to worry with decorating etc

- iv. Proposed 3/8/25, 4/5/25(long weekend), **3/22/25(musical)** (2nd choice)or **4/26/25(1st choice)**
- v. Next meeting 1/10/25 at Stephanie's house

I. Open question time

- a. Parent asked about how she could comment on the planned DC calendar