

PTO meeting 3/19/25 (max 34 in attendance)

- A. Principal Russel (PR) update
  - a. Budget season is over and It overall went well for Shepherd
  - b. Last week was parent teacher conferences and Principal Russell expressed Thanks to all who participated
    - i. This week's newsletter will have survey about the parent teacher conferences to give valuable feedback
  - c. Disney The little Mermaid Jr (see below) is this week!
  - d. April beings Shepherd's testing season, for Grades 3-5 and families will begin to receive information on testing schedules etc.
  - e. Principal requests that the community pays special attention to the Mustang express this week and next
  - f. A parent asked, if there are any plans to celebrate PRIDE month and PR said that more information will be forthcoming after the district releases the information as Shepherd follows the districts plans.
- B. IB corner with Ms. Alvarez
  - a. IB evaluation update: we do not have the final report but have preliminary results
    - i. Ms. Alvarez gave a BIG THANK YOU to students, staff, parents, community members, and PTO/LSAT
    - ii. A review of the 2 day evaluation which included
      - 1. (1) interview groups with teachers, parents, students(president and VP of the IB program)
      - 2. (2) School Tour which included outside learning area, for which the school received great feedback
      - 3. (3) Student presentations given by our student ambassadors (Madeline and Gram) on how they felt about the IB programing
      - 4. (4) classroom observations which included direct observation of the learning that was happening
    - iii. Preliminary results: the evaluation team appreciated our (1) commitment to diversity (2) Strong community and school connections (3)Incorporation of the learner profile attributes (4) Strong parent support (5) High quality and nurturing learning environments (6) intentionally designed classrooms (7) Engaging learning experiences
  - b. We are awaiting the final report and maybe this can be presented at a future meeting
- C. PTO Appreciations

- a. Black History Month performance: Thank you to the parent volunteers and all who supported
  - b. Food night fundraiser (Chipotle and Pizza)
  - c. Mardi Gras
  - d. Movie Night
  - e. Black History Showcase
- D. DC Budget Fight
- a. Payal took the charge to bring the community up to date. She described what is at stake and if everything stays the same, we would lose 1.1 billion dollars from FYI budget which will cause cuts to fire, police, schools, medical services and basic services. Lots of members in the community, 500 people, went to the capitol. After that the senate passed the CR, but then the senate passed a bill to keep the budget the way that it is. Overall, the bill has to pass the house and then be signed by the president. Therefore next, the bill has to go to the senate to pass by suspension or the house rules committee puts it to the floor for a majority vote (risk that other items may be added to it), thus we want the bill to pass the house as it is. We don't know when it's going to the floor.
  - b. Amber, PTO-community member, has reiterated that it is important that our voices are heard. We do know that they are logging phone call and emails. Therefore, in the next 2 weeks, there will be a "call" to have people return to the hill to advocate again. In the meantime, we can mobilize!
  - c. Ways to mobilize
    - i. We need leadership to put bill on the floor, so contact Mike Johnson [202-225-2777]; Steve Scalise [202-225-3015]; Tom Cole 202-225-6165 and request the bill be put to vote
- E. Student Safety
- a. WARD 4 leaders engaging in a conversation about student safety. They want to hear from the community and students, and parents. There will be a meeting on 3/27/25 at 6:30pm at Peoples congregational UCC (4704 13<sup>th</sup> street NW)
    - i. For our community, the focus is on physical safety (ie walking to and from school etc)
- F. February TAP Winner
- a. Ms. Rajwani (Kindergarten) won this month!!!
  - b. "Ms. Rajwani has always done an incredible job creatine fun and safe learning environment for my kids! My son has been thriving in her classroom and he really loves being there (Liz Daly).
  - c. Ms. Rajwani goes above and beyond to meet the needs of her students. She cares deeply about their concerns and how to approach the situation. She makes

herself available to students and parents, makes time to join special events and is a strong member of the Shepherd community (Michelle Toussaint)

#### G. Upcoming Events

- a. Disney Little Mermaid Jr on 3/20/25 and 3/21/25 6-8pm SES MPR- SOLD OUT SHOW THIS YEAR!!
  - i. Concession sold this year! And proceeds will support the music program
- b. Class picture day: 3/21/25
- c. Soccer Try outs for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade : 3/26/25 3:45-4:45pm @Shepherd Park Soccer field (complete the DCIAA application)
- d. Cheer Team Exhibition: 4/5/25
- e. Beautification day & clothing swap: 4/6/25
- f. No school (Sessa Full): 4/7/25
- g. Book Fair: 4/8/25-4/11/25
- h. Shepherd 20<sup>th</sup> Gala 4/26/25
  - i. Early bird tickets on sale now for \$125 and general admission \$150
  - ii. You can also buy Angel Tickets (tickets for school staff), donate experiences to the auction, engage local businesses for sponsorships, and participate in the silent auction on handbid!

#### H. PTO/LSAT elections

- a. Nomination window open: 4/1/25
- b. Nomination announced at PTO: 4/23/25
- c. Ballot is finalized: 5/2/25
- d. Voting window is open: 5/5/25-5/7/25
- e. Election results announced: 5/9/25
- f. Transition team facilitates onboarding of the new members: 5/12/25-6/2/25
- g. New PTO board and LSAT Terms begins: 6/30/25
- h. Also PTO presidents suggested that we can even have collaboration calls where if you are interested to help, but maybe do not want to run against anyone, that we can discuss options for how you can help the PTO.

#### I. 180 Fund

- a. 71 families to date

#### J. Budget Update

- a. YTD revenue 49,303.72 and YTD Expenses 56, 562.37 and Net Change 7, 258,65

#### K. Stay Connected

- a. A to Z account
- b. Join PTO Shepherd Elementary PTO groups
- c. Facebook, Instagram
- d. Shepherd Elementary PTO google Calendar and clicking "+Google Calendar"