



What happened at the PTO meeting this month?

This month's meeting was February 29th 2012, in the Bishop Library. All parents are PTO members and are welcome to attend and participate.

Mark your Calendar * Next PTO meeting March 28th @ 7:00.**

Immediately before the meeting, there will be a meeting to discuss plans for the **Bishop Musical Play** for next year (**6:00-7:00**)

Brecky Peabody (PTO co-President) began by welcoming everyone. Feel free to contact Brecky to discuss any ideas for the PTO for this year or next.

The Bishop community has a new way to communicate! A Bishop **PTO Facebook Page** has been created (administered by PTO co-Presidents) as a complement to the 'Bishop Talk' list. Brecky will send link to Mr. McAneny to include in the next principal's update and any FB users in the Bishop community can sign up.

For **upcoming MCAS** days, the PTO is planning to provide coffee/snacks for teachers those days and will be encouraging classroom parents to coordinate healthy snacks in the classrooms for those days. If you are interested in helping, contact your room parent or Brecky Peabody.

Catherine Hoffman (PTO Treasurer) presented the treasurer's report: The Chili Cook-off and Games Night brought in a little less than anticipated but did fine (and everyone had a good time). Because of our success to date in fundraising (Thank You!), the **Spring Chocolate Fundraiser has been cancelled.**

Ann Gerriets (Fundraising Coordinator) let us know that we have some good ongoing fundraising efforts, including the **Stop and Shop** fundraiser has raised about \$550 so far this year. It runs through the end of March. We will do one more SCRIP order for this year and are planning to do it monthly next year. The March '**Bishop Dines out**' will be **at Not Your Average Joes**: watch for information about this fun community event. If you are collecting **Boxtops**, they can be sent to Ann Gerriets (c/o the PTO mailbox in the Bishop office) to collect for next submission.

Alison Vaishnaw (Enrichment Coordinator) gave us the update since last meeting. In February, we had the 4th grade **minerals workshop**. Coming up: The **New England Aquarium** will be doing the tide pool workshop for K this week and later in the month for grade 1. On March 16th, 2nd grade has an assembly on **Japan** and a series of in-class workshops. Next week launches a series of **international themed activities**, including the

arrival of a mural artist who will work with 5th grades for 2 weeks on the new downstairs hallway mural. See the Principal's Report for more upcoming events.

A planning meeting for the **Bishop Musical Play** is scheduled for next month before the PTO meeting (6:00 – 7:00 on March 28th). All community members are welcome to attend.

Bishop's first annual **Spirit Week** was a great success. Thanks to Amy Speare and Heather Hewitt, the PTO's Spirit coordinators for organizing a great week of events for the week before February break. Students got engaged in several ways, through our community board in the lobby, through naming the new Bishop mascot ('**Buddy**'), and in collecting or doing chores or other work for the charitable fundraising event. Through this special event, students donated a total of \$1,134.54 to help **Cradles to Crayons** support families and children in need.

The **Bishop Fair** will be on May 19th. Amy Speare and Barbara Dumery are our co-chairs and are counting on our multi-talented parent community to step up and help (as it always does!). Immediate needs include:

1. A Silent Auction Co- Chairperson, plus committee members to help reach out to community for donations for our silent auction.
2. Somebody with design expertise to help with poster design.

Mr. McAneny noted that his updates come out regularly in the '**Principal's Updates**' that are sent out electronically through 'Bishop News'. **Superintendent Bodie** did a 'walk through' 2/28 and spent several hours at Bishop to see things going on during the day at Bishop. The visit went very well and Superintendent Bodie wanted to convey how impressed she is with what she saw going on yesterday.

Technology Request: Mr McAneny presented a request to the PTO for projectors for the classroom: Bishop district has purchased document cameras for all classrooms in the district. Each document camera needs a laptop and a projector to function. Bishop still needs 6 projectors (\$500 each) to make sure that each classroom is equipped with the necessary setup for document cameras.

Question from PTO: if we don't approve the funds, what happens? Answer: The district has spent all the funds they have for this so the school needs to find the funds for this elsewhere.

>>**Unanimous vote of PTO members in attendance to approve \$3000 for 6 projectors, using PTO funds budgeted for this year's technology initiative.**

The teacher representative attending the meeting, Marie Amato commented on how much the teachers enjoyed the PTO Spirit Week as well.

Eliza Burden (the PTO's garden/nature center chair) reminded people that the **outdoor garden** (in the front of the school) is an **outdoor classroom** and encouraged teachers to think about how to use this for class activities.

Eco-fest is happening at Town Hall March 31st.

Grant Money Available!

Arlington Education Foundation grants due date is coming up (April 15th) . Grants go to teachers or enrichment groups and are awarded based on innovation and potential impact. More information at <http://www.arlingtoneducationfoundationma.org/>

Arlington Cultural Council provides funds for arts/culture in Arlington. The next grant deadline is in October. More information at <http://arlingtonculturalcouncil.wordpress.com/>

Redistricting discussion

At 8:00, Tsachi Avrahami, Bishop's Redistricting Committee Representative lead the redistricting update and presented the latest redistricting map.

A **petition** to support 'grandfathering' (letting families already in the school stay until their children age out of Bishop) has been developed by a group of parents and is being circulated for Bishop parents to sign if they support the inclusion of this idea in the redistricting plan. The petition is posted on the PTO board at Bishop for people's information and signatures.

Contact Tsachi for details and to follow up on the discussion.

The next Bishop Redistricting meeting will be:

3/6 7-9:30 at Arlington High School: March redistricting committee meeting. Note - this meeting has been rescheduled from the original 3/13 date.

3/14 7-9pm at Bishop: Redistricting Parent Forum. A presentation from the superintendent and the redistricting committee of the proposed plans. An official announcement for the event will come early next week.

Details and materials from previous meetings are available at:

<http://www.arlington.k12.ma.us/administration/redistricting/>