



## PTO meeting notes November 30, 2011

In attendance: PTO board and approximately 15 PTO members

Teacher representative: Maria Amato

Berit Pratt, RN, MPH of **NitWits** LLC gave a very informative talk on LICE, with lots of sensible advice based on her company's experience in providing lice removal services to families for the past 5+ years. Highlights included:

- Dealing with lice requires a commitment of time, but **YOU CAN DO IT**.
- The whole house washing/vacuuming that so many families do when lice is discovered may not be necessary: lice can only survive for a very short time off the scalp so even if a nit hatches, it will not be able to survive if not on a head. So if you're looking for an excuse to spend the next two days vacuuming, go for it, but it may not be all that helpful.
- Non-chemical approaches include using a white conditioner and a good lice comb to kill lice and remove nits. Follow up with treatments 5 and 10 days later is important.
- Monthly combing with a good lice comb (and white conditioner) is an effective way to control lice in a school community.
- This is such a big issue, PTO members suggested the presentation be done again at town wide PTO and shared with school administration.

### **President's report** (Mary Ellen Aronow)

*Teacher Appreciation Initiative.* Each year, the PTO holds teacher appreciation events towards the end of the year and Mary Ellen is gathering ideas for trying to replace this with a more on-going teacher appreciation events.

Upcoming PTO sponsored events:

- *BISHOP CRAFT FAIR* is going to be Thursday December 8<sup>th</sup> at the Knights of Columbus, Arlington
- *PICTURE RETAKE DAY* December 2<sup>nd</sup>
- *New Book Sale (Bookends books)* in the Bishop Library: Dec 19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>.
- *Holiday Help program:* Bishop families can sign up to purchase and bring in gifts that will be donated to Arlington families in need of help this holiday season. Jane Biondi and Maria Henehan are organizing this event. Please contact them or a member of the PTO board for more details.
- *Chili Cook-off* January 27<sup>th</sup>

### **Budget Report** (Catherine Hoffman)

Full budget was distributed. Recent revenues include over \$2400 raised from the Walkathon and \$1,200 from the art fundraiser.

### **Fundraising Report** (Ann Gerrietts)

- Annual fund will send out another notice before the end of the year. (80 families have contributed so far, with a net contribution of \$6891)
- Ongoing campaigns include the Amazon link on the web page as well as the SCRIP gift cards. The SCRIP Gift card orders are done monthly, and PTO members are encouraged to consider buying gift cards as gifts as well as for future purchases they know they will buy (a portion of each card goes back to the PTO)

**Principal's update** (Mr. McAneny was not able to attend but forwarded a couple notes)

- Parent-Teacher conferences begin December 1<sup>st</sup>
- Japan Sister City (Nagaokakyo, Japan) visit to Bishop school will be August 30<sup>th</sup>.

### **Teacher Representative** (Maria Amato)

The teachers wanted to express their thanks for the teacher checks that were distributed.

### **Enrichment Update**

Since the last meeting, the 4<sup>th</sup> graders had the Museum of Science weather program come.

Coming up:

- Jan 12<sup>th</sup>, there will be a whole-school anti-bullying set of assemblies. Before the event, each classroom will be visited by Mr McAneny, Nurse Donna, or one of a couple parent volunteers who are social workers who will talk to the children about bullying and the concepts that will be reinforced in the assemblies.
- Art appreciation program: 'Art goes to school' (January)
- African Dance performance (March)
- Odds Bodkin (story teller)

NEXT PTO MEETING: January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2012