

Odyssey PTG Meeting Minutes September 18, 2019
(started at 6:00 pm ended ~ 7:51 pm @ Libby Center)

- **Attendees:** Nikki, Laura, Grace, Kathy, Holly, Susan, Vivek, Shawna, Yuri, Flo, Anna, Danielle, Rishi, Susan, Cindy, Keri, Shannon, Sarah, René, Dr. De Witt, Debbie D., and Rahul and Pallavi (by phone)
- **Introductions (Nikki)**
- **Volunteer Needs Discussed/Reviewed (Nikki)**
- **Math is Cool Coaches this Year**
 - 4th Grade: Rishi & Anna
 - 5th Grade: Vivek & Patil
 - 6th Grade: Yuri (will likely meet on Thursdays)
 - 7th Grade: Shesh (?)
 - 8th Grade: Banu (?)
 - **Marketing/Communications**
 - **Task:** Needs a volunteer
- **Lego Robotics**
 - Laura needed extra volunteer (Brian D. volunteered)
 - First meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 24 from 2:30 to 4 pm
 - Two teams probable—likely one team of 4/5 grade and one of 6/7/8 grades
- **Science Olympiad**
 - **Task:** need a volunteer--Senthil (may do it again?)
- **Geography Bee**
 - Feedback: need to streamline the process, double check kids' names and teachers' names so we know who participated (Shannon)
 - Can put the test on the PTG website (Laura)
 - Date for event needs to be better advertised to teachers/staff so they can show support
 - Ask Banu? if she will do this—Nikki to follow up with her on that
- **Silverwood Reading Program**
 - Only K-6th graders can participate
- **Outdoor Camp (Arp)**
 - 5/6/7/8th Grades usually go (~350/360 students, teachers & staff, and chaperones)
 - 6/7/8th Grades (250/60 students, teachers & staff, and chaperones)
 - McCauly and Arp run the camp
 - Riverside Bible Camp was great but will no longer allow schools
 - Was one of the few camps that could accommodate size
 - Actual space is an issue for us
 - Parent suggestion for 5th graders to be excluded this year
 - And do something fun for 4th and 5th graders?
 - Something the staff will be discussing, otherwise the site will need to accommodate at least 360 with students, parent volunteers, and staff

- Need lots of open fields, and meeting locations that can accommodate
 - Parent question: how far away can we travel?
 - Arp to email safety contact in district
 - College Camp was last year and PTG subsidizes that (6/7/8)
- **4/5/6th Grade Social on Dec. 12th**
 - Danielle X. volunteered
 - Will need others to assist as well
 - Spring Social
 - Suggestion to include 4th to 8th grades
 - Maybe a bouncy house, popcorn machine, get outside
 - **Task: no date for spring social yet**
- **7th/8th Grade Dance**
 - Pallavi & Rahul to lead this (unless others volunteer)
 - ASB would likely love to help with the dance (contact Ms. Harris to check on interest level in supervising this)
 - Allow more 7th/8th grader control over project
 - Task: Nikki to contact Harris for dance committee planning(?)
- **Staff Appreciation Events**
 - Feedback: Coffee cart was well received by the staff last year
 - We work with the LI (Language Immersion) team as well on this
 - Trena R. volunteered to help
- **Roller Skating**
 - Ms. McCauly usually organizes this
 - McCauly teaches the leadership class so she might be a good person to ask for student assistance
- **8th Grade Promotion**
 - Looking for volunteers
 - Parents *and* their students can volunteer
 - Great way for younger students to experience this emotional night
- **Field Day**
 - Feedback: needs more advance planning this year—sneaks up on the teachers; also, usually schedules the same day as the 7th/8th grade Roller Skating (Piper schedules this date)
 - **Task: establish date for this in advance and work with LI on scheduling this as well**
- **Goals for this year**
 - Calendar: establish calendar early → put events on the school calendar early and inform teachers of dates
 - Put on calendar extracurricular activities
 - Communicate better with the teachers
 - Would be happy to coordinate or help teachers find parent volunteers
 - **Task:** all volunteers need to have a volunteer clearance

- SPS volunteer clearance form [here](#)
 - **Future Meetings**
 - **Task:** Laura to look into Zoom (Arp offered to assist with learning how to use Zoom)
 - **Task:** Laura to work on directory
 - **Submissions due by September 30th (send FB/Peachjar/website reminder)**
- **Exploratories Discussion (5th to 8th graders)**
 - Great to have parents teach these classes (Arp)
 - Options in the past have included: culture-specific art and food classes, book club, unique skills/hobbies/interests, leadership, etc.
 - Materials are paid for by PTG
 - 4th graders are typically not included in Exploratories (they have Genius hour projects)
- **School Newsletter on Peachjar?**
 - Front office has been unable to do this as of late—staffing has not been available for this (hiring of additional staff is in process)
 - **Task: Shannon to be possible volunteer need here until the front office can pick it back up**
- **Play-a-Thon**
 - Fundraising event explained
 - 4th-8th graders track practice time playing their instruments for money
 - Event is coming up
 - Yuri ran it last year in November 2018 and will do it again (needs enough help again)
- **Fund Run**
 - Feedback: a conflict arose with LI at the end of last year
 - LI believed the division of earnings was unfair
 - However Odyssey PTG organized the event and provided most of the support for the event
 - ~\$7,800 raised for Odyssey PTG
 - Suggestions to cut back on overhead and seek more corporate sponsorships
 - Paypal link on website may be a less expensive option (ask Laura where this is if needed)
 - We made less on Fund Run in 2019 than previous year, but the Play-a-Thon raised more
 - Yuri—same families were donating and probably donated more in the fall than in the spring
 - **Task: Arp said she can talk to LI about their possible involvement this year**
- **Fundraising Discussions (see note above)**
 - Need volunteer to oversee fundraising

- Discussion: what worked in the past, what did not
- Corporate sponsorships—an area we should tap into more (volunteer need)
- Music program—would like its own fundraising option (volunteer need)
- **BoxTops (Shawna)**
 - BoxTops will have to be used for the whole school—BoxTops will not allow two accounts for one school building
 - BoxTops for Education App is easy to use
 - Find link [here](#) for iPhone and Android users
 - Scan a receipt or put the receipt in the box
 - Just scan the receipt using the app
 - BoxTops was advertised on FB
 - Passive fundraising was amazon smile
 - **Unassigned task: other passive fundraising options (see PTG website)**
- **Social Emotional Counts (“SEC”) (Grace)**
 - Social Emotional Introduction
 - HiCap kids can be a different emotional age than actual age
 - Dates for the Parents of Gifted Children Support Group sponsored by SEC
 - Mike Cantlon will be present
 - **Upcoming dates (meeting are 6:30 to 8 pm at Libby) [RSVP here](#)**
 - Oct. 21
 - Nov. 19
 - Jan. 21
 - Feb. 11
 - Mar. 18
 - Apr. 14
 - May 12
 - **Task: Laura add to website/FB**
 - Oct. 2nd Jan Leppein will present
 - will record it
 - teachers can get clock hours for this and attendance at the Gifted Parent Support Group
- **Administrative Needs**
 - Library Aide help (volunteer needed)
 - Help with book checkout for 6/7/8th grades needed
 - M-Th from 12:00 to 1:00 pm
 - Lunch starts at 11:15 and finish by 12:40—anytime in between there to help would be great
 - Can checkout at lunch
 - Our library clerk is here on Wed, but if parents can come on other days it would help our school
 - Library clerk has offered to teach parents in the morning on Wednesday anytime after 8:00 to support parents

- Service opportunity—some kids might like to reshelve books
 - **Unassigned Task: Signup genius and flyer for that**
 - Request 5 more minutes for students but
 - Will get them a signup genius for admin stuff
- **Cross-Country**
 - Needs a PTG basket for auction
 - **Task: Nikki/Skyhawks will donate that again for the auction**
- **Parent question**
 - Activity bus possible? Debbie said efforts to coordinate this with transportation have been unsuccessful due to the wide range of locations our Odyssey students come from
 - Discussion: Directory—possible way to carpool
 - **Task: Arp to remind teachers we need the directory**
 - Suggestion for PTG: Encourage our club leaders to help coordinate carpooling
 - Carpooling list (volunteer needed)