

LEONARDO DA VINCI



PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION

# NEWSLETTER

February 28, 2018

Volume IV, Edition 14

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

### MARCH

- 3- Chess Tournament
- 6- Popcorn Tuesday
- 8- Cash & carry apparel sales
- 9- Cash & carry apparel sales; Last day to order apparel
- 13- Popcorn Tuesday
- 13- PTO Meeting, 6:30 in the gym



### **Feed the Teachers**

Thank you to everyone that has agreed to help feed the teachers for the first conference night. We are looking for help with the second night of conferences. Sign up [here](#) to help feed the teachers on Thursday, March 8<sup>th</sup>.



### **Help for the Homeless**

Help the middle school collect hygiene supplies for the homeless in northeast Wisconsin. The drive runs through 3/7. Supplies should be brought in by students and contributed to the base team. The PTO is happy to support this drive by sponsoring a pizza party for the base team with the most points at the end of the collection period.

### **CURRENT PTO OFFICERS**

President- Jan O'Neil  
Vice President- Katie Higgins  
Treasurer- Veronica Corpus-Dax  
Secretary- Amy Morrow

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# Help Wanted

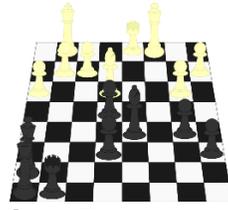
## **PTO Officers Needed**

2018 is an election year! The current officers will not be continuing in their positions after October 2018. Show your support for the wonderful education provided at Leonardo da Vinci by running for a PTO Officer position. Volunteering is even more fun with a friend! Grab a couple of friends and put together a team who can lead the PTO starting this fall! It's a great way to give back to the school!



## **PTO Meetings are Open to Everyone**

Just a reminder that all PTO meetings are open to all parents in the school. We would love to have you join our discussions. We welcome input from all parents and teachers on ways that we can help support the education of the students at Leonardo da Vinci School. The next meeting is Tuesday, March 13 at 6:30pm



## **Chess Tournament**

The WSCF (Wisconsin Scholastic Chess Federation) Chess tournament at Leonardo da Vinci School is coming up this weekend on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Event registration starts at 8:00am and awards ceremony will occur around 3:00pm at the latest. The cost is \$12 for advanced registration (before March 1<sup>st</sup>) and \$17 for on-site registration. Registration fee will be paid at the tournament with checks payable to Leonardo da Vinci Elementary PTO. At least one adult must be present to oversee each team or individual player. For more information, contact WSCF at [td@wisconsinscholasticchess.org](mailto:td@wisconsinscholasticchess.org) or 262-572-5624 or our parent coordinator, Andreea Solomon at [Andreea.Solomon@hotmail.com](mailto:Andreea.Solomon@hotmail.com) or 516-457-4123. The full flyer can be viewed on our [website](#).



## **Pi Day 5k Walk/Run**

Pi Day 5k Sign Up has begun! The PTO is proud to have sponsored this event since its first year. This year's event will be held on **Saturday, March 10<sup>th</sup> at 8am**. Leonardo da Vinci students work with Mrs. Hockers, our Physical Education teacher, to organize a walk/run. This is an important leadership opportunity for our fifth grade planning team, but an ALTRUISTIC opportunity for our entire school community. In the past three years, our school community has raised over \$44,000 for Habitat for Humanity. We hope you can be part of this year's walk/run. Grab your warm gear and join us on the 10<sup>th</sup>. [Register Here](#). The planning committee has set some great goals this year: *700 runners* (75 more than last year) and *\$18,000 for Habitat for Humanity*. Let's all help them reach their goals!!



### **Apparel Sales**

Apparel sale going on now. We have a limited-stock of cash and carry items available at conferences (3/8 and 3/9), and have a paper order that will wrap up at the end of conferences. Get a copy of the order form on the [home page](#) of our website, or stop by the sales table during conferences.



### **Renaissance Faire**

The Renaissance Faire will take place on May 18<sup>th</sup>. Stay tuned for more details! The planning committee is hard at work and it is sure to be a great evening of family fun.

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## Leonardo da Vinci School PTO Meeting Minutes

February 13, 2018

### Attendance-

Jan O'Neil, Katie Higgins, Veronica Corpus-Dax, Amy Morrow, Tammy VanDyke, Allison Hockers, Brittany Dickey, Amy Hazuka, Tiffany Bowles, Marisa Hanson, Lisa Knuth, Betsy Munchhoff, Katie Barrientos, students: Charles D, Sahi R, Grace H.

**Call to order-** Jan O'Neil called the meeting to order at 6:30pm

**Special Request Presentation-** The three students gave a presentation on the "Help for the Homeless" drive they are running in the school. The drive will run from 2/16 through 3/7. All base teams will be collecting supplies for the homeless in northeast Wisconsin. The committee is running a competition between the base teams similar to penny war. However, instead of collecting money, the committee will be collecting items needed for the homeless in the area such as personal hygiene supplies, paper goods and diapers. Each item is assigned a "coin value", and the totals for each base team will be tallied at the end of the drive. The student committee requested funds from the PTO to provide a pizza party to the winning base team. Veronica Corpus-Dax motioned to approve the request. Katie Higgins seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the request was approved.

Katie Barrientos gave more background about the drive. The committee is made up of about 8 students in the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades. All items donated will be pooled with other collections also going on in the area and will be distributed to agencies throughout the area.

**President's Report-** Since the last meeting, the board voted to sponsor the Pi Day run at the level of \$1,000. In addition, the previously budgeted amount of \$1,000 in support of the school store has been distributed to the store. The PTO received numerous thank you notes from the staff for the holiday SCRIP program. The notes were shared with the group.

**Vice-President's Report-** There is a volunteer opportunity to take over the position of Box Top Coordinator. The position involves periodically sending in Box Tops, following on-line deadlines to take advantage of special bonuses for box top redemption, and occasionally trimming some box tops and bundling them up for shipment. It is an easy way to participate from home. Betsy Munchhoff asked how the coordinator would receive the box tops. Katie Higgins replied that typically the box tops are sent home with the student from school.

**Treasurer Report-** Current balances include \$8,189.91 in the checking account, \$18,081.76 in the savings account for a total of \$26,271.67. Upcoming approved expenditures include \$8,967.74 for the Garden of Infinite Possibilities, leaving an ending balance of \$17,303.93.

**Fundraising Report-** Caryn Gehm unable to be present. Jan O'Neil noted that there is not any active fundraising at this time. Lisa Knuth reported on a possible fundraiser for the future. She notes that Chipotle restaurant does a fundraiser similar to the Smart Cow fundraiser that the PTO has used in the past. In the case of Chipotle, 50% of the total net sales between the hours of 4 and 8pm on a given weeknight would be donated to the PTO. The Chipotle website notes that they need approximately 6 weeks advanced notice to set up a date, but Lisa Knuth spoke with the store manager and was told that in some instances, a fundraiser could be arranged in as little as 3 to 4 weeks. The fundraiser can be repeated once every 12 months. Marisa Hanson asked if the sales included to-go and catering orders. Lisa Knuth did not know for sure, but she thought that catering would not be included. Further details could be obtained if this fundraiser is used in the future. Brittany Dickey noted that it could be a good way to generate funds for DI in the future.

**SPAC Report-** There will be face to face meeting of the SPAC next week that Marisa Hanson will attend.

**Staff Rep Report-** Allison Hockers reviewed Pi- day race information. The PTO sponsorship means that the PTO's logo will be on the race website, on the back of the t-shirt, and on any promotional materials for the race. All sponsors will also be recognized during a special announcement before the race. Habitat for Humanity will mention sponsors on their Facebook page. Sponsorship also gives the PTO five complimentary entries to the race. In the past, the PTO has not used these entries. Allison Hockers wondered if the PTO would be willing to donate them back to the school in case there is a family without the needed funds to participate. The PTO agreed to donate the entries back to the school. Allison Hockers noted that there are 124 student and approximately 300 total entries at this time. She noted that registration numbers were down slightly compared to past years, but felt that the cold weather might be contributing to this. She is hopeful that registration numbers will increase as the date draws closer.

Allison Hockers also noted that Mrs. Meader will be returning to teaching at the end of next week.

Lisa Knuth informed Allison Hockers that she was able to incorporate the staff suggestions into the meals for the teachers during the upcoming conference period.

**Student Treats-** Marisa Hanson reported for the apparel committee. At the previous meeting, the PTO had discussed providing a da Vinci logo item for all the students at the end of the year, instead of sponsoring pizza or base team gifts, as had done in the past. The apparel committee had several options for items with range of prices for the entire student body from \$315 (for a plastic cup) up to \$1,216 (for glitter putty). Allison Hockers noted that the prices included shipping costs and inquired about using a local company to avoid shipping fees. She stated that she has used Team Apparel, a local company, for the Pi day merchandise and has had good results. She says that the company already has the da Vinci dragon logo, so there would be no set up fee, and that, because it is a local company, there would be no shipping fees. She feels that she has received timely service from this company for good quality merchandise. She also noted that the company does not charge design fees, and that she has gone through multiple design changes for certain items without incurring a fee. Jan O'Neil did note that currently the apparel is not ordered from a local company. In the past, a local company was used, but eventually there were problems with that company, and so a change was made. The apparel coordinator felt that with the current company, the prices were lower, so that even though there are shipping fees, the net price was about the same as the company used previously. Katie Higgins asked the students present if anything on the list looked interesting. The students all felt that the items were more geared toward the adults of the family and did not find them especially appealing. Tammy Van Dyke noted that many students have da Vinci logo items, and that often times these items end up unclaimed in lost and found. She noted that the items in lost and found do not seem to be valued by some students, despite the fact that they cost significantly more than the items under discussion at the meeting. She offered the opinion that the items under discussion would likely be under-appreciated and encouraged the PTO to find something of better value for the students. Amy Hazuka agreed with this opinion.

The students present stated that they all really enjoyed the base team gifts. Jan O'Neil noted again that she had received feedback from the teachers that base team gifts were difficult and time consuming to execute. Amy Hazuka suggested giving the teachers a list of a few possible items for base team gifts and have the classes chose from the list, rather than leaving it wide open as had been done in the past. Katie Higgins noted that food is difficult as it can exclude students with allergies from participating in the treat. Amy Hazuka suggested giving the students cheaper t-shirts rather than any of the other items offered.

The students also wondered if the money could go toward more field trips. Tammy Van Dyke answered that field trip times were limited in middle school mainly due to curriculum issues and that many students in middle school are enrolled in high school credit classes. In order to receive credit, the students must receive adequate instruction time. This limits time available for field trips.

Tammy Van Dyke noted that other PTO's sponsor performers or cultural groups to come to the school. She feels this would be especially beneficial and appreciated at the end of the school year as a break for the students.

Allison Hockers suggested that the PTO rent an inflatable for jumping for field day.

Lisa Knuth noted that part of the difficulty in the past was appealing to the wide age range of students at da Vinci. She raised the possibility of breaking down the PTO gift into two age groups. She also raised the possibility of giving base teams a list of 10 or so ideas, pre-approved by the teachers, for base team gifts. This might make the implementation of base team gifts easier for the teachers, and would still keep the gifts age appropriate for all the students. Brittany Dickey liked the idea of giving the teachers a pre-approved list. Betsy Munchoff liked the idea of a performance. Jan O'Neil noted that volunteers would be needed to come up ideas for the gifts or for performance groups.

Tammy Van Dyke suggested that the PTO could help offset the costs associated with the middle school trip day at the end of the year. Middle school students are earning the opportunity to take a fun field trip at the end of the year. The field trip each student is eligible for depends on each student's performance in the school community, with higher performing students earning the right to attend a more "enticing" trip. Since this would only benefit the middle school students, Marisa Hanson suggested that a performance group of some sort could be sponsored for the elementary school students to coincide with the middle school trip day. Katie Higgins noted that the total amount of money in the PTO budget for this year is not large- \$500. The PTO might need to approve more funds if these types of events are to be sponsored. She also noted that increased funds for these events could drive fundraising efforts in future years.

Tammy Van Dyke also noted that they are considering making changes to field day this year and wondered if the money could be contributed to field day. Jan O'Neil agreed that the money could be contributed to field day.

Katie Higgins wondered if some of these ideas could be discussed with the staff leadership to help the PTO prioritize the ideas and use the money for something that would be appreciated by staff and students alike. Tammy Van Dyke said that she could discuss it with the staff and have some information for the PTO at the April meeting. Jan O'Neil felt that this would be acceptable.

Marisa Hanson stated that she will tell the apparel committee that, at the present time, other options are being considered for the money. She also volunteered to look into the costs of renting an inflatable and would let the PTO know at the next meeting.

A discussion about the apparel orders, in general, branched off from this discussion. Allison Hockers noted that in the past, staff received a discount on apparel, but she doesn't believe they currently receive one. She also noted that many in the staff feel that the items offered are too expensive, and that many teachers are finding it difficult to participate in the sales. Teachers have noted that they like to have da Vinci apparel and they would like to support the school, but that the prices seem too high at the present time. Katie Higgins stated that in the past, the price mark up on sales was very minimal- usually around \$1 over what it cost to purchase the item from the supplier. However, if the staff feels that the prices are too high, she agreed that maybe the PTO needs to look into other suppliers. Marisa Hanson suggested that the PTO could budget money for the teachers to use toward apparel in future budgets. Allison Hockers also stated that some items from the fall order have been on backorder since October and have not yet arrived. She feels that this is unacceptable customer service and thinks that the apparel sales could have better responses and prices from a different vendor.

**Renaissance Faire-** Brittany Dickey reported that the planning is underway. Kari Willmott is in charge of the auction and has sent out letters requesting donations to over 200 businesses. There has not been much of a response yet. In

addition, the committee will be assembling themed baskets this year and will be sending out a sign up genius to the families requesting specific items for the baskets. They expect this to go out to families at the end of March or beginning of April, and will have families drop off items for the auction at the end of April in the school office. A student present wondered if a student art collaboration project would be in the auction this year. Jan O'Neil answered that the projects would not be happening this year because no coordinators for the projects were available. However, if a coordinator was interested in running these projects, they could likely be completed by the faire. A request has gone out to have members of the Brown County Renaissance Faire group come to the faire. In the past, the actors have donated their time and talents to our event. The arts and crafts committee is attempting to plan crafts that can utilize some of the items left over from previous years. Dinner will be catered by Biebel's catering. The event requires lots of volunteers, and a letter requesting donations and volunteers will go out to the families. The volunteer committee will likely contact many of the previous volunteers to work this year's event. "Save the date" slips will go home in student planners by the end of the month. Brittany Dickey asked the middle school students for ideas to keep them interested in the event. The students stated that they have fun at the event and just enjoy spending time with their friends. They also noted that they enjoyed the catapult activity last year.

**Meeting adjourned at 7:28**