

LEONARDO DA VINCI



PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION

NEWSLETTER

March 28, 2018

Volume IV, Edition 15

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

APRIL

3- Popcorn Tuesday

10- PTO Meeting- 6:30 in the gym

MAY

1, 15- Popcorn Tuesday

8- PTO Meeting- 6:30 in the gym

18- 4th Annual Renaissance Faire



Renaissance Faire

The Renaissance Faire needs volunteers!! Please click [here](#) to help out with the awesome, annual event. There are lots of volunteer positions with a variety of responsibilities. The committee also welcomes any grandparents, family friends, and middle or high school students to volunteer. All volunteers will need a background check from the School District (the committee will help with this). Check it out and help make this wonderful evening a success.

My Scrip Now

Scrip gift cards can be used to make everyday purchases, and a portion of the purchase cost is donated back to the PTO. However, we all know the frustration of a gift card left on the kitchen counter!! You can avoid this in the future by purchasing e-gift cards that can be easily accessed on your mobile device. To use this convenient method, you must first have an online scrip account, and then you can purchase scrip cards and add them immediately to your device. In line waiting somewhere? Take a minute on your phone to purchase an e-gift card- your purchase will then benefit the PTO. A huge thank you to Mary Rupp for providing these instructions. Please see the instructions after the last page of the newsletter for instructions on setting up your own account.

CURRENT PTO OFFICERS

President- Jan O'Neil

Vice President- Katie Higgins

Treasurer- Veronica Corpus-Dax

Secretary- Amy Morrow

Check out our website! [Leonardo da Vinci Website](#)

"Like" us on Facebook! [Leonardo da Vinci Facebook Page](#)

If you no longer wish to receive these emails, please reply and request to be removed from the list



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 students and staff at Leonardo da Vinci School. The next meeting is Tuesday, April 10 at 6:30pm



Marcus Cinema

The Marcus Cinema fundraiser concluded before spring break and orders are going home this week. Check your child(ren)'s backpacks for your tickets if you participated. Thank you to all who purchased tickets through this event- you helped the PTO to raise over \$320!

*Thank
you*

The apparel team position for design help has been filled. Thanks for stepping forward and helping out with this project!

SCRIP IS NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE AND ON MOBILE DEVICES!

Scrip is a method of fundraising used by the Leonardo da Vinci PTO. The PTO puts earned funds toward enrichment and social events for the da Vinci students to round out their educational experiences. Scrip is now even easier to use and families can purchase electronic gift cards and reloadable gift cards all with an electronic payment system. Everything can be done online at your computer or on your mobile device. Buying Scrip on your mobile phone ensures that your egift cards are fully portable and in hand for any upcoming shopping trips. You can even purchase the egift card while you are waiting in line to check out! If you share a Scrip account among different users in the family, the egift cards can be available on multiple devices at the same time. Physical gift cards are also still available and can be purchased via your online Scrip account and made available to you at school.

Of note, the egift cards you purchase can be transferred to existing member accounts that utilize reloadable gift cards. For example, purchase a \$5 to \$500 egift card for Starbucks in mobile Scrip and then transfer that egift card number to your current Starbucks mobile account. The money will then be added directly into your account as an egift card so you can still earn loyalty points and track purchases.

Scrip is a unique fundraiser as the funds come from purchases that you would likely already be making. These Scrip egift and gift card purchases then generate monetary rebates that are allocated to the da Vinci PTO to use for programming and activities. If the PTO has 10 supporting families who participate in buying Scrip from any of the 750 retailers on a regular basis (with an average rebate of 5% each) we would have a projected fundraising of \$7,800 just from those 10 families alone in one year! As you can see, Scrip fundraising dollars can add up quickly for the PTO. In turn, all students will see the benefits of these Scrip earnings and their parents' efforts to incorporate Scrip egift and gift card purchases into everyday spending.

Below are the steps to get started with an online and a mobile account. In order to obtain a mobile account you need to have an online account in existence first. Thank you for your continued support of the da Vinci PTO. Please contact Mary Rupp with any questions in this set-up process. Maryk.rupp@gmail.com

STEP ONE: Setting up an Online Scrip Account

- 1) Go to www.Shopwithscrip.com
- 2) Click on "join a program"
- 3) Enter the da Vinci enrollment code:
BC37E41C36926
- 4) Click "Register"

STEP TWO: Adding Scrip to Your Mobile Phone-APPLE IPHONES:

- 1) Go to: www.myscripwallet.com
- 2) Sign in using login established during online Scrip account set up above

- 3) Follow directions on the screen to press the icon of the square with a vertical arrow pointing upward.
- 4) Choose the selection: "Add To Home Screen".
- 5) Click the MyScripNow icon on your phone and log in as usual with online Scrip username and password. A text code will arrive on your phone to verify first use.

STEP TWO: Adding Scrip to Your Mobile Phone- ANDROID DEVICES:

- 1) Go to: www.myscripwallet.com
- 2) Sign in using login established during online Scrip account set up above.
- 3) Click on the Chrome menu button (three vertical dots)
- 4) Select "Add to Home Screen"
- 5) Click "Add"

STEP THREE: Purchase Scrip:

- 1) Search for specific vendor and select/enter dollar amount of the egift card.
- 2) Place it in your cart.
- 3) Submit and pay for the order.
- 4) Log out and then back in again to see the egift card in the wallet section of MyScripNow.
- 5) Select the egift card you wish to use from the wallet. To make a purchase in person, present the barcode on your phone to the cashier. For online orders, type in the gift card and pin numbers.

Leonardo da Vinci School PTO Meeting Minutes

March 13, 2018

Attendance-

Jan O'Neil, Katie Higgins, Veronica Corpus-Dax, Amy Morrow, Tammy VanDyke, Allison Hockers, Brittany Dickey, Tiffany Bowles, Marisa Hanson, Lisa Knuth, Mary Rupp, Greta Swanson

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

Treasurer Report- Current balances include \$7,460.37 in the checking account, \$18,081.76 in the savings account for a total of \$25,542.13. Upcoming approved expenditures include \$8,967.74 for the Garden of Infinite Possibilities, leaving an ending balance of \$16,574.39. Report on sales at conferences: 50 popcorn cards sold for a total of \$125. \$2,497.02 was sold in apparel. Some of this was from the in-stock inventory, and some was from new orders. Jan O'Neil added that Caryn Sparacio formed an apparel committee this year that has been working well. Many from the committee were able to help sell apparel during the recent teacher conferences, and the PTO thanks them for their donating their time. She noted that Caryn Sparacio is currently also looking for help designing order forms. This need will also be communicated in the PTO newsletter. Tammy VanDyke questioned if the PTO had considered on-line ordering. She says that the school did on-line ordering for Annie t-shirts and she found it very easy. She also noted that other schools in the GBAPS do online ordering for apparel. She felt that this would help to reduce the amount of volunteer hours needed for apparel sales. Jan O'Neil noted that in the past the PTO felt that parents liked to look at the apparel items before purchasing, but that the online ordering could be considered again. Katie Higgins wondered what company the school musical used for the t-shirts. Tammy VanDyke said they were using Valley Apparel. Allison Hockers stated that Team Apparel also does online ordering.

President's Report- The chess tournament was held last Saturday at da Vinci. There were 37 total participants in grades ranging from K through 12. Approximately half of the participants were da Vinci students. The da Vinci students did well as both individuals and in the team competitions. It is not a huge fundraiser for the PTO, but after expenses, the profit was around \$230.

Jan O'Neil also reported that the school social worker has been in touch with the PTO about the pizza party for Help for the Homeless Drive that wrapped up last week. The PTO is happy to sponsor a party this Thursday for the base team that collected the most items for this successful drive.

Vice-President's Report- Betsy Munchoff has agreed to take over as Box Top coordinator. The PTO appreciates her willingness to step into this role.

Fundraising Report- Caryn Gehm unable to be present. Katie Higgins reported that the Marcus Cinema fundraiser closed today. Items will be delivered after spring break. Based on the amount of sales from this spring sale of Marcus Cinema, the PTO can decide in the future what the best timing of the sales should be and if they should continue with 2 sales per year, or if just one sale per year is needed.

SPAC Report- Marisa Hanson attended the first face-to-face meeting of the SPAC. She noted that it occurred the day after the Florida school shooting last month. Much of the meeting was taken up with discussion about school safety. There was discussion about notification of parents and guardians about situations within the schools and that many guardians felt that notification was inadequate. The school district reported that often times that outgoing messages to guardians are delayed by errors in how families have submitted phone numbers and notification requests. The district noted that when parents fill out the forms, cell phone numbers and home phone numbers must be entered in the appropriate slots on their forms. This will help in decreasing the error messages and getting alerts out in a timelier manner. There was also an incident at another district elementary school this year where the school was placed on lock-down minutes before the dismissal time. There was discussion about this and how guardians felt they were not

appropriately updated. They were unaware why the school was on lock down and didn't know if they were safe to wait in the area for their children. The district explained what happens within the school during lockdown and reviewed their procedures.

Aside from safety, the meeting also discussed the referendum and building updates, which did not apply to da Vinci. The final topic at the meeting was the needs of gifted and talented student within the district. The goal is to have gifted teachers in all the schools to meet these needs. Marisa Hanson noted that many guardians are frustrated that gifted students are not getting their needs met in the district schools. She reported that often times students are identified as gifted and guardians are told that special programming will be implemented, but that even as of February, many of the students have not received any enrichment. She did note that many guardians also direct their frustration at the da Vinci School. Greta Swanson stated that she is on the school board redistricting committee and that she has also noted frustration at da Vinci guardians in these meetings. Marisa Hanson noted that she suggested other schools try placing students in subjects per their ability, rather than their grade level. She said this comment was not well received. Tammy VanDyke noted that there are state guidelines for gifted and talented education, but there is no funding or enforcement attached to these guidelines. She stated that teaching students at their ability level rather than purely at their grade/age level takes a lot of flexibility on the part of the staff to accommodate shifting staffing requirements from year to year.

The SPAC decided at the end of the meeting that "in-person" meetings are more beneficial than the web-based format originally attempted this school year. They will continue with the face to face meetings next month.

Staff Rep Report- Allison Hockers stated that the teachers enjoyed the meals at conferences and that the most recent format allowed all teachers, even those with food restrictions, to find something to eat.

Student Treats- Tammy VanDyke reported that she received feedback from the teachers about this subject, and the teachers all approved the idea of receiving an allotment from the PTO for each base team. She did not receive any additional comments about this placing a burden on base team teachers and indicated that there was enthusiasm from the staff for this use of PTO funds. The 4th grade is planning a trip to Madison, and the 4th grade base team teachers requested that their funds be used to help offset the cost of bussing for this trip. The middle school base team teachers requested their funds help offset the costs involved with the middle school end of the year trips. The K-3 and 5 base teams would receive a \$50 allotment per class to be used as desired. Jan O'Neil and Katie Higgins noted that the PTO has additional funds that can be used for "special needs requests". They felt that the field trips for the 4th grade and 6th-8th grades would qualify for this money. These classes could put in a request for additional funding, and they could therefore also receive the \$50 base team gifts in addition to funds to help with bussing. Tammy VanDyke did note that the teachers felt that a bounce house would not be a good idea due to safety concerns. Marisa Hanson will help to coordinate the base team gifts this year.

My Scrip Now- Mary Rupp has provided written instructions for accessing mobile scrip and e-gift cards. She notes that Katie Higgins tested the instructions and was able to set up an account. Mary Rupp reiterated the advantages of using mobile scrip; it is instantaneous, it can be shared between spouses, it prevents lost gift cards, and it removes some of the labor for the PTO. The entire meeting agreed with these advantages and hopes that the da Vinci community will consider this method as a way to help fundraise for the PTO. Mary Rupp noted that she had a few minor changes she wanted to make to the document. It will then go out with the school newsletter, the PTO newsletter, and onto the PTO website.

Renaissance Faire- Brittany Dickey reported that the planning committee is making good progress. A sign up genius will go out to parents at the end of March to help elicit volunteers. The committee would like to send it to the teachers first so that they can sign up for the slots that they prefer. Tiffany Bowles stated that the survey would be ready to go out to the teachers within the next few days. It will then be distributed to families with the next PTO newsletter on 3/28. Tammy VanDyke will instruct the teachers to sign up before that date to guarantee that their desired slots. Kathryn

Bracho has agreed to emcee the event. The committee has decided to eliminate the student talent portion of the evening. They felt that with all the other activities going on, it was too difficult to hear and appreciate these student contributions. They are looking into hiring some period performers, but nothing is definite yet. Brittany Dickey noted that 2 years ago the Renaissance Faire was able to use the school's theater props as props for the evening and wondered if that would be possible this year. Tammy VanDyke replied that although it would be possible, the props would not likely fit with the theme given this year's production is the musical Annie, which is set in NYC. Brittany Dickey said that, in that case, the committee will make decorations. Save the date papers went out in student planners on 3/14, and future updates will also be included in the school newsletter.

Set up for the auction was discussed briefly. Brittany Dickey and Tammy VanDyke both felt that having ½ width tables in the hallway outside of the gym for the auction would lead to too much congestion. Tammy VanDyke mentioned that they had tried a similar set up in the past for one of the chess tournaments and decided that it did not work well.

Brittany Dickey said that the silent auction will be set up this year so different auction tables are "closed" for bidding at different times in the evening. Jan O'Neil agreed that this helped to streamline the payment and checkout of auction items when it had been used in previous years. The auction has collected many donations from local businesses.

American Girl Company and Oriental Trading Company will not donate to the auction this year due to the lapse in 501 3c status.

Meeting adjourned at 7:11