

PTA Meeting for 17 September 2009 called to order at 7:07 p.m.

Room Counts (A free recess will be given to the teacher's class with the most in attendance)

Ergen – 4

Perruquet – 5

Hardy – 4

Harris – 2

Anantheswaran – 0

Higgins – 4

Calabro – 5

Mussett – 1

Cavone – 2

Bolich – 1

Davis – 1

Zahuranec – 3

Rosenberger – 2

President Kelly Uchneat opened the PTA meeting by introducing the Benner staff in attendance and also the PTA executive board. Followed by introducing Kristen Bruckner and Sue Zimmerman who were the speakers for the evening. Kristen Bruckner is from School Wires, the company who put together the new website. And Sue Zimmerman is the tech director for Bellefonte Area School District.

Mrs. Uchneat also spoke about the membership drive, what the PTA does to support the school and the importance of the PTA providing fun activities to the students at Benner and their families. The PTA advocates for our children.

The membership drive is up and running. Our theme this year is the Benner Speedway. Families should be receiving the membership forms from school starting the first Friday in October. We have a goal of 138 members which would be an increase of 10% from last year. Moms, dads, grandparents, family members and even businesses are encouraged to become members of the Benner PTA. The cost is \$3.50 per person, even for businesses! An extra recess prize will be given to the class with the highest amount of PTA membership forms turned in.

Julie ?????? spoke about the upcoming fundraiser through Oakbrook Company. This company sells frozen food products, candies, gifts items and more. The company is based out of Pittsburg and has been used in the past. She said they do a nice job of delivery because the company presorts the items by children's names. The information packets will be sent home with the children on Friday. Please encourage your children to try to sell these items as it is the bulk of the PTA funds. Sales run for two weeks and the delivery date is November 12th. Cindy Horner also mentioned that we will also be getting information for a fundraiser selling water bottles. The two fundraisers are not related but the PTA receives 50% for the sales from the water bottles.

It was brought up by some in attendance that volunteers are needed to lead groups for the Haunted Trail October 24th from 7-9 (rain date October 31st). Benner township trick-or-treat night is the 31st.

Heather Walters spoke about box tops and the box top store. The goal is \$3,000 set by the company. Heather is seeking someone to train and eventually take over her position. She is looking for volunteers to help run the box top store the 1st Friday of every month from 7:45 until 8:20. It gets very busy and multiple volunteers are needed to help the children shop in the store. Parents can speed the shopping process along by putting the box tops in a zip lock baggie with the child's name and the amount of box tops on a note. Parents can also tape the box tops into strips of ten. Submission needs to be done by October 31st back to the company. Volunteers are needed for this as well. Box tops need to be bundled in amounts of 50. Heather said that there are lots of fun items in the store but almost all are school oriented. Book donations would be taken if people were interested as long as they were in good condition. There are several ways to get box tops, the obvious being clipping them. You can also get them by purchasing items from the BT marketplace (web) and also by purchasing from Barnes and Nobel online. It is very important to that school gets a percentage of the sales but only if it is entered thru the marketplace. Kindergarten classes will be sent home information packages about the box top program October 3rd.

This evening speakers Mrs. Bruckner and Mrs. Zimmerman said that the new BASD website was launched August 18th. Mrs. Bruckner, from School Wires, explained that normally it takes a school 3-6 months to construct a site and BASD did it in two weeks. The new website is easier to navigate then the previous one and it is much easier to communicate with teachers. For example, if Mrs. Zahuranec adds new information to her web page you can program it so that you can receive an email notifying you. New templates will be applied in the next few weeks.

Cindy Horner spoke about the Reflections program. It is a forty year old program where children submit their ideas about a theme through the arts. This year's theme is "Beauty Is". Students can submit their ideas of "Beauty Is" through six different styles of art including visual art, music, film production, photography or choreography. This is a great opportunity for children of all ages to express themselves through the arts.

Mrs. Uchneat wrapped up the evening by reminding people how important volunteering was for the success of the PTA. Ruth Ann Mellott gave a list of ideas where people could lend their time volunteering for the PTA. Such as field day, picnic, PSSA snacks, spring fundraiser, year book or the winter carnival.

Heather Walters brought to vote the idea of having the family fun night of bowling on Saturday October 3rd. All in attendance agreed and the vote was passed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.