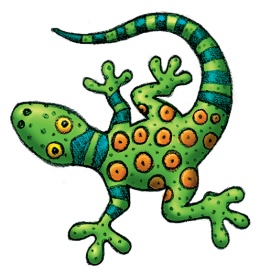
**Willis Elementary P.T.O. Minutes**

**Wednesday, August 31, 2011**

Welcome by Ann Gowgiel, P.T.O. President.

Introduction of the new School Nurse, Mary Fischer.

Introduction of P.T.O. Board.

* 1. President: Ann Gowgiel
  2. Vice President: Gina Hagopian
  3. Treasurer: Sarah Barker
  4. Secretary: Elizabeth Pearce
  5. Volunteer Coordinator: Kim Elson [www.WillisVolunteer@Yahoo.com](http://www.WillisVolunteer@Yahoo.com)

Nancy Castro – Student Directory. The Student Directory forms have been distributed. Please check your childs’ backpacks. The form is on the Willis P.T.O. website if needed. This year’s directory will be sorted by class and will also be in alphabetical order. There is one directory provides per family (oldest Willis child).

Gina Hagopian – Volunteer Opportunities. The different volunteer opportunities were described along with how to sign up.

Elizabeth Pearce – P.T.O. Website and Facebook. 126 people have “liked” the Willis Elementary P.T.O. Facebook page. The new P.T.O. website is now live with featured areas like interactive calendar, business partners, room parent page, school backpack flyers, etc. Also, the Magic Gecko contest (scavenger hunt) on the website was introduced.

Jeff Cardarelle-Hermas – Cafeteria Manager. The Celebration Basket was introduced last year. There were 20-25 sold last year. The order form is on the P.T.O. website. Please try to order 2 weeks in advanced.

The question was asked if you can bake for teachers? Yes for teachers but not for students. The school is obligated to ensure children with allergies are taken care of.

This year the cafeteria is “trying out” only allowing Kindergarteners to buy “snacks” on Fridays.

Jeff asked for 5-6 volunteers to cover any shifts when his team is short staffed. In exchange for volunteering, you can designate a contribution to an organization of your choice for the amount of $9/hour. Shifts will typically be 3-5 hours.

Grandparents’ Day is expected to be in mid-Oct.

Sue Wainto-Oato – Uniform Fair and On-Line Ordering. $11,000 last year compared to $16,000 this year. $2400 proceeds to the P.T.O. compared to $1300 last year. School Supply Kits made up the biggest difference between the two years. 59 kits last year to 94 this year. All “hiccups” were taken care of by the 2nd day of school. The Online Ordering Site is still available to order uniforms, etc all school year (expection is the School Supply Kits). Boy shorts are back ordered until Nov. Any preordered Willis Wear is going home with the children today. Tshirts and collared shirts are now available. Exchanges are possible, drop off in the front office.

Kim Olsen – Introduced the volunteer email address.

Sarah Barker – Willis Elementary Fund Raiser Results for the School Year 2010-2011

* + 1. Bounce “U” $729.50
    2. Chick-Fil-A/Chili’s $1054.63
    3. Dry Cleaning $30.95
    4. Gala Silent Auction $12,952.38
    5. Gingerbread Shop $1967.94
    6. Walk-A-Thon $29,202.38
    7. Box Tops $2112.00

Fundraiser proceeds when towards Sun Shade for the playground, Overhead Projectors (ceiling mounted), and Sound Systems. The overhead projectors were added to 13 classrooms this summer.

Introduction of Principal, Mr. Stenger and the new Vice Principal, Mrs. Dixon.

Principal Stenger spoke about having to remove $12,335 from the budget and his priorities of an additional sunshade for the kindergarteners playground, additional ceiling mounted projectors (provides teachers more space and safer because cords are removed), additional instructional programs (reading remediation, math).

Principal Stenger also spoke about Willis’s generous parents and wanted to minimize the number of times we put out the “jar”. Emphasise was put on the Walk-a-thon as the fundraiser of choice since all the proceeds go back to the school and student’s as opposed to only getting a “portion” of the proceeds.

Principal Stenger also let the group know that the kids will know first what he will be doing this year when Willis meets it’s Walk-a-thon goal. This is the 4th year for the Walk-a-thon.

The “Staff Favorities” located on the Room Parent Page on the P.T.O. website was introduced so that you can easily find out about your child’s teachers favorite items.

The group spoke about fundraising for the performing arts. The Gecko Painting Night was described where the proceeds go to our Art Dept. In addition, the group learned about the Specials’ Teachers Wish Lists that are posted under the Specials Tab on the P.T.O. website.

Four (4) new teachers were announced. Ms. Chambers (2nd Grade), Ms. Stokes (

Dates To Remember:

**Wed, Aug 31**  Walk-A-Thon Volunteer Committee Meeting, Immediately following the P.T.O. Meeting.

**Fri, Sept 2** Muffins/Doughnuts with Moms/Dads Volunteer Committee Meeting, 8:30am, Media Center

**Mon, Sept 5**  No School, Labor Day

**Wed, Sept 7**  Runner's Club, 7:30-8:15

**Wed, Sept 7** Red Elephant Spirit Night, All day.

**Wed, Sept 7**  Dress Down Day $2.00

**Wed, Sept 14** Runner's Club, 7:30-8:15 a.m.

**Wed, Sept 14** Student Directory Volunteer Committee Meeting, 12:15pm, Media Center﻿

**Thurs, Sept 15**  Box Top Collection

**Wed, Sept 21**  Runner's Club, 7:30-8:15﻿

**Wed, Sept 21** P.T.O. Meeting, 8:40am, Cafétorium

**Wed, Sept 28**  Runner's Club, 7:30-8:15﻿