

LEONARDO DA VINCI



PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION

# NEWSLETTER

January 10, 2019

Volume VI, Edition 7

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

January

15<sup>th</sup>: Popcorn Tuesday

February

5<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>: Popcorn Tuesdays

12<sup>th</sup>: PTO Meeting 6:30pm Location

TBA

12<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>: Marcus Theater Fundraiser

### Classroom Wishes Granted

A new initiative is being launched entitled Classroom Wishes Granted. The idea came about as an extension of the holiday giving tree concept. Teachers will submit to the PTO Board material goods and services they might be "wishing" for in their classrooms. Once the PTO receives these requests, a Sign-Up Genius will be posted on all upcoming newsletters in order for families to become involved. It is our hope to connect teacher needs with parent generosity in order to further enhance our terrific school!



### CURRENT PTO OFFICERS

President- Marisa Hanson

Vice President- Mary Rupp

Treasurer- Phuong Hudson

Secretary- Lisa Hansen

### Appreciation

Special thank you to Lisa Knuth and Shannon Schultz for organizing and implementing the Staff Holiday Scrip Program! We know it takes a lot of work and dedication to pull off such a successful program.



### **Marcus Theatres PTO Fundraiser**

The Marcus Theater Fall PTO Fundraiser is back as we start looking forward to the spring! The fundraiser will be held from 2/12-2/22/19. It's such a great and easy way to raise money that will go towards supporting our students and the LdV staff! More information to follow!



### **Smart Cow Yogurt Bar Fundraiser**

Thank you to everyone who came out on December 4<sup>th</sup> to the E. Mason St. Smart Cow to support our school. It was a fantastic event and the owner reported back that we had a great group of families that attended. The event raised \$235!

The PTO is always looking for new and fun ways to raise money that can be used to support our school. If you're aware of any opportunities for fundraising in our community, please feel free to email the PTO Board at [ldavincipto@gmail.com](mailto:ldavincipto@gmail.com).

### **Parent/Teacher Conferences**

It's almost time to begin thinking about Parent/Teacher Conferences again! Conferences will be held 2/28, 3/5 and 3/8. Please keep a look out for a Sign-Up Genius regarding the opportunity to provide food and snacks for faculty and staff on these days. It's a great way to show them how thankful we are for all their hard work and dedication.

### **PTO Meetings**

The LdV PTO Officers are interested in hearing from YOU regarding what you would like the PTO to offer. The PTO's activities and fundraisers are all volunteer based and require participation from all for the best possible results! If you have any ideas, please feel free to contact any of the officers.

Also, PTO Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of every month during the school year (excluding December) at 6:30pm. Parent turnout has been low and the PTO Officers are looking into ideas to increase attendance. Please consider putting the meeting dates and times in your calendars and if you have any ideas to increase attendance, please feel free to share at the next meeting!



## **Pi Day Race**

**Save the date:** March 9th at 8 am

**Location:** Leonardo da Vinci School

Let's enjoy a spring morning, celebrating Pi Day with a purpose! A group of altruistic 5th graders have a plan for YOU! As you are setting your goals for 2019, allow us to share ours with you as the plan kicks in..

New this year we have the 5 year anniversary shirts available for purchase at time of registration. This is a limited time item so register early and save!

Pi day 2019 - Race goals

800 runners (up by 75 in 2019) in order to raise \$19,000 for Greater Green Bay Habitat for Humanity.

2015 - Year #1 - \$12,690 donated

2016 - Year #2 - \$15,00 donated

2017 - Year #3 - 16,200 donated

2018- Year #4- \$18,230 donated

Last 5 years- \$62,120 donated

In the last 31 years, the local affiliate has built 111 homes in our community and they have 7 new homes planned for 2019. All Habitat partner families have to meet 3 requirements to be accepted into the program. The need for housing, the ability to pay a mortgage and must contribute 500 sweat equity hours into their home or Habitat's ReStore. Once approved, Habitat provides an interest free mortgage to the homeowner. It's simply giving a hand up, not a hand out!

LdV philanthropic minded students believe that giving back to our community is important and a valuable lesson to learn early in life. It also is a significant benefit to the neighborhoods in our community. As we partner with Habitat, we request that the proceeds from the Pi Day Race go toward the homeownership program for a family that has school age children in the Green Bay School District. Our past committee members have shared stories of being at the dedication of a home and have seen their efforts make a difference. Last years proceeds helped build the 6 homes on the corner of Walnut and Baird Street not too far from our school.

Registration is now open.

<https://raceroster.com/events/2019/19849/pi-day-5k-2019>



### **Chess Club**

LdV has hosted Chess Tournaments in the past and they've been successful. It's been discussed that a LdV Chess Club could be a great addition to the activities offered for our students. Currently, this is just in the idea stage. If you have interest in leading a Chess Club or if your child has interest in joining a chess club, please contact Andreea at [andreea.solomon@hotmail.com](mailto:andreea.solomon@hotmail.com).



### **Renaissance Carnival**

Exciting changes ahead for LdV's Renaissance Faire! In order for students and families to have as much fun as possible, it has been decided that the auction and the faire will be separated into two events. The newly updated Renaissance Carnival will be on Friday, May 17<sup>th</sup> and the brand new, adult only Trivia Night will be on Thursday, April 11<sup>th</sup>. The Renaissance Carnival will still have a focus on the renaissance period, but will also have many new and exciting additions. The new Trivia Night include the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Auction and raffle. More info to follow about both events in upcoming communications!

Volunteers are needed to pull off a fantastic carnival, the new chair of the event has many exciting ideas, but volunteers are needed to implement and execute the plans! Also, committee members are needed for Trivia Night on April, 11<sup>th</sup>. Please see the below Sign-Up Genius for volunteer opportunities and descriptions of the volunteer positions.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0f4ca8ae2ca6fc1-parent>



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### **Easy Fundraising with the da Vinci PTO**

The PTO has several easy ways to help generate funds for the events and projects that we sponsor throughout the year. Our students and teachers and staff work so hard all year, and we are thrilled when we can make things a little easier for all them. Check out our [fundraising webpage](#) and look at some of the easy options we have to add money to our budget.

In addition, we would like to highlight our scrip program. Great Lakes Scrip Center offers gift cards for over 300 stores and brands. You simply buy a gift card for a purchase you were going to make anyway, and a percentage of the gift card face value is donated to the PTO. You can order the cards [online](#) using our enrollment code (BC37E41C36926) or submit a paper order form to the office ([page 1](#) and [page 2](#)).

Also, don't forget the always popular Popcorn Tuesdays are the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays of the month. Popcorn cards can be purchased from JoAnn Metzler in the school office for \$2.50. Correct change is appreciated. This is an easy and delicious way to support the PTO and to treat your kids.



### **PTO Connect**

Thank you to everyone who has submitted their information to the PTO Connect. Don't forget, teachers will not distribute a class list, so the PTO Connect is the best way to get in touch with classmates and families. If you haven't included your information yet, use the link below to get connected with the great community at Leonardo da Vinci! Please note, if you have submitted your information in previous years, it is carried forward into the new year. However, if you have a new student at da Vinci, (including younger siblings new to the school) please consider adding your information.

***The PTO link is only shared with parents who submit their information. It is never posted anywhere public.***

**[Click here to add your information to the PTO Connect](#)**

## Leonardo da Vinci School PTO Meeting Minutes

January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019

### Attendance-

Marisa Hanson, Mary Rupp, Phuong Hudson, Lisa Hansen, Katie Higgins, Veronica Corpus-Dax, Katie Houle, Cassandra Baumgart, Allison Hockers, Tammy Van Dyke, Jann Larson, Tiffany Bowles, Elizabeth Mayenschein, Lisa Hanson, Tracy Guiou, Heather Stefaniak, Lindsay Sandahl, Martha Blaney, Elizabeth Sauer Pries, Amanda Hatton, William Ansu Otu, Bueki Ansu Otu, Paul Schultz, Shannon Schultz, Lisa Knuth

**Call to order-** Marisa Hanson called the meeting to order at 6:30pm

**President's Report-** Marisa Hanson explained that in the PTO Board's continuing efforts to increase attendance during the monthly PTO Meetings, the location will vary each month. This month's meeting held at St. Brendan's Inn saw a significant increase in the number of people attending.

- The PTO Board met with the student leaders of this year's Pi Day Race. The students each delivered well thought out points and plans regarding their event. The PTO Board voted and chose to donate \$1000 towards the race.
- The PTO has also donated \$1200 towards the LdV School Store for supplies.
- The PTO Board will also be discussing with the Building Leadership Team the possibility of the middle school students running a monthly school apparel store. At this point, school apparel is not a fundraiser that raises a significant amount of funds, but instead increases school spirit. The thought of opening a student run school was that it would increase awareness of the items while also giving the students another opportunity to be involved with the school community.
- PTO Connect has been helpful in connecting the families at LdV, however, the PTO Board would like to explore other options. Lisa Hansen will be looking into other programs utilized by area PTOs and will report back to the group at large in February.
- The December Marcus Theater Fundraiser event was a great success. The next fundraiser with Marcus Theater will be 2/12-2/22/19.

**VP Report-** Mary Rupp introduced a new initiative to the group called "Classroom Wishes Granted". This is an extension of the "Holiday Giving Tree" idea. Teachers will be able to submit requests to the PTO at ldavincipto@gmail.com . The PTO will then edit a Sign-Up Genius link to the monthly newsletter distributed to families. It is our hope to connect teacher needs with parent generosity to make the LdV educational environment even better! A Google document will also be created for parents who would like to share their talents with teachers for classroom needs. More info to follow on this plan.

Mary also informed the group gift cards were purchased for two teachers as a congratulations on their recent family additions.

**Treasurer Report-** Checking account balance of \$20,481 and savings account balance of \$18,099. Total balance of \$38,580. Phuong Hudson explained that the checking balance figure is somewhat inflated due to Holiday Scrip funds that have not yet been redeemed. The Holiday Scrip campaign raised \$12,714 for teachers' gifts. The Smart Cow fundraiser raised \$235, Popcorn Tuesdays has raised \$607 YTD and apparel sales are at \$4575 YTD. Fundraiser totals are from the beginning of the academic year to present. Funds have also been raised through avenues such as Amazon Smile, Coca Cola Give, Shoparoo and Good Shop/Good Search.

- Employer Match Programs were also discussed. It was brought up that United Health Care had been matching employee contributions, however, a notice was sent to an employee stating that the organization no longer existed. Phuong stated that she will look into this issue.

**Update-**the paperwork for the PTO's 501 (c) (3) lapsed which is the reason for the employer match donations being denied. The issue has been rectified and our 501 (c) (3) status has been reinstated.

- Box Tops are continuing to be an ongoing fundraising option.
- Chipotle and the Dough Shoppe will be looked into for additional fundraising opportunities.
- In terms of financial transparency, it was explained that all PTO expenditures could be found on the PTO website under the financial section in the Treasurer's Report . Any questions regarding the PTO finances can be directed to the board.

**Staff Representative Report**-Allison Hockers reported that staff were very grateful for the generosity from the Holiday Scrip.

- Allison also reported on the Pi Day Race for this year. The students have contacted local community organizations and due to this outreach, volunteer opportunities are covered. The student leaders would like families to focus on registration for this event! T-shirts will be given as part of the registration cost and there will also be an opportunity to purchase 5 year anniversary t-shirts as well.
- Tammy Van Dyke reminded the group that in the past the PTO has provided funds for families in need of assistance with school costs. It was decided that the PTO would continue with this initiative. Also, it was clarified if a family needs assistance with purchasing an item that otherwise a student would take ownership, the student needing assistance will also be considered the full owner of that item.
- In understanding that it can be difficult to ask for financial assistance the PTO will brainstorm on various ways to provide scholarship opportunities and to financially assist with field trips and other activities. An example of this would be the PTO potentially defraying the cost of show choir robes next academic year since additional funds are no longer needed for risers.

**Holiday Scrip**- Lisa Knuth reported further on this school year's Holiday Scrip campaign. 119 families participated with a total of \$12,714 dollars raised towards faculty and staff gifts. The PTO contributed \$146 to round up each certificate to the nearest \$5. There was a 22% increase in contributions from last year's campaign. As of 1/8/19, about half of the funds have been redeemed.

Parent/Teacher Conferences will be held on 2/28, 3/5 and 3/8. As in the past, a Sign-Up Genius will be sent out to families in order to volunteer to provide food and snacks. The PTO will also be sponsoring a dinner or lunch on one of the conference days. Lisa will send information and options to Allison to share with staff regarding meal ideas. Restaurants mentioned were Chipotle, Panera and Red Robin catering.

**Renaissance Faire**-Elizabeth Sauer Pries, chairperson, confirmed that Kari Willmott will be this year's auction chair and Heather Stefaniak will be the craft chair. Elizabeth reported that she has sensed a lack of enthusiasm from the students she has spoken to regarding this year's faire. Due to this, a meeting between the PTO Board and existing Renaissance Faire chairpersons will take place to discuss the possibility of separating the student faire part of the event and the auction. The possibility of an adults only event as the auction will be investigated.

**Apparel**-The next in-stock apparel sale will be during Parent/Teacher Conference 2/28, 3/5 and 3/8. The next on-line apparel sale will be 2/25-3/11.

**Brainstorming**-The committee reminded the group that all ideas for future meetings are welcomed. If parents do not feel comfortable talking during meetings, they're most welcome to email the PTO Board

- The idea of a LdV Chess Club was discussed. In the past, the school has hosted a tourney. However, schools can now only host if they have an active chess club. It was asked if students have to already know how to play chess or if the club would provide students with the opportunity to learn the game. Parents with students interested in Chess Club should contact Andreea at [andreea.solomon@hotmail.com](mailto:andreea.solomon@hotmail.com).
- It was also mentioned that the school's garden could benefit from additional plants. The possibility of forming a group to look over this project will be further investigated.

**Meeting adjourned at 7:32.**

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

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