

PTA Meeting
Sept. 5th, 2012
5:45-7:30pm

Principals Notes:

- We are receiving funds (\$3,000) for sound system and the needed tables in the cafeteria.
- Please let us know as early as possible if/when there are problems.

PTA Officers Introduction (as voted upon last spring) – Becky Wozny:

- Introduced Co-Presidents: Becky Wozny, Francine Alberts, Bernardo Perdilla
- Co-Vice Presidents: Erik Rissler, Rosalva Curiel, and Co-Vice President
- Secretary: Micah Parkin
- Co-Treasurers: Britt Pearson and Michelle Rebeck

About the Columbine PTA – Francine Alberts

- We have a limited budget, so everyone's help with PTA activities is greatly appreciated – both time and money
- Funds: Provide money to teachers to buy supplies, teacher appreciation, community building (Carnival, Parade of Lights, etc.)
- Need your help! Please sign up on the committee sign up sheets. Jump in to be in charge of activities if you are able.

[Separated into language groups]

Thorne Nature Institute Presentation (previously Thorne Ecological Institute) – Erin Sauders, Education Director

- PTA has committed to donate some funds to have Thorne do their hands-on program at Columbine with our students - nature and science enrichment at schools (used to be called Project BEAR).
- Offer grade-specific in-school classes – build upon previous concepts each year.
- Classes are hands-on.
- 1st 2 visits are about subjects, e.g. 4th- Colorado Ecology – see how animals and plants are adapted to the zone they live in.
- 3rd visit – create a book to take home with photos of what they did in first two sessions and write about the activities they've done and what they've learned.
- Classes are correlated with science standards.
- Programs are expensive for Thorne to run – they fundraise for 75% of the budget.
- They focus on schools with a larger number of students depending on free and reduced lunch programs.
- Last year they covered the vast majority of funding for programming at Columbine. Last year Columbine provided \$2K, and they spent \$7500. They are a mission-driven organization, so will cover costs as needed, but appreciate investment from the PTA.
- Programs last year K focused on decomposers, 1st on plants. They come on 3 consecutive weeks to a particular class/grade level.
- Fundraiser – Natural Night Out at the Rembrandt Yard, Oct. 19th 5pm (will put cards at the front desk for parents)
- They are already scheduling programs for the various grade levels.
- School fundraisers for Thorne: jog-a-thons, writing grants, etc. If parents have ideas for fundraising, please email micahparkin@gmail.com.

Free CU Football tickets for game this weekend – it is healthy kids day – [Erik Rissler](#).

- If you sign up, please use your tickets! [circulated sign-up]
- Erik will be there between 12:15-12:30pm to hand out tickets by Stadium Dr. After that, the tickets will be available at a table at that location for elementary school families. Also get tickets for soda and hot dog.
- Sign up sheet will be in the office.

New shading for Columbine – presentation by 2 CU Students (from Italy), Environmental Design Program

- Importance of shading – preventing too much heat and skin cancers in children
- There are a number of highly exposed areas at Columbine – library patio, amphitheater, and the asphalt by the cafeteria
- Design and Build – discuss together, design the ideas, and build together – involve parents
- Design Principles: Sustainable (use local materials), Child-friendly, Architectural
- Timeline: Phase 1 Sept. 1-20 – Production of draft design – kid involvement; Phase 2 - Production of final design, Sept. 20-Oct. 5; Phase 3, Oct. 5-10 - Finding materials, finding human resources and start construction
- Want a structure that is child-friendly, something children can play with. Ask children what they want written on the structure – it can move/be played with; can have only certain parts shading or all. Could have world maps. This structure can adapt to the wind – the suggested vertical slats can turn in the wind to open.
- Parent Input:
 - Has there been an assessment of where children spend the most time? The library patio isn't currently being used because it is too sunny/hot. Teachers have identified this area as a need. Front of the building is also a primary area to improve.
 - The pre-school area is also not currently shaded.
 - Amphitheater – could use trees for shade there.
 - Recommend: if they do vertical slats – make them retractable, so they are not always obscuring the views.
 - Will need to be easy to maintain, so not difficult to manage in high wind/snow.
 - There is no budget for this. They will create a proposal. If it's something that includes staff, everyone, etc., then we will request grant. Melissa (librarian) has heard of a grant for this type of purpose.

Field Day – a celebration for physical activity:

- Please sign up (or just show up) – it's this Friday
- Need parent volunteers – in shifts from 8:45-11:30am

Parking – please do not park in the loop at all. It is blocking traffic in the loop.

Walk to School Day – [Alexa Allen](#)

- Oct. 3rd – need parents to help on that morning
- Please contact Alexa if you can volunteer

Carnival – Thurs., Oct. 9th

- This is a fun event, helps teachers raise money. Each grade level does a game. The tickets they get give them money.
- We are doing it earlier this year so we can do it outside.

- Please sign up for that committee to help. We also need a point person.
- There is a CU game that night, which may complicate our volunteers - we normally use a sorority to help.
- 1st Pres. Youth Group may be able to help.

Wish List for Teachers – [Perrin](#) will coordinate, [Lisa](#) will send out announcement to teachers

- We put a sign up in the teachers lounge
- Can be helpful if these requests are sent to the parents of the children in the requesting teacher's class who are making the request

Other volunteer needs:

- Looking for grade level lead parents – please let [Becky](#) know if you can help.
- Need a volunteer coordinator and volunteers to help during the school day.
- School Accountability Committee – filter information/suggestions through them if there are issues that need to be addressed. There is a box in the office.
- Parent lead for our Healthy School Program
- Garden to Table Program - Parent leads for 2nd and 4th grades
- Carnival – meeting next week – please sign up if you can help – contact [Becky](#)

Announcements:

- Teachers have office hours every Wednesday from 3-3:30pm
- Thank you for being part of the Columbine PTA! Please give your input to help make it a great year!