

## **Chenery PTO meeting, November 21, 2013**

The meeting started with a welcome message by Nancy Grayson, followed by a quick introduction of the attendees in the room. Approximately 18 parents/guardians were in attendance.

Heather LaPierre and Mary Jo Peterman addressed the audience next. Heather and Mary Jo are co-chairs of BSEAC, Belmont Special Education Advisory Council. They presented a very brief history and overview of the BSEAC. Heather and Mary Jo will be attending all BPS PTO/PTA meetings this fall, speaking about their organization and its goals. The main goal of BSEAC for this year is to encourage awareness within the Belmont school community of their organization and encourage those interested, whether they have a child who receives extra services from the district or not, to get involved. Visit the website and contact Mary Jo or Heather;  
<http://www.belmont.k12.ma.us/bps/Home/Partners/SpEdAdvisoryCouncil>

Daniel Copland-Newfield introduced several of the new Chenery teachers to the PTO. They were: Alton Price - 6th grade, ELA; Adam Weldai, grade 7 Social Studies; Lois Mason, reading specialist; Karen Dube 5<sup>th</sup> grade; and Linda Bacci, LABB collaborative. The depth of life experiences these teachers have will be a wonderful addition to Chenery staff. Some of the special experiences the teachers bring to the building include time spent at Harvard Divinity School, relocating from St. Louis, a returning teacher who spent time working at home, a passion for reading, and a local politician. The PTO greatly appreciates the time these new teachers carved out of their evening to come and introduce themselves. Chris Fleming noted that after having spent over 20 years in education, he has never worked with a more talented staff.

**Upper School Assistant Principal report, Daniel Copeland-Newfield** – Report cards went out via Edline for grades 6,7 & 8. If you haven't done so already, please be sure to sign up for Edline; it is the best way to stay informed of school happenings. Stay connected! As the second quarter starts off, be aware that the student workload is increasing and be sensitive to your child's emotional level; contact your child's teacher or guidance counselor if you sense things are becoming too much. A small group of staff at Chenery is working to update the mission statement and motto. Fun happenings at Chenery and Upper School: Trivia night, spirit days, Upper School Talent Night (January 30), and Shout out Friday (every other week, a shout out to students who have done a great job for various reasons).

**Lower School Assistant Principal report, Chris Fleming** – the 5<sup>th</sup> graders have completed a successful transition from 4<sup>th</sup> grade. The annual 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Ferry Beach Trip has just begun its first, of many, planning phases. If your student has any issues, please call the school and let Chris or Guidance know; the home-school communication link is so important. There is a new "Wall of Success" for the lower school, a complimentary wall where students are noted for effort, academic and good value judgments. In addition, Cheeta Paws are being given out by staff who catch a student "doing something good."

### **Committee Chair Reports**

Pasta Dinner and 5<sup>th</sup> grade activities – Pasta Dinner had great turnout! Who couldn't have fun with pasta, dessert and a DJ? The Ice Cream Social will be held in the spring.

Genevieve gift wrap fundraiser - Super total: \$12,000! Pick up those last orders.

PTO clubs - over 15 clubs, over 100 kids having fun after school this fall. More and different clubs will be offered in the Winter and Spring terms.

Enrichment Curriculum (both lower and upper school) - Archeological dig for 6<sup>th</sup> graders. Upcoming for lower school are two science programs. 5<sup>th</sup> grade will have an ongoing author series, which runs from January through June. The 8<sup>th</sup> grade will host the Museum of Science school program, and the 7<sup>th</sup> grade will enjoy a social studies program featuring Arab and Muslim cultures. This is just a partial listing of planned enrichment programs planned for our school.

Directory – The new process with the school district has resulted in a delay of our printed version. Hopefully printed directories will be available in December.

Green Team - recycling in the cafeteria continues with great success. With just the 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grades recycling, the District has saved \$1,400 in hauling costs, not to mention the benefit we all receive in cleaner air. Amanda Mujica (Amanda@amandamujicadesign.com) from the Green Team urges parents to become aware that the Belmont Food Service Department has been buying juice for the cafeteria that comes in an unfavorable recycle form. Please contact the Department and share your concerns. Buy and use your Eco Bag. Every time you use your re-useable bag, money is donated to the school of your choice. Please contact Amanda for more information or visit the website;

<http://www.getmyeco.com/home/displayHome.action>

Annual Appeal – at the end of November the PTO stands at over \$19,000,

which is 71% towards our goal! 305 families have contributed.

Teacher Treat Week - week of December 2. Treats all week for teachers and staff at Chenery. There are many ways to donate. Please see the PTO website for details; <http://www.belmont.k12.ma.us/cms/pto/PTO.aspx>

International Fair - will be held on March 6, over 21 countries will be represented. Over 300 people attended last year. This year's theme is Tradition and Etiquette from around the world. Contact Lucy Yeghyayan-DeLefevre, [lucy\\_pml@hotmail.com](mailto:lucy_pml@hotmail.com)

Lower School Photocopying - would love more help! Whatever PTO members can provide saves time for the teachers.

### **Treasurer report**

Fiscal Year End Report for September 2012 to August 2013 was submitted and approved

Financial Monthly Report September 1, 2013 to October 1, 2013 was submitted and approved

### **Secretary report**

Minutes from the September 12, 2013 meeting were submitted and approved

Olga Galkina quickly proposed a Science Fair for 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders to work on together, an effort to have the 8<sup>th</sup> lead the Fair for the 5<sup>th</sup> graders. Would anyone like to take on this idea?

Daniel quickly addressed questions from parents regarding high enrollment issues and limited availability of conference times. A parent noted that the candidates for Superintendent are appearing for community questions in early December. These issues would be fabulous questions to address to the candidates.

Adjournment 8:35