

Chenery PTO meeting, September 12, 2013

The meeting started with a warm welcome from PTO Co-Presidents Nancy Grayson and Elizabeth Dustin. There were approximately 80 parents/guardians in attendance. As in the past, the parents introduced themselves and provided the grade level of their children.

PTO Committee Chairs who were in attendance provided a brief summary of their Committee and encouraged all to join in volunteering. With over a dozen Committees, the Chenery PTO has an interest for everyone. Please see the Chenery website for a complete listing of Committee descriptions and join in the fun.

Principal Kristen St. George, Assistant Principals Christopher Fleming (Lower school) and Daniel Coplon-Newfield (Upper school) were in attendance at the meeting. They each spoke of welcoming the students back to the building.

Ms. St. George explained the new keyless entry for staff and outlined the new protocols for parents seeking entrance to the building during school hours. See the Chenery website for complete directions. All visitors will need to be buzzed in either at the Washington Street or Parking lot entrances.

Mr. Fleming, who is in his inaugural year at Chenery, spoke on how 6th grade students spent the first few days being reminded of school procedures and how 5th graders were introduced to the new procedures. There are new math programs being implemented in

both the 5 and 6th grades: smartboards are placed in all classrooms, and a pilot program affecting two 5th grade classrooms is up and running. The pilot program involves the two classrooms of students to travel between teachers (like the older grades). Teachers have paired up where one will teach math and science and the other will teach social studies and English. The Annual 5th Grade and New Student Pasta Dinner will be held on October 17.

Mr. Coplon–Newfield reported that the upper school is off to a great start this school year. The new classroom structures put in place for the 7th grade have helped reduce the number of students in the core classes. The 8th grade science classes are working with iPad carts. The iPad carts were funded by a grant from the FBE (Foundation for Belmont Education). The District is promoting Google Drive as a new alternative to working on the web (web based sharing system). Edline continues to be the way students should stay in touch with their teachers, grades, homework and missed class assignments. Recess is available to students in grades 6,7 and 8 at the end of their lunch block, and the 2014 Washington, DC, trip for the 8th grade is in its planning stages.

PTO Clubs will be starting registration very soon. Please check your email and the Chenery website for registration information. A variety of PTO Clubs are held every day, except Wednesday, after school until 3:30. The goal of the PTO Club is to provide a little extra personal interaction between teacher and student (i.e. teachers sharing their interest or hobby with students).

Treasurer's Report presented by Elena Hanley. There was no vote on

budget due to statement changes from the bank. The August bank statement has not yet been received. No spending approvals were needed. Elena mentioned that the three largest fundraisers for the PTO were in just the beginning stages and will need everyone's support. The fundraisers are membership, Genevieve's giftwrap/products and late winter/early spring cookie dough sales.

Secretary's Report presented by Doreen Cameron. Minutes were approved from the June 6th meeting with one name correction; Rita Butzer Carpenter.

Following is the PTO Meeting Schedule for 2013–2014, with all meetings scheduled for Thursday evenings at 7:00pm:

November 21

February 6

April 10

June 5

Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.