

## CHENERY MIDDLE SCHOOL PTO MEETING JUNE 5, 2014

- **WELCOME REMARKS** : Co-Presidents, Elizabeth Dustin and Wendy Conroy, and Upper school principal, Daniel Coplon-Newfield and Lower School principal, Christopher Fleming. The first meeting of the CMS PTO 2014- 2015 school year. Kristen St. George was sorry to not be able to attend this meeting.
- **CHENERY UPDATES FROM DANIEL COPLON-NEWFIELD AND CHRISTOPHER FLEMING** : Reports of what a great start to the school year it has been - especially considering we are the largest middle school in the district with around 1300 students. Registration is still ongoing, and although the school welcomes new students they are beginning to feel the lack of space available.

School staff have worked hard over the last year to revamp the school Mission Statement and Motto, bringing it up to date and more relevant to attending students, staff, parents, and everyone involved. The new mission and motto aims to strike to the core of who CMS is and to unify the building and its people. *The new mission statement and motto are:*

*The mission of Chenery Middle School is to inspire and support the intellectual, social and emotional growth and well-being of all students in the CMS community. With the support of families, we provide opportunities for students to think, create, reason and problem solve so that they can be positive and productive young adults who are of service to others.*

**RESPECTFUL, RESPONSIBLE, READY TO LEARN: EVERYBODY, EVERY DAY**

New state laws are being applied at the school with regard to absences and tardiness. Kids need to be ready to go to class at 7.45a.m. and ready to learn by 7.55a.m. Fourteen new staff members this year, mostly lower school teachers (a mixture of full-time and subs). A thirteenth class was added to 5th grade to help with the large numbers of kids. Reminder of the importance of getting an edline account, especially for families with a 6th, 7th or 8th grader - 5th graders will learn to use edline this year. Parent concerns voiced about the increasing number of children in our schools, and lack of funds to accommodate more space and staff.

- **LABBB AND CHENERY BEST BUDDIES PROGRAM UPDATE** : Linda Bartlett described what LABBB and the Best Buddies Program are, and wanted to let families know they are looking for kids to volunteer again this year to be Best Buddies to LABBB children. Meeting for volunteers, or interested children is scheduled for end of September (probably the last Wednesday, but date TBC). Parents/kids can email Linda (lbartlett@labbb.net) to volunteer, or go to Room 111 and get a form to complete.
- **FBE OVERVIEW** : Jamie Shae described the work the FBE does, and informed us of upcoming fundraising events (Oct. 5th - the Dan Scharfman Run, Nov. 1st - The Youth Spelling Bee, March - The FBE dinner/live auction, and online auction, and always ongoing - the Star Award (not Star Wars :-)) Jamie also described their past and upcoming programs and initiatives.
- **BELMONT SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL (BSEAC) OVERVIEW** : Heather LaPierre described who/what the BSEAC is. Their first meeting is to be October 1st at the Burbank Elementary School, which will be attended by the Schools Superintendent. The BSEAC is looking for more parent volunteers.
- **PTO COMMITTEE/ACTIVITY UPDATES** : Wendy Conroy described the PTO's hopes for new initiatives to be rolled out this year: more social events for 6th and 7th graders, and more events/activities for the 8th graders during the year (not just focusing on their graduation).
  - **PTO CLUBS**: PTO before/after school clubs will be offered again this year in the Fall/Winter and Spring. Offerings will be emailed to families, and are available to view on the school website. Financial aid will again be available.
  - **ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS**: Description of this organisation, and how they spend the PTO money on programs that directly benefit the kids. Many examples of past, and upcoming programs, e.g. The Author in Residence program which was a huge hit last year for fifth graders.
  - **FUNDRAISING**: There is a big emphasis this year on the PTO's Annual Appeal method of fundraising. The Genevieve Gift Wrap fundraiser will also happen in the Fall., but no Cookie Dough fundraiser again in the Spring.
  - **8TH GRADE ACTIVITIES**: Looking for 7th grade parents to volunteer for the 8th graders end of year event.
  - **5TH GRADE ACTIVITIES**: Need volunteers for October 16th Pasta dinner night, and Bingo night which will again be in Spring.
  - **GREEN TEAM**: After just one year at CMS, they have reduced trash by one third with recycling initiatives. Survey planned for this year to see how kids get to school - 'Safe Routes to School' are interested in working with Chenery, in the hope of getting more kids walking.
  - **BOSTON/BELMONT FRIENDS COMMITTEE**: Bringing this elementary initiative to Chenery, and looking for Belmont families to volunteer to buddy our Boston families.
  - **6TH/7TH GRADE ACTIVITIES**: Looking for volunteers and still creating activities/events for this age group.
- **TREASURER'S REPORT** - \$600 profit from last years PTO funds will pay for an anti-bullying T-shirt initiative for Chenery staff. Approval for the amended 2014-2015 CMS PTO budget for the school year.
- **SECRETARY'S REPORT** - Minutes approved from the June 5th PTO meeting, 2014.
- Meeting adjourned at 8.40pm.