**Willard PTG Meeting**

**December 12, 2022**

**Attendance**

Robin Baughman, Jamie Ring, Amy Casher, Jon Smith, Kristen Lester, Matt Lucey, Tracy DeTora, Darcy Heintz-Perkins, Kaitlyn Whittier

**Presidents' Welcome and VP Update** – Robin Baughman/Kristen Lester

Thanks to Lee Halloran and team for the staff appreciation luncheon. Thanks to Candace Root for organizing the compost initiative. Appreciation for Charity and Service committee’s work for the 5th grade Open Table food drive- they were able to donate over 250 snack bags. Strategic Planning District Committee volunteers Jamie Patterson and Erinn Prebil continue to represent Willard community. There is a lot going on in the spring- stay tuned and check out the current calendar of events:

Family Game Night (Beach blanket bingo) January 12th

Spelling Bee- Date is TBD

Int’l Festival March 26th

Math Night March 31st

Science Fair April 29th

Spring Fling May 21st

PTG donated leftover stuffed animals from past events to Emerson Hospital who were very happy to receive them for pediatric patients.

Question about what we can do with proceeds of events like the book fair which raised more than anticipated. We will dedicate time at the January meeting to discuss potential ways to utilize funds raised from book fair and other revenue sources so come with ideas!

**Principal and Teacher Update**- Matt Lucey / Jon Smith

Jon Smith: Thank you for the teacher’s holiday luncheon- very appreciative. It’s a very busy time of year so helping with lunch is meaningful.

Question was raised about the time allotted for lunch periods- some parents are worried that there isn’t enough time for lunch. Kids are always excited to be together but do a lot of chatting which does impact the ability to eat their meal. There are twenty minutes for students to eat and teachers/aides are assisting to teach children to focus on eating. Parents can help remind students to prioritize eating during their lunch period. All but second grade have recess before lunch. Appreciation to food services team for their care, professionalism in feeding our children.

Matt Lucey: Principal for a day is coming up-always a fun day. Later this morning there will be the School Resource Officer webinar (recording will be made available) around emergency preparedness. Letter was sent out to parents about school exercises with a few questions coming in from parents in response to that email.

Reminder about traffic safety at drop off and pickup- please no passing-stay in a single line!!

Conversation about how to encourage productive teacher-parent communication.

It’s the time of gift giving for teachers and staff- please remember that notes and messages are really appreciated. If gifts are to be given, please adhere to the $50 limit per school year.

Will be having a solstice winter concert the Thursday before the break organized by Mr. Piper.

**Treasurer’s Report-** Kristen Lester on behalf of Colleen Currier

Annual appeal is almost at goal. Auction netted just over $9500. Directories are continuing to sell and we’ve raised over $4000 with those. Classroom reimbursement is still coming in. Teacher appreciation gifts are also being covered.

**Charity and Service**- Robin Baughman on behalf of Janet King

Toy drive (Run by Concord Fire Department and High school football team) and coat drive are ongoing for December.

**Fundraising-** Robin Baughman on behalf of Susannah Benner

Just a reminder that Minted has an offer for holiday card purchases – use WILLARD FUNDRAISE promo code. Amazon smile continues to be leveraged by parents as well- very easy way to have money provided to PTG.

**Annual Appeal Update** – Robin Baughman on behalf of Yumi Suarez

We are at 95% of goal for annual appeal fundraising. We’ve raised over $32,000. Over ten families donated more than $500 in addition to some corporate matches. Thanks to Matt for sending the Giving Tuesday email which helped bump up contributions. Thank you emails and tax receipts have gone out to anyone who has donated prior to 12/1.

**Assemblies & Author Visits-** Amy Casher

Kindergarten bringing back Mass Audubon program. First grade bringing in Acton Discovery Museum. Second grade will have Bash the Trash (performance and workshop). Third graders are foregoing an author visit and are doing Windows on Wildlife and a visit Plimoth Patuxet. Fourth grade is doing Cultivating Curiosity program. Fifth grade doing Concord Museum project that they developed around Revolutionary War.

Two author visits so far- Brian Lies in Third Grade and Greg Mone visited fourth grade.

**Composting Update**- Candace Root

The district had asked for schools to initiate cafeteria composting with support from school cafeteria/food services. At Willard, parent volunteers helped for several weeks to kick it off, with fifth grade taking the lead on classroom education. Opinion is that ongoing support from volunteers is needed for a few more weeks and a sign up sheet is available for parents to help.

**5th Grade Celebration**- Robin Baughman on behalf of Juli Jones

5th grade committee met and have a great group of volunteers for this year. Thoreau Club outing is being planned for Friday June 9th, with a rain date June 12th.

**Discussion**

Meeting adjourned at 10:44.

The next PTG meeting is January