

**Oak Street School
PTO General Meeting
January 11, 2012**

- I. Committees/Events**
- a. Movie Matinee** – Chair, Shirley Lee has picked a Dolphin Tale as the featured film for the movie matinee. This event will be held on January 13th from 3:30 – 5:30 and is offered to grades 3 – 5. Pretzels and water will be offered to the children. Shirley is still looking for a couple volunteers, possibly from those who have children that plan on attending.
 - b. Craft Night** – Chair, Noriko Garner has decided on a Safari theme. “Get Ready to Roar” craft night will be Friday, January 27th from 6 – 7:30pm. Kindergarten through 2nd grade is welcome to attend (along with a parent, this is not a drop off event). The children will receive passports and a map to guide them through five different craft stations.
 - c. Wizard of Words** – Co-Chair, Cindy Malatesta announced that two fabulous authors (Dan Gutman and Margie Palatini) along with illustrator, artist Brian Pinkney would be visiting OSS. Wizard of Words week will be February 27th through March 2nd. Mrs. Philhower and Dan Gutman have teamed up to run a reading contest. The class that reads the most Dan Gutman books will have a class picture taken with Dan Gutman. Cindy reminded everyone that there is a firm deadline for ordering books to be signed by the authors and that deadline is January 27th. She also asked for more volunteers to help trace and paint decorations.
 - d. Harlem Wizards** – The Harlem Wizards against OSS staff and parents will perform Sunday, January 29th at 1pm. This event will be held at Ridge High. Advanced ticket sales are \$12.00 for adults and \$10.00 for children. Tickets are available and you are urged to purchase them now. The OSS team has 19 players (11 staff and 8 parents) lined up to participate. Today Harlem Wizard “Bam Bam” visited with all grade levels and conducted a mini presentation. Sign up sheets were passed around today’s meeting and we asked everyone to please show support and volunteer, as this is a big event. Christine Ziegler had an opportunity to introduce “Bam Bam” to all who attended today’s meeting. He stated he is originally from New York, played with the Harlem Globetrotters for three years and has been with the Harlem Wizards for two. He promises there will be some “high flying dunksters and tricksters” who are sure to bring excitement to the game.
 - e. Spring Book Fair** – Chris Corrigan stated that we would be using Allbrook again. The fair will be March 27th through March 30th during conferences. We have found there is a lack of volunteers for this event due to the fact children cannot attend. Dr. Costa has agreed to let children whose parents will be working the fair to attend; there will be a room set-aside with someone to oversee them.

- f. **Boxtops** – Donna announced the Box top prizewinners were Ms. Malone’s class. The class received an extra 45 minutes with Harlem Wizard “Bam Bam”.
 - g. **Kindergarten Registration** – Erica Amato is the Chairperson for Kindergarten Registration, which is scheduled for February 2nd. Morning registration will be from 9 – 11am. Afternoon registration will be from 2 – 5pm.
 - h. **Valentine Grams** – Donna Giordano introduced Valentine Grams. This will be our first ever Valentine Gram fundraiser. Valentine Grams are on sale now thru February 13th and can be purchased for \$1.00. This is an opportunity to send a special valentine message to you child letting them know you’re proud or just how much you love them. Valentine Grams information can be found in the Oakleaf, please be on the lookout. All proceeds go to the OSS PTO.
 - i. **Battle of the Books** – Battle of the Books has already begun. Teams were formed and all deadlines were put into place. 4th Grade Battle Night will be Monday, April 2nd from 6 – 8pm. 5th Grade Battle Night will be Wednesday, April 4th from 6 – 8pm. Both battles will be held in the OSS Auditorium.
 - j. **Family Reading Night** – Co-Chairs, Stephaine Caesar and Kristin Zebrowski were unable to attend however, it was reported that plans are moving along as scheduled for Family Reading Night. Dolce will be donating food again this year. Piggie Pie is the theme for the even, which will take place Friday, March 9th at 6:30pm.
 - k. **Holiday Boutique** – Co-Chair, Heather Lusardi reported that all and all the holiday boutique went well and all the student shoppers had a great time purchasing gifts for loved ones. She said kindergarten classes took the first and last time slots to have a little more time to shop. Heather was extremely thankful for all the cooperative volunteers who help take it a success and she has already begun shopping for next year.
 - l. **Holiday Recognition** – Co-Chairs, Jennifer Bozzo and Nancy Collins (along with 65 bakers) baked, packaged and delivered 130 cakes on December 12th to all our Oak Street staff. The PTO received many thoughtful thank you notes.
- II. **Cultural Arts/ Curriculum Enhancement updates** – Eileen Rodriguez spoke briefly about the upcoming events that are planned. The Chinese Acrobats are scheduled to perform for grades K – 2nd on Wednesday, February 8th. Operaworks is scheduled for Thursday, March 15th. Allyson McCauley reminded everyone of the upcoming Penguin assembly on February 6th for the Kindergarteners. We (The PTO) are happy to offer a mix of programs and look forward to the children and teachers enjoying these performances.

- III. **District Update**
- a. **New Superintendent** – Nick Markarian will be the new superintendent effective July 1, 2012.
 - b. **Homework Survey** – The results to the homework survey summary and analysis can be found online on the BOE website.
- IV. **Treasure’s Report** – Tina gave a brief budget announcement at the general meeting. Tina stated that we are on track to meet income and expense budgets for the year. We hope to meet all our fundraising goals as well. Tina also stated we exceeded our target selling kidstuff books and she is hoping all the upcoming events will be just as successful. Tina reminded everyone that now is the time to buy Sally Foster items and she thanked all the committees for staying within their budgets.
- V. **Presentation – Raising Resilient Children** – Mrs. Mary Pasquale and Dr. Barbara Bush gave a 45-minute presentation about the importance of raising resilient children. Mrs. Pasquale spoke of topics, such as... Helping kids with stress, how to deal with conflicts, and teaching children resiliency. It was emphasized that children need and crave routine, along with a positive support group who can offer praise and encouragement. Mrs. Bush who is a licensed psychologist and been working in the district for 25 years handed out a parenting questionnaire. She was informative and passed out a helpful handout focusing on 7 guidelines (with plenty of tips and tricks) when it comes to positive parenting.

Announcements:

Audrey Sherwyn and Linda Wooldridge were in attendance. Audrey announced legislation is allowing moving school budget elections from April 2012 to November 2012. This bill will allow elected representatives to decide whether they want to move their school board election from April to November. This is awaiting approval from the Governor. Audrey reminded everyone to always feel free to contact her with any questions and/or concerns.