

October 2, 2012

Location: Ms. Nancy Library

### **SOPA Meeting Notes**

Mrs. Todd's class opened the meeting with a performance from her first grade class.

#### **Wendy Horowitz – Librarian from Sherman Oaks Library**

Ms. Horowitz came to visit the SOPA meeting. She offered to run a book discussion group and get more involved in the school. She also announced an essay contest through the Sherman Oaks Library. It's called the FOCAL Essay Contest and the book is "One Day and One Amazing Morning on Orange Street". For more information, please visit the Sherman Oaks Library or call (818) 205-9716. The library is also hosting a Halloween party Oct. 30<sup>th</sup> at 1pm.

#### **Meeting Food/Family Nights**

For tonight's meeting, Antonio's Pizzeria is catering. Amy encouraged everyone to attend the next family night on Tue., Oct. 9<sup>th</sup> as a way to thank them for catering the SOPA meeting for free. Antonio's will donate 15 – 20% of the proceeds back to the school if you mention you are from SOEC. As a way to thank all the businesses that sponsor the school, we encourage you to visit their establishments and let them know that SOEC thanks them for supporting our children's education.

#### **Website/Technology Update**

Andy Berenson gave an update on the new technology that was recently purchased for the school by SOPA. Forty two new iMacs were purchased for the computer lab and the older Macs were placed in the library and in classrooms. SOPA also purchased 31 new laptops and 28 A/V carts for teachers and classrooms. As a next phase, SOPA is considering purchasing additional iPads for the classrooms. If you are interested in finding out more information about the new technology for the school, please contact Andy Berenson at [andy@shermanoaksparents.com](mailto:andy@shermanoaksparents.com).

The website is currently up and running and a new feature being added this year is class pages. As a result of having class pages, it is very important that everyone update their personal information on the website so that way the class pages can be accessed. This can be done by clicking on "update profile/email address" link in the footer of any SOEC/SOPA Newsletter or Announcement. When you update your personal information, you can also let SOPA and SOEC know your communications preferences. Again, please contact Andy Berenson with any questions about the website.

#### **Annual Fund**

Andy Berenson announced the Annual Fund, our biggest fundraiser for the year, is officially underway. As a way to encourage you to donate before the end of October, we are raffling off a pair of Lakers tickets (see below for more details). The money raised by SOPA is used to not only support all the programs SOPA funds, including the computer lab, science lab, the music and art teachers, the computer lab teacher, the 2 science teachers and much more, but it is also being used for all the upgrades in technology. Please give as generously as you can to help support these programs for your children. Andy also announced that the Phone-a-thon will be in November and we will need volunteers to help make phone calls. If you are interested in helping with the Phone-a-thon, please contact Andy at [andy@shermanoaksparents.com](mailto:andy@shermanoaksparents.com).

### **Laker Ticket Raffle**

At the October 30th SOPA meeting, we will raffle 2 seats in the 100's section of a 2013 Lakers game. You will be automatically entered into the raffle if you do either of the following **by October 29th**:

- DONATE \$50 or more to the SOPA Annual Fund OR
- MAKE A PLEDGE to donate \$500 or more to the SOPA Annual Fund. (The actual donation must be received prior to the game date or January 31st, whichever comes first.)

To donate, please visit [www.shermanoakselementarycharter.com](http://www.shermanoakselementarycharter.com) and click on the donate button.

### **Annual Fund Benefits**

There are many benefits to giving beyond improving the education your child receives. The donation levels with benefits are:

- \$100 donation: SOEC car magnet
- \$500 donation: A tile for their family to decorate at a party, which will then go on the Great Wall of Tigers and the SOEC car magnet.
- \$1,000 donation: Two tiles to decorate and the SOEC car magnet
- \$1,500 donation: An elegant dinner and wine pairing party as well as all the previous benefits.

If you work for a company that matches charitable donations, that matching gift will count towards the benefits. So if you donate \$250 and your company matches \$250, your family is entitled to receive a tile on the Great Wall of Tigers. There will be more information distributed in the next few months. If you have questions or to make a pledge, email [donate@shermanoaksparents.com](mailto:donate@shermanoaksparents.com).

### **Beautification**

Our next Beautification Day is Sunday, Oct. 7<sup>th</sup> from 9am-12pm. Stephanie Baker encouraged everyone to come and help beautify the campus. There will be bagels, juice and coffee, so come and help make a difference. We are planning on turning the Dickens yard area into a real play area for the Kinders. We need painters and volunteers throughout the year to help with various ongoing projects. If you would like more information or would like to volunteer, please email Stephanie DiMassa or Stephanie Baker at [Beautification@ShermanOaksParents.com](mailto:Beautification@ShermanOaksParents.com).

### **Halloween Carnival Update**

Shannon Komsky and Ronna Elbaz gave an update on the Halloween Carnival. The carnival is scheduled for Oct. 20<sup>th</sup>, from 4pm-10pm. Admission is FREE this year and families can purchase an all-inclusive ride and games wristband, along with a Haunted House pass and concession tickets (see below for more information). However, food, wax hands, and spin art are not included in the all-inclusive wristband, but everything else is. There are more rides and games this year and the carnival is expanding into the teacher's parking lot. Similar to previous years, we will be holding a raffle. Some of the prizes include an iPad 3 and 4 Disneyland Parkhopper tickets. The haunted house will be as amazing as ever and Ultrazone is back with lasertag. If you have any questions, please contact Ronna Elbaz at [ronna@shermanoaksparents.com](mailto:ronna@shermanoaksparents.com).

**Ticket Information:** Tickets, t-shirts and any of the all-inclusive packages will be sold after school on Wed., Thu. and Fri. leading up to the carnival, at Kids Center, or you can purchase everything on our website by visiting: <http://shermanoakselementarycharter.com/sopa/halloween-carnival/>

**Have Fun Volunteering at the Carnival:** Volunteering at the carnival is a great way to get involved and have fun at the same time. We need people to help run the game booths and rides and help in the haunted house during the carnival. We also need help with set-up during the day and people to help build the Haunted House. To volunteer, please contact Caryn Adams at [mamahas4boys@gmail.com](mailto:mamahas4boys@gmail.com). If you would like to help with the haunted house, please contact Ezra Gabay at [ezra@creditcardtrans.com](mailto:ezra@creditcardtrans.com).

There will also be a Halloween Parade this year on Wed., Oct. 31<sup>st</sup> in the morning. This will also be an early dismissal day at 12:29pm.

### **Book Swap Volunteer Needed**

Amy announced that SOPA is in need of someone to chair the Book Swap this year which will take place at Spring Sing. This is a great fundraiser to chair and is very simple to run. It's a great way to help families recycle their old books, as well as, pass down family favorites to younger children. If you are interested in chairing this fundraiser, please email Amy Cross at [amy@shermanoaksparents.com](mailto:amy@shermanoaksparents.com).

### **Great Neighbors Business Sponsors**

We are looking for someone to help co-chair the Great Neighbors program this year and who is willing to eventually run the program. This program is one of our biggest income generators between sponsorships for events and straight donations from businesses. As a co-chair, you will be assisting in building relationships with businesses, putting the banners on the fence and sending out "thank you" letters. It is very little work for a big reward for the school. If you are interested in helping, please contact Debbie Cabanday at [Debbie@shermanoaksparents.com](mailto:Debbie@shermanoaksparents.com).

### **Box Tops**

Sharon Matsumoto announced that we are participating in the Box Tops program again this year. Last year we raised \$900 in Box Tops. Please cut the "box tops" labels off of each item and place them in plastic a sandwich/snack bag. There is a box in the front office where you can drop off your box tops. Also, if you shop at Pavillion's, not only do they give money back to SOEC if you sign up your card, but they sometimes give coupons (printed with the receipt) good for 20 Box Tops. Please check your receipts each time you shop at Pavillion's.

### **Sharon Lowenstein and Parent Center Volunteers Needed**

Amy announced that Sharon Lowenstein, the Kinder Science teacher, is looking for help from 8:30-11:30am in the Parent Center on Mondays and Thursdays. Toddlers and younger siblings are allowed on campus in the Parent Center, and there are games and toys for them to play with while parents volunteer. The parent center is open Mon-Fri. from 8:30am to 11:30am.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30pm