

## **SOPA Meeting - August 23rd, 2016**

*Location: The McKee-Mattoo Family Library*

*Catered by: Baja Fresh*

*Meeting began at 6:45 P.M.*

**SOPA Overview:** Lindsay introduced the board to thunderous applause. She explained what SOPA does, and what it raises money for.

**The McKee-Mattoo Family Library:** The dedicated plaque was presented to the McKee-Mattoo Family to honor their donation of the library from the Spring Gala.

**Tiger Fund:** Larissa spoke about the importance of giving to the fund. She doesn't think enrichments should be optional, but are instead are vital to our kids education. We met our \$100,000 goal last year and look to do the same this year. Even more important was the increase in our participation numbers, as over 33% of SOEC families donated to the fund, as opposed to the 25% of previous years.

**Room Parents:** Lara Cochran-Davidson spoke about being a Room Parent. She encouraged everyone to try it out, even if you were to split responsibilities with others.

**Ralphs & Amazon Smiles:** Cheryl talked about how to help raise money for SOPA through the Ralphs card, using the bar code on the flier. She reminded everyone that, even if they've already registered in the past, you need to re-register for the new school year. Similarly, she discussed Amazon Smile and encouraged everyone to not just sign themselves up, but friends and family, as well.

**Halloween Carnival:** Caryn Adams spoke about Halloween. To all who have never been before, Caryn talked about everything that one will find at the carnival. Two less inflatables, but bigger and better. She mentioned the idea of people creating games to donate to the carnival. With Larissa's help, we're already 2/3 of the way towards raising the amount of money we need for the Halloween budget. She asked everyone to go Like and Share the Halloween Facebook page.

Then Currie Graham and Sean Larkin spoke about the idea of creating a Trick-or-Treat village featuring 13 to 15 "houses" with different themes that would give out candy to the kids. This would replace the scary haunted house to make something more inclusive to all ages and grades. It's up to interested families to actually BUILD their own house.

Larissa emphasized that this year, instead of asking for money from parents, we're trying to bring in outside sponsors and get parents to volunteer instead.

Caryn asked how much time is required for volunteering. Friday would necessitate a volunteer for set-up. On Saturday, your class is responsible for running the booth for the duration of the night.

Then Caryn talked about the volunteer website for everyone to access and sign up through.

Caryn responded to a question about what a business actually gets if they donate. They get a banner that goes up on the fence. On the morning of the carnival, that banner goes inside the sponsored booth during the Carnival. There will also be a flier that goes inside a bag given out at the carnival.

**Display My Art:** Carla spoke about the Spring fundraiser DMA. In Art classes, kids will be making their designs. Around September 16th, every parent will be getting a magnet with their child's artwork on it. Parents can, in turn, order mugs, coasters, mousepads, reusable bag etc. with that design.

A new option for this year is that someone unrelated to the school, sibling, parent, whomever, can make a design and send it in, as well.

**Governance Council Election Update:** Doug Morse spoke about the Governance Council. He explained the difference between SOPA and GC. Then he talked about what they do on the council, including the dissemination of funds, the outlook and goals of the school, the renewal of the charter, and teacher funding.

He encouraged parents to get involved in this, expressing how little time it actually takes up. Ten meetings, once a month. Next month at the next SOPA meeting, there will be elections for the five open parent slots.

**Box Tops:** Sharon Matsumoto spoke about Box Tops. Samara is going to be the new Box Tops head. Each Box Top is worth .10 cents. She showed what the box looks like that is in the office. Where can you find Box Tops? Why, it's on Annie's products, Ziploc products, etc. We raised \$400 last year on this.

On a related note, Labels For Education is a similar fundraiser that allows us to turn in veritable trash for cash.

**Spirit Wear:** If your kids wear Spirit Wear on Friday, they get a ticket at the gate. That ticket goes into a raffle that is pulled every week. You can win pizza, ice cream, front of the line honors, or their name announced over the loudspeaker. Joey got up to speak about the various designs for sale. Ms. LeVantine and Ms. Ambers modeled the latest fashions. If you're wearing Spirit Wear when you take your kids to school, you get TWO tickets for your kids.

**Musical Theater:** This year we will be doing The Lion King. We're doing it with a company called Jaxx, an all-in-one musical theater company. This year, the program will be open to 3rd-5th Graders. There will be a general audition where 45 kids will be selected. After that, there will be casting. 14 Weeks. \$375. Children must prepare a 60-second acapella song from a Broadway musical for their audition.

Applications are available on the website. Finished applications can be put in Joey's mailbox.

Parent involvement is not necessary as Jaxx does most everything.

**Stop Drop & Roll:** Ada Cottrell spoke about SDR. She's been meeting with city council members about our morning drop-off. The Panera spots are no longer available for parking. A robocall will be going out about this tonight.

We need volunteers for SDR. And if anyone has any ideas on what can be done to make things better after-school, please let her know.

This is Ada's last year doing SDR, so if anyone is crazy enough to want to take over, let her know.

**Ice Cream:** This Friday is the first Ice Cream-selling day of the year. \$2 for all ice cream.

**Misc Questions:** Someone asked about Kids Center and whether there's any more space. It's a license issue, not space. Deanna is doing her best to open up more spaces. But if your kid is in 2nd-5th, they can do YS for free.

Finally, Lindsay reminded everyone that Family Night is next Tuesday at Baja Fresh. Mention you're with SOEC and they'll give money back to the school.

*The meeting concluded at 7:50 P.M.*

*The next SOPA Meeting will be September 20th.*