

Notes from the PTA at Oakton Tuesday, January 10, 2017

Direct Appeal

The effort raised \$6,815 from a goal of \$4,000. The largest gift was \$1,000 from an extended family member of a student. Most donations were one-time gifts, along with eight monthly pledges. All gifts were acknowledged.

Rain Garden

Claire, Geri and Bill made a presentation on plans for the Rain Garden, to be located close to the bus turnaround, where two drain spouts come down the school building. Native plants, including species that attract butterflies and birds, will be picked during the winter, with student input. Geri shared a drawing of the plan, and Bill shared pictures of other garden projects around the metropolitan area. Oakton's project is currently centered on the third grade class, but Ms. Hernández will be inviting all-school participation in the spring. Oakton incurs no expense, since the program has a grant. Curriculum is available; a sample copy was circulated. Periodic updates will be given, along with group pictures. A display area will be available for the upcoming Arts Night event. Oakton's principal office has been very supportive. This organization is also available for private, home projects.

Amazon Smile (and other fundraising options)

An Amazon Smile account has been set up for Oakton, which allows for donations to the school (a percentage of purchases from Amazon). Prime accounts can be linked to the Smile program. Parents are encouraged to share this option with other family members and friends. This and other fundraising options will be highlighted on a printed flyer encouraging parents to get involved in supporting Oakton, and to explore other avenues for support from local businesses (e.g. Target, Food 4 Less Grocery Stores, Red Robin Gourmet Burgers, Gigio's Pizzeria).

Parent Teacher Conference Day

It was suggested that monetary donations be secured in place of food, to make sure all teachers are well fed. It was also suggested that a collection be done, inviting children to bring spare change, and that teachers be invited to pick the menu. Pearl volunteered to lead this effort.

Wellness Team

Pearl shared that Orange Theory Fitness gym is offering free demos for a group of up to 24 people, including a variety of classes. It was suggested that spots be offered to teachers and parents. Orange Theory has several nearby locations, including Evanston and Chicago Edgewater. More details at orangetheoryfitness.com. It was also suggested that a Wellness Week be offered again this year. Other wellness projects include nutrition sessions (in English and Spanish), and wellness role-model pictures in the cafeteria.

Oakton Spirit Week

It's scheduled for Monday, January 30 through Friday, February 3. The themes will be: crazy hat

day, twin day, sports day, mix-matched day, and pajama day. All staff members are encouraged to participate, take pictures, and share them on Facebook.

The Oakton PTA meets the second Tuesday of the month. The next meeting will be: Tuesday, February 14, 2017, 8:00AM-8:45AM, in the Library. Childcare and Spanish translation is provided for the meetings.

FOR QUESTIONS OR TO VOLUNTEER, CONTACT: Daniela Nelke at dcnelke@gmail.com

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