

Burning Tree PTA Minutes - October 2, 2007 at 7:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by President Olivia Lai. The August 29, 2007 minutes were approved.

President's Report: Lisa Sanfuentes and Vicki Herson were thanked for hosting the new family coffees. The Learning Center get together, hosted by Tammy and Matthew Pasquinelli, was also well attended. On Wed. Oct. 10, an evening get together for new international families will be held at Olivia Lai's home. The old Kindergarten playground was removed and the climbing wall in the back area should be installed within a few weeks. Katerina Papaioannou reported that PTA Membership is up to 300 members (out of 391 BT families) and that the directory will be ready for the printer in two weeks. Karen van Loon has been working on getting the PTA website up and running. She is currently registering domain name, and it will hopefully be up and running by the end of the week.

Principal's Report: Mr. Tark stated that MCPS has purchased a web management system called TRON, which allows easy access and management of web pages directly. This system will be a huge time saver. Last week representatives met with Web people to whom info on BT was given. The old site is currently still running. Construction: the crew is laying new drainage pipes, regrading, and then they will be seeding. This should be completed in about three weeks. The safety barrier fence has been brought back, and 10 parking spaces have been temporarily taken away. Kids go onto the black top, or, field only during recess. There is a rotating schedule. Dr. Chaset reported that a new ESOL teacher was hired, Popsy Kanagaratnam. She will be working on Fridays, and Monday and Tuesday afternoons. 48 students receive ESOL services. She will be able to give extra attention to those kids who really need it. Karen Judson, Sheryl Isaacs and Wynne Sitrin, on the Sister School Committee, reported on all different kinds of reciprocal relationships. Broad Acres is our sister school. School supplies were sent over to the school, as well as a check for \$1200. Broad Acres will use that for a behavior incentive program in their school. They would like to have a career day and would like the help of BT. They would also like to visit our International Night, and continue with the winter clothing drive. This is grant writing season – three grants are out for various funding, one is for digital calculators that help kids master math facts. One is for digital storyboarding. These are Washington Post Education Grants Fund. One is an Arts fund from Washington Post. One is for funding gardening activities for students in the third grade.

Treasurers Report: Lisa Davenport reported that we are already doing better than expected with the sales of ads for the directory. The Kindergarten playground funds are coming out of the Wish list.

Vice President Reports: Fundraising: Cindy Campbell reported that Sally Foster sales are not going well; only \$5631 so far. We are way down from previous years. Parents really need to turn their forms in by this Friday. Bingo Night is on Oct 12. Volunteers are still needed. The food will be served at 6:15. Bingo will start at 7:00. If anyone knows any other fund raisers, please let us know. School Based Programs: Karen van Loon reported that some after school classes still have spaces. They start this week. The Chess club has started up, run by Don Connors. FLES-Chinese is starting this Thursday. Spanish starts on the 16th, French starts next week. Every offered class has been filled. Tomorrow is Walk to School Day. Approximately 150 children have signed up. Walk to school will begin at 8:50. International Night is on October 18. More volunteers are needed, and there are many ways in which to participate. Community Based Programs: Vicki Herson reported that Martha's Table is this Thursday. Walk for the Homeless will be on October 25, during the school day. Volunteers: Brenda Conroy has received more than 100 volunteer forms from families, and stated that it's never too late to volunteer. This week more help is needed for lice checking on Thursday and Friday mornings. Beautify Burning Tree is a nice opportunity for parents to help out. Several classes still don't have contact parents. There are also many vacancies in the lunchroom volunteer schedule third and fourth week of October. Brenda stressed that at future PTA meetings, babysitting will not accept children under 4 years old.

Pam Mintz from the YMCA Youth and Family Services spoke about "Raising Responsible Children." She stressed that chores, and allowances, were both important to give to your children, enhancing their self-esteem and sense of responsibility within the family.

No new business. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Michele Zweig Greenberg