

## **ANCS PTCA Board Report: November 2012**

### **Recent and Upcoming Events:**

#### *Participation in Fall Festival/Spirit week/School store/credit cards:*

The PTCA had a membership booth and school store set up at the Fall Festival on Oct. 20. We tested the process of using credit cards through the square system at this event. We have also been using credit cards for the school store, and it has clearly increased sales. On Wednesday, October 24, Narin and Ellie ran the school store during afterschool and sold over \$800 of merchandise in that one afternoon. We also received new memberships through credit card payments. We plan provide a credit card option for parents at Bingo night and for the ANCS 5K registrations in the spring.

Spirit week was held on both campuses during the week of Oct. 22. The elementary campus held a spirit day on Oct. 25 and the middle campus had ongoing events all week, which culminated in a bake sale and the Halloween Zombie Prom on October 26. Hollis Gillespie and Annette Wawerna coordinated this event; it had a big middle school turnout.

#### *First PTCA Dine Out on Oct 23:*

Our first dine out of the year was on Oct 23 at Doc Chey's in Grant Park. Our promotion was so successful that we seem to have surprised the restaurant with all our patrons. There was a very high turnout—and we made \$525 for the event. We are planning a second Dine Out for January 2013 (we have contacted Six Feet Under about this).

#### *Winterfest:*

Winterfest is our next major event on Thursday, December 13. The Related Arts committee has secured Ebenezer Baptist Church again for this event. The PTCA executive committee voted to give the Related Arts committee an additional \$500 to secure the space this year (rates have gone up from \$2500 to \$3000) but it does still seem to be the most convenient and affordable location. The executive committee plans to organize a social for parents with hot chocolate/cider and baked goods before and after the performance. This way, once parents drop off kids early to set up they can linger at the church and have some time to socialize with other parents.

*Author visits/Assemblies at Elementary campus:* On the elementary campus, the PTCA sponsored an author visit in October and has a second author visit planned for November right after thanksgiving (November 28). We also sponsored an educational science show, "It's Electric," on the elementary campus. Our next assembly, "Environmental Epic Show," will be on December 10.

### **PTCA Promotional updates:**

The PTCA executive committee has worked on a couple of initiatives to promote our efforts and to encourage parent involvement on both campuses. The executive committee voted unanimously to have a facebook page for the PTCA, which is now up and running. We completed and distributed our first of three e-blasts for the year (this was sent out to

the community on November 12 before the general meeting). The first PTCA e-blast highlighted PTCA events that have occurred so far along with an overview of mini-grants we provided and testimonials from teachers. We also used this as a forum to thank our many parent volunteers and inform parents about future activities. We recently printed thank you cards that we plan to use for teacher gifts, and to thank parents and volunteers/donors who have been involved with our committees and events.

**Funding updates:**

*Mini-grant update:*

Purchases have been made for the first round of mini-grants. We gathered testimonials and took photographs to document the projects we supported. Our e-blast and facebook page communicated some of this mini-grant news to the school community. We plan to encourage teacher memberships before the next round of mini-grants.

Our next mini-grant deadline is January 25. The final deadline is in March.

*New cameras for elementary and media furniture for MS:*

The executive Committee voted (5-2) to support Jill Hanson and Cheryl Booth's request for cameras for the elementary campus. The plan is to purchase a full set of 24 Canon cameras that can be used for class projects. Each child in the class would have their own camera to work with. Some of the cameras the school currently has are old, and there are not enough of them to do group projects and curricular activities successfully and with ease with the current number. The PTCA put forth \$3000 for this request.

On the MS campus, the PTCA has been involved with "sprucing up" the media center. New furniture and curtains were purchased for the space and have been set up; a new rug and cushions were also just purchased last week and will be added to the space. The PTCA would like to support updating the teacher's lounge as well, and is in the process of getting feedback from teachers about the best organization and design for that space.

*Amazon/Box Tops fundraising:* The PTCA is encouraging parents to use the school's Amazon link for holiday purchases. We will be using the Courier and facebook to remind parents that the school can make money through these links.

Along with Dine Outs, we have begun the process of applying for an ANCS day at Whole Foods in Midtown for the spring, which would allow a portion of that day's profits to come to the school. Endulge cupcakes, a neighborhood business, is also planning to have Wednesday afternoon specials for the ANCS community with a portion of the proceeds supporting the PTCA.

**Executive Committee position updates:**

We announced the open VP position through the Courier and facebook posts on both the main ANCS page and the new PTCA page. We just filled the position and announced Laura Maggos Finch as our new VP at the November general meeting. Laura comes with a lot of PTCA experience—she has been the room parent coordinator on the elementary campus for a number of years—and she has organized Grandparent's and Special Friends

day as well as school pictures. We think she will be able to ease into this position quickly and fill some of the current executive committee needs.

**PTCA meeting updates:**

Our November general meeting on the MS campus (November 13) included a special presentation: Stephanie Lee Behm Cross and her GSU students discussed the topic of Adolescent Development. The meeting had approximately 35 attendees.

In lieu of an Executive Committee meeting on Monday, Nov. 12, the committee met on Thursday, Nov. 15, to plan the general meeting and discuss a number of topics including planning Winterfest, selecting a new VP, organizing the school store, and planning teacher gifts for the holiday season.

**List of Events/Meetings:**

Monday, November 12: PTCA Executive Committee Meeting 6pm

Tuesday, November 13: General PTCA Meeting 6:30pm

Friday, November 16: Third Friday Coffee at elementary campus

Wednesday, November 30: Brian Pinkney author visit at Elementary campus

December 3-7: National Inclusive Schools Week/Special Needs coffee on Dec. 7

Thursday, December 6: Winterfest

Friday, December 7: Coffee with Principal Underwood at MS campus

Monday, December 10: Elementary campus assembly: "Environmental Epic Show"

Tuesday, January 8: PTCA General Meeting