

NS PTA MEETING

Date/Time: March 5, 2013

Location: Library

Attendance: See sign in sheet

AGENDA

Introduction and Welcome

Pledge of Allegiance/NS Pledge

Board Presentations

Guest Speaker

Principal's Message

Question/Answer

President's Message

Jen Wootten called the meeting to order at 9:15 am, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and the NS Pledge. She reminded everyone that Aaron Sellecman, HB principal, will be at North Star on April 9th in the evening. She handed out the treasurer's report and noted that our expenses for the carnival this year are higher because we are building our own games. The minutes from the January meeting were approved.

Board Presentations

School Support- Donna Stack discussed our next event "Bingo Day", which will take place from 3 to 5 pm on March 7th. Cards will be one dollar. No pizza this year due to the earlier time.

Fundraising- Michelle Leone discussed the upcoming carnival. She has created a sign up genius for volunteers and we will need a lot of volunteers to make the event a success. Older children can sign up to monitor a game but need to have some supervision from a parent. The baskets will be wrapped on March 18th. We have rented blow up games to appeal to older children this year. Due to feedback from last year, we will be having prizes at each game. Prizes are very expensive and this will increase our costs. Tickets are going to be a little different this year. The main ticket type will work for games, baskets, and novelty food and prizes. There will be a \$5 ticket for caricature artist, photo booth, and teacher outings. Food will be handled by an outside vendor and will be cash based. Michelle also stated that spirit wear will be coming in about two weeks.

Guest Speaker- Kelly Wescott, NS Guidance Counselor and Testing Administrator

Ms. Wescott discussed DCAS and how it works. DCAS is given to 3rd to 5th graders twice per year, with a third opportunity in May. If a child scores a 1, 2, or 3 PL then they are automatically enrolled in the May testing date. Second grade only takes DCAS once and it is just for practice. If your child gets a PL 4 on either or both DCAS tests then you have the option of taking the test again in May, but you must opt in otherwise your child will be exempt from the May test. That is a change from last year where you had to opt out of the test.

There are two scores reported, accountability score which takes into account grade level questions and determines the PL (performance level). The second score is the instructional score which is determined by the questions above grade level. The test is untimed. There is a training test for both reading and math. The website is de.portal.aircast.org, but you need to use the Mozilla Firefox browser.

Principal's Message

Jen Thomas highlighted some recent happenings at North Star including the 3rd grade geography night, the spelling bee for 4th and 5th grade, and the 1st grade non-competitive spelling bee. The school also had a presentation of the Chinese New Year celebration. Jen wanted to thank everyone for attending and volunteering at Family Fitness night, which was a huge success. She also discussed author day and how wonderful this year's author was with all the children at North Star. Finally, she announced the new upcoming policy of a closed campus after 3pm with the exception of a nurse requiring a parent to come to school.

Miscellaneous

Deb Brady announced a quickly approaching yearbook deadline, so please submit any photos you may have through the website.

One parent raised concerns over the recent court house shootings and how it relates to our school. Ms. Thomas explained that she has passed along all information that is allowed through law enforcement and district security. She will continue to work with both of the above and keep NS families informed as she is allowed.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30am. Our next meeting will be May 14th. April 9th will be the HB principal, but will not be a full meeting.

Submitted by
Julie Guarneri, NS secretary