

1. Call to Order (7pm)
2. General framework for parent group
 - a) **Meeting times and dates** – last Tuesday of each month at 7pm. Due to some conflicts with holidays, some meetings will fall on a different Tuesday of the month. This information has been updated on the website. Next meeting is November 29th.
 - b) **Introduction of leaders and their roles:** Shana Hildreth and Joanna Shetler (Class Rep Coordinator), Lisa Kron (Secretary), and Tracy Welch (Volunteer Coordinator).
 - c) **PTA/PTO process research** – the question was posed whether MITCH is interested in incorporating into a PTA, PTO or Foundation. There are fees involved, and we would have to establish a separate Tax ID number. Benefits to this type of arrangement are that fundraised money would be protected from being used by the district. We need people to lead this effort by researching the various options and presenting their pros and cons. The goal is for a decision to be made during this school year. Packets of information are available for the PTO and PTA options.
3. Committee Updates
 - a) **Teacher Appreciation** – after the parent meeting, those were interested in helping with teacher appreciation efforts were invited to stay and discuss ideas. Last year we did a solid of teacher appreciation – maybe change the format for this year.
 - b) **Harvest Festival** – Thursday, Nov. 3rd, 1:30 – 3:15
 - Kindergartners invited to stay all day – craft activities will take place in their own classroom.
 - Other grades will stay with their teachers and rotate through different classrooms.
 - Students will do a Pumpkin Pie in a Bag activity.
 - Baggenstos Farm will donate small pumpkins for students to create centerpieces – Class reps are to come up with a basic design concept for their class to follow.
 - Links to google doc for volunteer sign-ups will be resent.
 - c) **Harvest and Agricultural Committee** – there were no specific updates at this time, but this sparked a discussion about MITCH's Green Status, and Debi Lorence gave an update on those efforts:
 - MITCH is working on getting its Green Status back.
 - Every teacher would like a volunteer to lead classes in their greenhouse projects.
 - We have started composting, and the 4th grade teacher was granted her request (through donations) for enzymes and worms that will facilitate the composting process.
 - Rain water is being collected for use in watering plants.
 - Parents are encouraged to send students with reusable containers and wrappers in their school lunches.
 - Mrs. Coffee to lead recycling efforts.
 - 8th Grade teacher to guide student council.
 - Teachers will do 3 fieldtrips/year focused on agriculture.
 - In general, MITCH is broadening the scope of all of its agricultural efforts.
 - d) **Science Fair** – historically, parents have felt overwhelmed by the 5th grade science fair projects, so the decision has been made to start students on science projects in earlier grades so they are introduced to the concept gradually and feel more ready for the judged science fair when they get to 5th grade.

- This year, K-2 will demonstrate their science fair projects November 10th (these will be simple projects focused on basic science concepts and vocabulary).
 - Grades 3-4 will do their projects on November 17th. These will show one scientific concept or theory in 4 different approaches.
 - Grades 5-6 will have their fair on November 21st.
 - Grades 7-8 will have their fair on November 22nd.
 - On the night of November 22nd, awards will be given to 5-8th graders.
 - On November 23rd, which is a half day, projects will be displayed throughout the school for students to observe.
 - We need judges! Looking for people who are passionate about science and patient enough to carefully go through projects, following a rubric. Science fair judges do not need to go through volunteer training. This is a good opportunity to bring someone from the community into our school so they can see the kind of work our kids are doing.
 - Jessica Daniels is in charge of coordinating science fair judges.
 - Need 5 judges per class for grades 5-8.
- e) **Google docs for signups**
- There was a discussion about people having difficulty opening the links when they are embedded in the newsletter document. From now on, the link will be sent in the body of the email so as to eliminate this problem.

4. Fundraisers

a) **Lewis and Clark College Basketball clinic**

- Basketball players from L&C will play basketball with kids from 2nd-8th grade on the L&C campus. MITCH students as well as friends and relatives are eligible to participate. This will take place on Thursday, Dec. 29th from 1-3:30pm, and the cost is \$20 per child. A flyer has been sent out. All proceeds go to MITCH.

b) **Fundraiser for the teachers at Winter Musical**

- We discussed collecting donations for the teachers at the winter musical. It was decided that a basket will be set out in the entry to collect the donations. An announcement will be made during the concert, and Class Reps will send information to families to remind them that the basket will be there.

c) **Michael Alan Harrison Performance**

- February 24th. This is a benefit concert for MITCH. We will invite donors to purchase a table – looking for continued partnerships for the school. This will be a dinner/dessert benefit.

d) **Yogurt Shack November 17th**

- From noon-9pm on this day, 10% of the proceeds from yogurt sales will benefit MITCH.

e) **Fundraising: successful and not so successful**

- The auction, pie sales, entertainment books, TP/Paper plates sales, movie tickets, Tae Kwan Do lessons, and McMennamin's restaurant night were all successful fundraisers for us last year.
- Some restaurant nights and the Holiday Bazaar are examples of fundraising efforts that were not so successful.

f) **New ideas:**

- Local carpet cleaning business to give us cards with a code for MITCH on the back – families can distribute these to their friends and relatives, and anytime someone shows the card when they schedule service with this business, MITCH will receive a

percentage of the proceeds.

- Tupperware/reusable containers – the idea was put forth that since we are working on our Green Status and encouraging the use of reusable containers for lunches, perhaps we can find a related fundraiser through Tupperware or a similar company.
- Scrip Update – we discussed ways to make this program more convenient for users, since many parents have said they would use it but they often forget to sign up. Some ideas were: setting up an auto-renew for users, having a drop box available at carline, and establishing an online option (currently the online option requires a bank routing number, which most feel uncomfortable providing on the internet).

g) Board Update (Gordon Fiddes)

- Board is working on Green certification
- A new subcommittee has been formed to encourage community business participation in support of MITCH.
- Staff policy and procedures are being updated.
- Nov. 15th – all students will receive free hearing and vision tests (no hearing tests for Kindergartners). The Lyons Club of Tualatin is paying for this.
- Car Line analysis – there has been some discussion of moving the fence in the back of MITCH to expand the playground area. This can be done as long as it still leaves ample room for the car line procedure. Car line volunteers will all be receiving bright orange gloves for better visibility. Safety is the number one concern.
- The Board is always eager to hear ideas from families on ways to improve MITCH.

h) Bullying (Bonnie Pfeuffer)

- Bonnie is leading the bullying education program, which is a condensed version of Rachel's Challenge (named for Rachel Scott – one of the victims in the Columbine shooting).
- Students have been learning the definition of bullying, which states that bullying is a repeated act (one instance of teasing is not considered bullying).
- Parents and teachers are encouraged to talk with the kids and to keep track of incidents they hear about to identify repeated events.
- Kids are being taught to stand up for themselves, to learn what it means to be a friend (focusing on the positive), and to identify when a friend needs support.
- There will be an assembly in 2 weeks – students will create a paper chain. Links will be added to the chain when students engage in acts of kindness. At the end of the year, the school will participate in a rally, during which they will see how long the chain has gotten. Will need volunteers to help with this.
- During Valentine's Day week, students will have the opportunity to purchase kindness cards – the proceeds from this will go toward the purchase of a more complete version of Rachel's Challenge.
- To tie in with the efforts to regain our Green Status, recycled paper will be used to create the paper chain links.
- Students will create posters with Rachel's quotes to be hung around the school.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, Nov. 29th at 7pm!