

DeWitt PTA Meeting

Feb. 1, 2016

Approving minutes of Oct. 19, 2016 meeting

- Motion to accept minutes: Tracy Keel
- Seconded Eglantina Lucia; Minutes approved

IPEI-IPEI Spelling Bee

- IPEI has grants, \$500, \$1500 and up
- 8-10 teachers from DeWitt have received IPEI grants
- Biggest fundraiser for grants is Spelling Bee
- Entry fee/Sponsorship is \$400
- Deadline to submit a team is February 4
- DeWitt staff will have a team
- DeWitt will do fundraising to support the team
- Encourage DeWitt parents to form a team

Women in Computing at Cornell-Outreach Coordinators

- Mission is to increase diversity by improving access to Computer Science at Cornell
- 6-8th grade workshops begin Saturday, February 20-21, 3-4:30 pm in Phillips Hall at Cornell
- Girls from ICSD, Lansing, Dryden also participate
- Also open to boys
- Classes are free
- Continuous series begin in Fall; Spring is a continuation but is also offered to new students

DeWitt Bookfair-Joanne Church, DeWitt Librarian

- We can do a bookfair through Barnes & Noble or Scholastic
- Downside of Scholastic is that they have a lot of items besides books
- If we do it a bookfair, Ms. Church would like to get a book in every student's hand
- Barnes and Noble bookfair can be done any time we choose
- Barnes and Noble bookfair requires parents to operate a table at the store
- Would Buffalo Street Books be interested in helping us do a bookfair?
- Discussion of "Books for All" program at Belle Sherman and how they make a book available to all students

Penny Boynton-Clubs

- Update about existing and continuing clubs
- Penny Boynton has registration sheets and all club information
- New session of Coding club begins February 8

- DeWitt may get a debate club

International Night

- Tal Cohen cannot coordinate the event this Spring
- It was decided to wait and hold the event in the Fall
- It was suggested that documentation be prepared so the event coordination can be handed off to someone else or to a committee

Principal's report-Mac Night

- Harlem Renaissance is March 24
- Ice Cream Social is March 30
- Musical "Honk"; Jeremy Plever is director; April 1, 2, 3
- "Sister Friends" event happens March 18; Staff take 14 eighth grade girls for a half day out of school; sort of a trade fair at Ithaca College; celebrates women and girls
- Quebec trip Feb 12-16; about 30 students going
- Black History Month; African Dance Assembly Feb 19; dance and drumming
- Site Based Shared Decision Making Council first Thursday of each month, 7pm in the conference room; will set manageable realistic goal; need representatives from 4 feeder schools to be in attendance;
- teachers do not have a new contract with the district; parents may encourage the district to acknowledge the teachers
- budget: first meeting is Thursday will talk about staffing;
- The administration wants to be more reflective in feedback to parents; be more intentional in phrases to parents and students in progress reports
- Parent feedback is welcome and encouraged
- Open House feedback: increase the amount of information made available to 5th graders before they start at DeWitt
- 8th grade guardians should be getting letter about transition meeting with guidance counselor and student

Treasurer's Report-George Gao

- Direct Appeal was sent out by email only--may be better if we send a flier home
- There is no directory this year, therefore we will not get the advertising money
- Fundraising idea: the Tee-shirt design contest is complete but we have not printed and sold the shirts/hoodies

Open Discussion

- 8th grade promotion: need committee to arrange dance and food
- Yearbook will be traditional with electronic back up
- Staff on the musical will contact PTA if they need help

Next meeting June 6th

Meeting Adjourned: 8:30 pm