

Eastridge Parent Teacher Organization  
Monthly Meeting  
October 4, 2016 7pm Eastridge Media Center

**Welcome & Introductions**

**Members in attendance:** Erin Chambers, Kelly Braswell, Emily Dutter, Ann Bender, Deb Dabbert, Kris Brenneis, Michelle Buller, Laurie Holman, Lisa Hoffman, Angie Alesio, Megan Paul, Mia Watson, Jacob Baden, Wendy O'Brien, Christine Kruse, and Sara Hansen

**Approval of the Minutes from 9/6/16**

Minutes including executive board vote to purchase of Quickbooks software approved

**Treasurer's Report, Kelly Braswell**

Current balances are not reflected in the balance sheet. Savings account balance is \$2,728.24, checking account balance is \$4,462.76. The playground account is closed. The checking account balance reflects the end of school year gift and other larger expenses that have gone out.

**Principal's Report, Deb Dabbert**

Conferences went well. The end of the quarter is in two weeks with Fall Parties on Oct 13. Report cards will go home Oct 28. The first grade schedule has been streamlined. Integrated study has been added as a special; this allows the first grade to stay together in their sections for specials. The plaques for the new benches are here. The four art tables for the Eagle's Nest area have been installed. The installation of the two platforms has been rescheduled to mid to late October. The first Healthy Snack Bar is Oct. 7. Money raised goes to the Eagles Nest.

**Teacher's Report, Jacob Baden and Mia Watson**

Mr. Baden thanked the PTO for their support with the book fair and meals provided during conferences. Mrs. Watson also thanked the PTO and reported that the kindergarten has planted some things in the garden boxes to coincide with their plant curriculum.

**Old Business/Committee Update**

- 1. Eastridge Earnings Update, Chair: Wendy O'Brien:** Staff earned a comfy clothes day for last month's earning of 2,282. Girls scouts are continuing to help with cutting and sorting.
- 2. School Directory, Chair: Emily Dutter for Sian Jones-Jobst:** This is being finalized and directories will be distributed Oct. 13.
- 3. Fall Fundraiser, Chair: Emily Dutter for Sara Brown (Chippe Shoppe):** Items were distributed October 4. Total sales are estimated at approximately \$5,750.00. This is up about \$1,500 from last year.
- 4. Fall Book Fair, Chair: Kris Brenneis, Cara Frost (Scholastic):** Earnings were close to \$5,000 and last year's total. Signup genius worked well for volunteers. Teachers each received about \$90.00 to spend on books for their classrooms.
- 5. Classroom Parties, Co-Chairs: Ann Bender:** A co-chair is needed. Planning is in progress for the Fall parties. Each grade level will have a parent rep who is planning the activities; other volunteers will assist with conducting the parties. Snack is Italian ice, provided by HyVee.
- 6. 2015-2016 Tax Filing, Emily Dutter for Heidi Widner:** It has been determined that we will be able to continue with Shotkoski Accounting for tax filing.
- 7. Fall Family Fun Day, Chair: Emily Dutter:** This is being held Thursday Oct. 6. The event will feature the String Beans. Spirit apparel will be on sale. The event will be moved to the gym in case of rain.

**8. Eagles Nest Committee (also Pumpkin Run Club), Emily Dutter for Lora Carpenter-Janike:** The pumpkin club has concluded with 56 children participating. The art tables were installed in the Eagles Nest area. The Mulch Day, Sept 24, had six families in attendance. Student serve has completed the last of the mulching.

### **New Business**

**1. Dine Out Nights, Chair: Tyler Dutter:** The Dairy Queen dine out night brought in \$115.70, Chipotle brought in \$316.00, and Five Guys brought in \$110.00. The amount raised through Russ's is not yet known. The next dineout night is Oct 12, at Valentinos Buffet at 70th and Van Dorn, from 4-8 pm. Families are to let the cashier know they are with Eastridge. Runza dine out night is Oct 25 at the 48th and O location from 5-8 pm.

**2. Skate Nights, Chair: Heidi Widner:** The date for Skate Night is Nov. 15 from 6-8 pm. The theme is to be announced.

**3. Movie Nights, Chair: Melissa Zahourek:** The first movie night is Nov 4 at 7 pm. The movie will be a newer release. The second semester movie may be an older movie. Previously, students have voted on the movies shown. It is being discussed to have ballots go home to get more family input on the movies. Seven to eight volunteers will be needed for this event.

**4. PTO Bookkeeping Methods - Quickbooks, Kelly Braswell:** Executive board voted to purchase Quickbooks to use as the accounting software instead of PTO manager. In a meeting with Amy Dalton, Kelly Braswell and Mrs. Dabbert, ways to simplify the accounting were reviewed. Line items duplicated by the PTO budget and the school's pto budget are being changed and unnecessary line items are being eliminated. Quickbooks is being purchased at a discounted rate through Techsoup. This is a more user-friendly software. Up to five people can use it, and reports can easily be generated and exported to Excell.

**5. PTO Bylaws Committee: Emily Dutter:** A small committee will meet to address changes to the by laws; focussing on the Treasurer's area in particular. This will most likely consist of one meeting with proposed changes being presented at the November PTO meeting.

**6. Holiday Lights Drive 2016-2017, Chair: Angie Alesio:** This will be the 4th year for the Christmas Lights recycling drive. This is sponsored in conjunction with Scrap Central in Omaha, who donates 20 cents per pound collected. The previous years have collected a total of 17,200 pounds and earnings of \$7,500. The drive will begin Nov 15, run through Jan. 4th at city-wide pick up locations. Collection will run through Jan 15 at the school. Previously 10% of our proceeds has been donated to the Susan G Komen Foundation. A motion was passed to this year donate 10% to the Lincoln Firefighters Operation Warm, which donates winter coats to low-income children through the public schools.

**7 Eastridge Neighborhood Association:** Eastridge Neighborhood Association has agreed to promote school activities such as the dine out nights in the neighborhood newsletter.

### **8. Other New Business/Open Comment**

The Taylor Park Playground is slated for renovation. There are planning meetings open to the public. The first meeting is Oct. 13 at 4 pm at the Park and Rec office. Comments can also be e-mailed to parks director J. J. Yost at [jyost@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:jyost@lincoln.ne.gov).

Wendy O'Brien brought up if more information should be provided regarding which labels they collect for Eastridge Earnings. It was agreed that this could be in the form of a hand out and also added to the facebook page. Mrs. Dabbert also thought it would be meaningful for families to be aware that this helps to fund the quarterly free family events. Information about using Amazon Smiles will also be included.