

Meeting assembles at 6:45 – begins at 7:02

Sherwood Elementary PSO General Meeting | Sherwood Library - Edmonds, WA

September 30, 2016

Principal Christi Kessler

Board Members Leslie Wilke, Co-President; Carrie Hulbert, Co-President; Suzanne Campbell, Secretary; Vanessa Knowles, VP of Fundraising and Volunteers; Sarah Lewis, Co-VP of Hospitality; Melissa Johansson, Co-VP of Hospitality; Liz Morgan, VP of Volunteers; Kristin Haverlock, VP of Communications; Jessica Allende, Co-Treasurer
Unable to Attend: Jessica Meyer, VP of Family & Community Relations; Diana Gray, Co-Treasurer,

11 Parents in attendance

=====

Intro to Agenda by Carrie

1. **Approval of last years minutes** from 6/1/16
2. **PSO Overview** – We are a Parent Staff Organization. Our contributions effect students directly, we are a non-profit 5013c organization and most donations are tax deductible. We are managed by a volunteer board voted in each year. Financial contributions made to the Sherwood PSO benefit Sherwood students. Projects we pay for include:
 - Teacher discretionary funds
 - Student scholarships
 - Assemblies
 - Field trip transportation
 - Crossing patrol
 - Community activites
 - Awards
 - Other school needs that come up ie. technology requests or books for particular grades who need it
3. **Mission Vision and Goals**

Mission: We are committed to making the school a better place to learn; providing enrichment opportunities for all children; building school community; and influencing legislature on behalf of all children.

Vision: Our vision is to continue with staff and volunteer appreciation, building community with a focus on streamlining communication with Sherwood families via the PSO website and social media, and encouraging everyone to get involved.

Goal: Our goal is to make it possible for everyone in the Sherwood community to contribute, whether it be with time, donations, resources or talents/skills/ideas.
4. **Intro to PSO Board Members** - we are a liaison to principal and staff, coordinate meetings and events, work closely with officers to provide focus on whatever areas need it. It is very fun to be on the board – we encourage you to consider it for future years.
5. **Volunteer Opportunities in 2016/2017**

Walkathon—Chairs: Joan Emery/Marci Villanueva/Kimberly Koenig/Libby LeCompte (Oct)

Book Fair—Chair: Liz Morgan (Nov)

Bingo Night—Chair: Teresa Kotwis (November)

Craft Night—Chairs: Melissa Johansson/Sarah Lewis (December)

Skate Night—Chair: TBD (January)

Family Dance—Chairs: Kelly Oliver, (February)

Talent Show—Chair: Angie Oliver + 5th grade parent (March)
Box Top Coordinator—Chair: Allison Wilhelm (May)
Movie Nights—Chair: Vanessa Knowles (ongoing)

Discussion from Marci Villanueva regarding Science on Wheels. We need two volunteers to help plan this fun event, organizing and scheduling classrooms. We are working to have Pacific Science Center come in for 2 days this year. Last years theme was engineering. It is typically an all school assembly and then individual classroom activities. The dates are earmarked for Thursday and Friday prior to Winter Break.

6. Staff Appreciation Lunches

Monthly lunches to recognize the Sherwood staff. Each grade hosts a lunch. Monthly lineup:

October: 6th Grade
November: 5th Grade
January: 4th Grade (need a coordinator)
February: 3rd Grade
March: 2nd Grade
April: 1st Grade
May: Kindergarten

7. 7th Annual Sherwood Walkathon – presented by Vanessa Knowles

Biggest fundraiser of the year on **Friday, October 7th, 2016**

School walk: 2:30 -3:30
Community walk: 5:30 – 6:30
Pizza Dinner: 6:30 – 7:30

We are always looking for ways to pump the kids up. They love this event. First time you turn in your envelope you will get a water bottle. Students get a raffle ticket for every \$10 they bring in. There will be a daily raffle and after the Walkathon there will be an awards ceremony on the 14th for the major prizes. For every student who brings in \$250 more they will go into a side raffle for the Disneyland Hopper tickets. At the community walk and pizza dinner, we will have a few more auction items that parents can buy lottery tickets for and will be selected that night. Examples include: Sports Memorabilia, Seahawks sweatshirt from Rogue, Theatre tickets, Hair stylist gift certificates. Cash, Credit and Checks will be accepted. Raffle will be held at 6:45 p.m.

Last year's goal was to bring in \$24,000. We were successful in achieving a record \$29,000. This year we are hoping to raise \$25,000.

Grand Prize: Great Wolf Lodge packages (valued at \$720) – A suite for 4 with water park passes and a \$360 gift card to spend on food and extras.

Discussion of volunteering for Walkathon and how to look up the signups. All volunteers for the school walk should be to the school by 2p.m. on day of.

8. Fundraising for Sherwood all year long!

When ordering via Amazon, please remember to click through the Sherwood PSO page. This is different from Amazon Smile and beneficial to the school if you can remember to do so. The link is on our website.

Please save boxtops all year long! We will be doing a drive/contest for them in May.

You may always donate directly to Sherwood PSO via Paypal.

9. Thank you to our volunteers!

The following volunteers were recognized for their recent efforts:

Kindergarten Playdates – Kelly Oliver

Back to School BBQ - Sarah Lewis and Melissa Johansson

Welcome Back Coffee - Sarah Lewis and Melissa Johansson and everyone who contributed baked goods

Hearing and Vision Testing - Liz Morgan, Reita Johnston, Eli Fuller, Stella Bloomgren, Nikki Wiley, Jessica Dimmett,

Deandra MacMilan, Sharmon Kollet, Liz Podawiltz, Erin Ornes

10. Upcoming Events:

Comfort Kit Orders Due September 30th

Early Release September 30th

Walkathon October 7th

No School October 21st

Parent/Teacher Conferences & Early Release October 24th – 28th

11. Principals Report w. Christi Kessler

Let's talk about behavior at Sherwood.

"Everyone in the classroom has a story that leads to misbehavior or defiance. 9 x out of 10 the story behind the misbehavior won't make you angry. It will break your heart." – Annette Breaux.

You will hear stories about other children misbehaving in the classrooms but children often don't know the whole story about what is going on with the child/family. Let's talk about how we work with children at Sherwood – behavior is communication. Any child struggling has a reason. My hope is to work with students and families to find out what the reason is and help them deal with it effectively.

Be Kind, Be Safe, Be a Learner

I want kids to think about guidelines for behavior in a different way from focusing on the rules. The focus is on these 3 principles. Yes, there are consequences for bad behavior but it is not the focus.

All behavior has a purpose – behavior is communication.

All children want to be loved and to belong, even when and most especially when they are pitching a fit.

As hard as it can be, our job is to support them through it. They have ideas of themselves in the world and they start to develop their self-image really young. Can really affect how they think of themselves. Really important things to keep in mind.

Punishment vs Consequences – think of a time when you were young and punished. Punishment is short term compliance, can be shaming and doesn't make people feel good about themselves. It does not encourage people to change their behavior.

Behavior is the hardest thing to change and we tend to have the least tolerance for this learning process. Children are dealing with a lot of stress right now. Many families are under a great deal of stress and with emotional issues that children carry with them.

Changing behavior is so hard for adults, same for children. Hard for adults with critical thinking skills. Children don't have the same cognitive abilities.

Please keep in mind, I can't give people the full story of what we're working with. If I could, I know people would understand the situation better – children will eventually change behavior, but it takes our support.

Keep in mind, children interpret things in ways we don't always know.

Our goal is to help students learn to be aware and responsible for their own behavior.

Ask questions to encourage reflection – is this safe? Why or why not?

We work hard to make sure that people are available to talk to children. They are welcome to come to the office to get a problem solved, at any time. I want them to know this is a place that is open to them.

We need to redirect and model appropriate behavior.

Repetition is essential, say it again, model it again,

Problem solving – big and little

All children make mistakes – help give them grace to learn from it and get through it.

This takes time and lots of room for practice and mistakes.

As a consequence I like to have them do something to give back to the community.

I.e. meeting with children and giving them a to do list of 10 random acts of kindness

Other important steps:

Modeling and checking in

Sometimes just listen

Ms. Kessler makes decisions about how to handle based on a situation based on her relationship with each, knowledge of circumstances and context.

Many problems solved by listening to child's point of view and acknowledge their feelings.

This is a process and takes time, particularly with influences from media and TV.

Detention / suspension is a form of punishment but most of time is short term vs. long term gain.

Lots of conversation amongst the room about alternative ways to talk to children about mindfulness.

Examples of things Christi encourages them to do - Cry, write, talk, read, pace, sit under table, give kids things to do when they have emotions that are flooded in. We don't just work with the person who did something but also the person who had something done to them. We give kids words to say.

Leslie Wikie mentioned that one initiative the PSO would like to do is to fund a "buddy bench" for the playground. This would be a spot kids could go if they were lonely, and a spot other children could cue in on the signal and make a connection.

Christi would love more volunteers to help out at recess – when kids need help the most with finding words. Come talk to Christi if any interest and she'd like to do some training to give adults language for what to do – there is a line – parents can't discipline children at the school but we can help them navigate recess before it is escalated.

Discussion amongst room about a program called Playground pals – an opportunity children could sign up for – recess buddies to allow kids to connect prior to going out to recess so they have someone to be with.

Teachers have strategies for how to handle conflict and we have a conflict manager in Anna who will start coming out at recess to help later in the fall.

Recess – primary is 11:35

Intermediate is at 12:10

Afternoon primary recess is at 2:45 and intermediate is at 3:15.

If you are worried about anything, please talk to me and I can help give you examples for how I am handling it. I can't disclose what I'm doing about it for confidentiality reasons but I want to hear from you.

12. **Next PSO meeting** will be in November after the walkathon and bookfair. Stay tuned!

13. **Questions?** SherwoodPSO@gmail.com or check out the Sherwood PSO website: www.sherwoodpsa.com