

Kinderhaven Parent Board Meeting 1/16/14

Present: Sarah Lockhart, Suzanne Sands, Molly O'Neil, Penny Robbins, Chris Bjork, Emily Houlihan, Amie Marks, Jenny Mulliken, Nicole Phelan, Lisa Lersch, Sarah Steiner, Emily O'Brien, Julie Sommers

Absent: Tanner VanDusen

Welcome Back – Sarah

- Thanks again to everyone for continuing to move forward in all areas of our Board's work.
- Board Compassion Project: We are going to go ahead with a Halloween Costume Drive as our Board Compassion Project. Sarah will be leading this undertaking with Jane.
- We will again be putting together Lake Forest and Lake Bluff Kindergarten Registration information for our Red Class parents.
- Benny's World – We discussed having Lisa Watters do a Benny's World event targeted at Kinderhaven Parents with a portion of the proceeds being given to Kinderhaven. It was decided that this could easily be worked into the Fundraising Partnership plans for next year but that at this point we didn't want to do any other fundraisers until our two main events this spring. We will also offer Benny's World the opportunity to again participate in Kindershop in some way.

Director's Update--Penny

- REGISTRATION IS NEXT WEEK: **RETURNING STUDENTS – January 21, RESIDENT NEW STUDENTS January 28th and NON-RESIDENT NEW STUDENTS February 4th**. Returning students are students from families whose older children have attended Kinderhaven in the past as well as families with children currently in one of our preschool classes. All registration will be done ONLINE this year. If a current family is not planning on returning it is helpful if they let Dr. Robbins know.
- Dr. Robbins and Ms. Sindt are going to be attending MacDonald Montessori School's 2014 Winter Conference and the Recreation Department is funding this one.
- We are awaiting approval from the city for the installation of the Keith Haring art pieces, some design updates to our classroom that we would like to fund and an exterior music wall the funding for which has been approved by the board.
- Red Class has a new compassion project in the works involving sponsoring an animal through Gentle Barn Animals. A book that the Red Class has recently published was also shared.
- Dr. Robbins will be doing a presentation at Tuesday's City Council meeting about Kinderhaven's Compassion Projects in an effort to bring more awareness about the fact that we are city's preschool.

Communications – Suzanne

- Suzanne reminded everyone that she is available to help with publicity for any events as needed and is happy to make changes to the website as needed to reflect each part of the Board's recent activities.

Treasurer's Report – Amie

- There have been no changes to our financials since our last meeting.
- Please remember to turn in receipts to Amie for reimbursement.
- Amie and Emily are planning to meet with the Treasurer of the Friends of Lake Forest Parks and Recreation and with Sally Swarthout to gather support for our board formalizing our own non-

profit status. More information will be shared with Board members between now and our February meeting so we can make a decision about this issue at that meeting.

Open House - Jane

- 6 families attended our January Open House. While this is down from last year our Drop In numbers were up so we seem to be right on track. Dr. Robbins also does lots of one on one tours and meetings with prospective parents outside of these events.

Friends of Lake Forest Parks and Recreation - Emily

- Emily and Sarah are really enjoying working with this group. They are very eager to find ways to support and work with our Board.
- Their two big events are in the works: 4th of July and the Golf Classic.
- Emily and Sarah have taken on the task of helping them update/redesign their website.
- They are having a visionary meeting on February 1st.

Survey & Fundraising Report – Lisa

- We had 26 fall surveys completed.
- Most of the feedback was positive. A few suggestions or complaints were briefly discussed. This information will be used to help us continue to improve the Kinderhaven experience for families.
- The teacher/school feedback which was also very positive overall was shared with Dr. Robbins privately for her to share with the staff.

Giving Tree – Tanner via Sarah

- The theme has been decided upon and the committee is working on ways to incorporate it into the evening's festivities.
- The Steiner's have agreed to host the event at their home.
- Save the dates are in the works. The event is on April 26th.
- Auction items are being gathered, including an art piece created by the Red Class.
- There might also be a wine pull at this year's event.
- March 17th is the date invitations will go out.

Kindershop Update – Julie

- The committee will be meeting again in the weeks ahead.
- The storage unit (and Julie's available space at home) is full so a second unit has been rented.
- Chris will be running a February drive at her Yoga Studios. This and other efforts are being made to gather items from sources beyond our Kinderhaven parent community.
- An ad for Kindershop will be run the this year's Dance Program again. This is our third year collaborating with the Dance program in this way. We are going to try to find ways to get flyers about Kindershop distributed in dance and other rec dept. classes when it gets closer.

Upcoming Important Dates MARK YOUR CALENDAR

2/20 NEXT Parent Board Meeting at CROYA

4/26 Giving Tree Gathering

5/17 Kindershop