

# **Falmouth Elementary PTO Meeting**

## **Tuesday, January 9, 2007**

### **Plummer-Motz Library**

**In Attendance:** Boffa, Karen; Coughlin, Susan; Leighton, Amy; Marr, Barb; Perron, Betsy; Soucy, Laurie; Walker, Chantal.

#### **Announcements (Betsy Perron, PTO President)**

- The Winter Craft Fair was a fun and successful day.
- Planning for the Spring Fair will begin with a meeting on Friday, February 2, 9:30 a.m. at the Falmouth Memorial Library. Anyone interested in helping to plan this event are encouraged to attend or to e-mail Betsy at [mlperron@maine.rr.com](mailto:mlperron@maine.rr.com).
- Keep your eyes open for a PTO survey seeking your input on our fundraisers and events; tickets for Bingo Night (Friday, March 30) - on sale after February vacation; details about 4<sup>th</sup> grade science night; applications for PTO Board openings – president-elect, treasurer, recording secretary and Plummer-Motz volunteer coordinator. Also seeking a fundraising coordinator to complete Emily Sandberg's term upon her recent resignation.
- The PTO Budget reflects fundraising income is down significantly from estimated but we'll be able to cover expenses.

#### **Principals' Reports (Karen Boffa, Plummer-Motz Principal)**

- A monthly Principal's Letter is available on the school website (under "Plummer-Motz") as well as a monthly report to the school board (under "Superintendent / School Board").
- The 5-2-1-0 Wellness Works program is underway with both students and staff participating for the month of January. Information and charts to track progress came home in students' backpacks earlier this month.
- The annual reading incentive program begins Friday, January 12 and runs for 50 days. This year's theme is the Underground Railroad. At the start of the program students will bring home a packet including a log for recording their reading time.
- Plummer-Motz students will bring home their 2<sup>nd</sup> trimester progress reports on Friday, January 26. These will include reports from unified arts teachers.
- MEA's will be administered in March. Parents are asked to be mindful of these dates to ensure their children are well rested and in attendance.
- NAPEs (also referred to as the Nation's report card) will be administered in the form of a 90 minute math test to a pre-selected random sample of 4<sup>th</sup> graders on Tuesday, January 30. Letters will be sent home to parents of the 63 students prior to the test date.
- Three architectural firms were interviewed for the Elementary School Building Project. Among the first tasks of the selected architect will be to help decide the scope of this project (i.e., renovate all or a portion of existing buildings; build new structures; etc.).

#### **Technology in the Elementary School (Diane Rossi, Computer Teacher)**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders receive 50 minutes of computer instruction weekly.
- It is hoped that students attain a 10 words-per-minute typing speed by the time they leave 4<sup>th</sup> grade.
- Ultrakey is the software used to practice proper keyboarding technique (hand placement) and is available for purchase through Diane (\$20).

- KidPix software is used to familiarize students with the basics of creating work on the computer, such as the various keyboard keys, text boxes, line spacing, capitalization, inserting pictures, saving work, etc.
- Microsoft Word software is introduced in a similar fashion.
- Inspiration software is used to practice “webbing” on the computer (creating bubble diagrams).
- Internet searching is limited and the school has filters to block inappropriate content. Internet safety is discussed at an elementary level.
- Check out the Computer site for samples of your children’s work and for links to great sites for children and adults. Go to the Falmouth schools website ([www.falmouthschools.org](http://www.falmouthschools.org)), select “Plummer-Motz”, then “Class Sites”, then “Plummer-Motz Computer Site”.

The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Laurie Soucy, Recording Secretary, Falmouth Elementary PTO