



## 9/6/2011 PTA Meeting

### **Summary**

The Rainbow Riders CRC PTA had its first meeting of the 2011-2012 school year on Tuesday, September 6. Twenty-five people attended. The meeting began with a presentation on the PTA's mission, roles, past successes, and plans for this year and was followed by an engaging discussion on how the PTA can better contribute to the Rainbow Riders community of teachers, staff, and families. A summary of that discussion can be found under Feedback & Suggestions below. During the meeting, we also received volunteers to be President-Elect and Gala Co-Chair (Allie Rubio) and Secretary (Tabitha Rust). Thank you, Allie and Tabitha! Other small (1-4 hour commitment) volunteer opportunities are listed below.

Please keep an eye out for the PTA packet, which should be distributed in your child's folder this afternoon and includes the PTA membership form. Also, please mark your calendars: our first big social of the school year, the Dance Party (this year featuring juggling!), is September 23 from 5:45-7:30 or so. A sign up for the potluck is in your child's room.

### **Volunteer Opportunities**

The PTA is making a concerted effort to divide tasks into very small commitments this year, so most opportunities involve an hour or two on a single day. If you are interested in signing up, please email [krometis@gmail.com](mailto:krometis@gmail.com) or check the appropriate box on your PTA membership form, which will be distributed in your child's folder later today.

- Help with set up and/or break down of Dance Party (1 hour commitment on September 23)
- Distribution of Rainbow Riders Magnets from Sale (1 hour commitment in Sept)
- Sorting of items from Tie-Dye Sale (2-4 hour commitment in Oct)
- Distribution of items from Tie-Dye Sale (1-2 hour commitment in Oct)
- Collection of Garden Bulb Fundraiser Order Forms (2 hour commitment in Sept/Oct)
- Sorting Garden Bulbs from Fundraiser (2-4 hour commitment in Oct)
- Distribution of Garden Bulbs (2 hour commitment in Oct)
- Stuffing Flyers about Original Artwork Fundraiser in Children's Folders (1 hour commitment in Oct)
- Collection of Original Artwork Fundraiser Order Forms (2 hour commitment in Oct)
- Distribution of Artwork when returned (2 hour commitment in Nov)
- Gala Event –planning and organization of the Gala event which includes: food, drink, silent and live auction, entertainment and more (will start in November)
- Gala donation solicitations, contacting businesses, collection of items (4 hour commitment in Nov-Jan)
- Outreach Committee-plan service activities, such as food drives, Merry Mittens, and gifts for troops
- Staff Anniversary Recognition Committee-purchase (with PTA funds) small gifts for staff on their anniversaries with Rainbow Riders

### **Feedback & Suggestions**

Teachers and staff at the PTA meeting had the following comments and suggestions. If you have thoughts about these ideas or your own ideas about what the PTA should be doing, please send them to [krometis@gmail.com](mailto:krometis@gmail.com).

## **Community Building**

- Look at possibilities for distributing families' contact information within a given room to facilitate families' ability to contact/communicate directly to help build relationships.
- Use Facebook groups as a potential option to help parents and teachers identify each other
- Develop small informational sessions for parents, such as on discipline, sleep, breast feeding issues for working families, etc.
  - A signup sheet for the first of these sessions, the Love and Logic discipline series, is posted in the lobby.
- The PTA should emphasize that all parent/teacher input and time investments are appreciated, even if they can't attend meetings, and develop opportunities for more people to be involved, especially in small increments.
- The Prices Fork Elementary School PTA asks that parents pledge 3 hours a year of volunteer time and has an online sign-up system (through [VolunteerSpot](#)). Rainbow Riders should consider adopting a similar approach.
- Investigate more targeted teacher appreciation (teacher's likes/wants). Room Reps could facilitate this for given rooms.

## **Parent/Staff Liaison**

- Some parents have had difficulty identifying who their teachers are. This is particularly true for new parents and for substitutes. Parents asked that Rainbow Riders work on strategies, such as name badges, to identify staff members, substitutes, interns, etc.
  - Substitutes should be wearing badges; parents should let admin know if a sub is not wearing one.
- Room Reps act as the point of contact for families in a room to the PTA. Distribute information, encourage parent involvement in small projects, etc.

## **Investments**

- A parent noted that the facilities at Rainbow Riders are fantastic and that rather than focusing on investing fundraiser proceeds in the building or equipment, it would be better to invest in the people. It was suggested that the PTA take over anniversary recognitions for staff by buying presents for staff on the anniversaries of their start at Rainbow Riders. Rainbow Riders used to have a program like this, but it fell by the wayside after the expansion to a second site.

## **Outreach**

- The PTA should try to do gifts for troops and servicemen and women serving overseas.
- Participate in the Montgomery County Christmas Store, Food Drive, and Merry Mittens again this year.
- The PTA could try to participate in the [Can Do](#), a creative food drive held each April, this year.