

Bei Dou Xing Parent Meeting
Monday, October 4, 2010
7 pm in the Eisenhower Media Center

Introduction

Parent introductions

Board News

- Introduction of the Board Members and Committee Leads
- Bei Dou Xing Board Meeting – Sept. 30 (minutes e-mailed with Oct. 3 Parent Update)
- Kindergarten Board Position: There are two potential volunteers for the open Kindergarten rep board position. Board positions will open up on an annual rotating basis. If there is more than one person interested in filling an open position, the selection will be determined by vote amongst the parent community.
- Treasurer Update – Sarah Bennett: Sarah reviewed the account balances and outstanding expenditures. Activity fees have not yet been returned for 61 students. The suggestion was made to consider sending the forms home in Thursday Folders next year rather than distributing at the open house where it can get buried with the other paperwork.

Committee Updates

- Fundraising Committee – Kimberly Ruthenbeck: Fundraising proceeds go into two funds: Cultural Fund versus General Fund.
 - a. The Lunar New Year Festival and the Silent Auction go into the Cultural Fund. This fund is long term in nature and will go towards some sort of cultural experience for students in the future. It's not clear yet what that cultural experience will be, but an example could be to help cover part of the cost for a field trip to China for students in the 8th grade.
 - b. Remaining fundraising proceeds go into the General Fund which supports day-to-day immersion activities.
- Communications Committee – Wende Pemrick: Directory is complete and has been distributed. Communication strategy will remain focused on the Parent Update as the primary mode for communicating to the parent community. Website needs work: much of the content is out of date so will be updated throughout the year and there are platform upgrades that need to take place. The Internal PR position is open; the position helps raise awareness within XinXing and Eisenhower around various topics throughout the school year. An example is the article in the current Eisenhowler that describes Bei Dou Xing. Contact Wende if interested.
- Community-Building Committee – Karmen Mannella: The Community Building Committee will be meeting after the parent meeting to discuss activities for the year.
- External Fundraising Committee – Jaime Dlugosch: Not present
- Room Parent Committee – Abby Schrader: There are lots of opportunities to volunteer in the classroom, watch for emails from the room parent for your grade. If you want to purchase and dedicate a book for your child's birthday, there will be Chinasprout books from the teacher's wish lists available at the November book fair.

Principal Update

Terri Siguenza, Principal
Paul Domer, Assistant Principal

General Discussion Topics

- FLAP Grant Update – Molly Wieland: Molly described the work underway to develop the STEM curriculum. There are two units that will be implemented in the third grade this year.
- Confucius Grant Update – Rosemary Lawrence: The grant is through the Confucius Institute at the U of M and is funded by the Han Ban (through the Chinese government). Additional funds can be applied for annually. Some of the things the grant has helped fund include the Chinese dance and gung fu classes for XinXing students, the art residency, and white boards for the second grade. The guest assistant teachers were also made possible through the Confucius Institute.
- Guest Volunteer Teachers Update – Mary Fabian: Volunteers are needed to help out host families with transportation and activities for the guest teachers. If you're interested in helping out send an email to xinxingparent@yahoo.com.

Meeting Wrap-Up and Discussion

Next Bei Dou Xing Parent Meeting: Monday, December 6, 2010

Eisenhower+XinXing PTO Meeting, Monday, Oct 11 (John Shultz will attend)