Center for Young Children  
PTA meeting  
October 9, 2013

President Eric Haag called to order at 5:48pm

**Introductions:**
Eric Haag – President  
Pamela Morse – Vice President  
Christopher Cadou - Treasurer  
Cary Gillett – Secretary

**Welcome from Dr. Francine Favretto**
- Special thanks to the Executive committee for coordinating the meeting. Excited about pizza from Ratsies!  
- NAEYC was here Monday with photographer – photos will be in journals  
- 40 educators from China visited today. They commented that is was a wonderful caring place where children were valued. We are known internationally and get visits often.

**International Picnic**
- Saturday, October 19th  
- Chair – Tracey Themne  
- Showcase our diversity – we are a very international group!  
- Sign up list for international dishes in each classroom  
- No skill required for face paint or tattoo application  
- Food does not need to be cooked  
- PTA covering grillables and buns  
- Slots fill up as they earn service points  
- Set up starts at noon. Event is 2-5pm.

**Silent Auction**
- Sunday, May 4, 2014  
- Chair - Trina Bowen  
- Happy wrinkle – Trina is expecting a baby due the day of the silent auction!  
- Looking for a co-chair (Full service points given even for co-chair)  
- Solicit vendors and find families with talents to be put up to bid.

**Family Night Out - Fundraiser and social event**
- Chair – Claudina Barrera  
- Once a month event  
- 20% of your bill will come back to the CYC
• Bring flier to get the proceeds
• $140 collected last time at Mama Lucia’s
• Next event is Tuesday, October 22\textsuperscript{nd} 5:30-9pm at Azteca Mexican restaurant on Route 1

Green Committee
• Chairs - Shannon Green/Sally DeLeon
• Help make the school more environmentally sustainable
• Last Trash free Tuesday – ¾ pound trash
• October 14\textsuperscript{th} – 18\textsuperscript{th} is “Save Fuel Week”
  o Place a piece of paper in the jug up front if you participate
  o Ranger Rick subscription prize for each classroom if 40 families participate

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**Presentations from Anne Daniel, Assistant Director for CYC**

*Took a moment to celebrate first year families and the largest PTA meeting to date*

Accreditation annual report
• Survey of parents done at the end of the year
• 54% families replied
• 25 questions (22 applied to all)
• 1122 responses – yes/no/I don’t know
• 1073 yesses – 97% responses were positive
• 30 noes – 3%
• Are you given the results of the parent survey? – Yes you will receive them next Sept/Oct.

Photo day October 24\textsuperscript{th}
• Individual and class pictures will be taken
• Please arrive promptly – photos begin at 9am
• 2 week turn around
• There is no obligation to buy
• This is a CYC event, not PTA
• Proceeds help pay for events such as Maryland Day

Families Read
• 20\textsuperscript{th} semester – 10 year anniversary of community based reading
• In 2004 parents in the purple room all read together as a book club with follow up activities
• Brought that idea to the CYC and created the program.
• First semester was 12 books – 19 families participated
• 10 books for this semester
  o *Corduroy* – book and DVD (Read the book first and then watch the DVD and compare with your child)
  o *Harold and the Purple Crayon* grouped with *The Day the Crayons Quit*
- *I Am the World* - conceptual photography book with glossary
- *Journey* – wordless book, interpret the story yourself
- *Panda Kindergarten* – true story of a place that protects baby pandas
- *Rocket Writes a Story*
- *Sing, Sing a Song* – CD included. Mr. M will be doing this song in music class
- *Tap the Magic Tree* – interactive reading on a non-tech level
- *Windblown* – questioning with the children. What will you do? (Shapes laminated in the back to allow children to create their own ideas.)

- Program will kick off hopefully Wednesday, October 17
- If you buy a set of books it will go into the classroom and you can keep it at the end
- Target has sponsored the school copies
- Punch cards will be put in each child’s cubby
- When your child reads a book note it on the sign-up sheet on the chipboard by Anne’s office. She will then punch the child’s card and talk about the book with them
- Pompoms get placed in the jar with each book read
- Children can respond by creating a book report with the forms located by the books
- Children hold the punch card like it is a precious gift
- Anne asked one student last year – “what do you see?” He responded - “I’m seeing the world of books.”

**ROOM REPORTS**

**Purple room – Amy/Amanda**
- Learned classroom rules, “getting to know you” lunch and celebrated 2 birthdays
- Study – Fish (selected by interest in classroom pet)
- Launching campaign to name the class fish

**Orange room – Kim**
- Establish foundation for success
- Study – Trains
- Someone was the “winner” and chose the study correctly
- Surveys and data gathering techniques will be covered next week
- If anyone have info to share on trains please let us know!

**Blue room - Jennifer**
- Observational drawing of the class guinea pigs
- Nature collages
- Study – Playground
- Submitting photos of local playgrounds

**Green room – Patrick**
- Experts demonstrates the different aspects of the room
- “Play partners” - experts matched with new students
• Water color – why is it different from normal paint?
• Baked pumpkin and cranberry bread. Pumpkin bread won the taste test.
• Study – Bread
• Homework coming to look at bread at home
• Guest to come in and talk about Rosh Hashanah

Red – Kate
• Created the book Red Room, Red Room – who do you see? To learn everyone’s names
• Study – Firefighters

Yellow – Johanna
• Study – Dogs
• Survey completed in all rooms to find out who in CYC has dogs at home
• What needs to dogs and humans share?
• Meeting first real dog in class next week

FAQs - Things new families should know!

One category about educational philosophy was too much for this meeting – will spend half an hour about this at the next meeting with staff and faculty from the CYC.

Can you explain the service points?
• Anne Daniels monitors the points and will check in with you periodically with what you have done and what is still owed.
• Was in the contract that each family in a full time classroom will provide 10 point of service. Half time classroom – 7 points.
• Parent handbook lists all the points you can earn – field trip, classroom help, shopping, chair event, etc.
• Each classroom has a binder to record the points on your child’s page
• List of points has not been reviewed in years and should be soon.

Why is the PTA raising money? What are examples of recent PTA expenditures?
• Report was handed out to show how money is spent.
• First page was money spent last year and second page is this year.
• Buy things for the school – ipads for all rooms (experimented with 2 classes last year and this year all classes will get them)
  o Story kit – app developed here on campus. Pairs of kids built a story on the study subject. Pictures and writing or typing made a book. Literacy, math and science games. Individual or small group support tool.
  o Apps used helped families know good apps to use at home.
  o Teachers are very grateful.
• Pizza and babysitting for PTA meetings - $500-600
• Invested $2300 in auction and netted $6,000
• Holidays gifts for the teachers

How much flexibility does the PTA have in decided how to spend the money?
• We can think bigger and differently in the future.
• Raise money for scholarships?
• Not accessible to many people who are here on campus
• $20-25K school money given out in partial scholarships
• 87% of tuition goes to salaries and tuition remission.

Other questions and answers will be made available online – stay tuned!
Meeting ended at 6:55pm.

All were welcome to make a contribution to pizza tonight on their way out.