

**PTO Meeting  
November 5, 2013**

**Meeting Minutes**

For more details on any of the following or PTO news in general, be sure to visit the PTO website: [www.benhempto.org](http://www.benhempto.org)

**Welcome**

**Grant Application Review**

Background: \$600 is allocated from the PTO budget for grant(s) to improve educational experience for kids. There were two submissions for funding which were reviewed.

Option1: Subscription for all second graders for Brainpop Jr. \$260 request.  
It's an interactive multi-sensory application – different way to engage students & present materials. Standards-based and linked to common core.

Option 2: Junior Achievement- Financial literacy education for Ben-Hem students. \$525 request (however will take partial funding).

Money would go toward funding five kits from which to teach lessons- proposed as one for one class each grade however school could best decide who should/not receive lessons. All programs are age appropriate and every lesson is aligned to State common core standards. This is currently being done across all of Grade 2 at Ben-Hem. Some has been done at Brown and Lilja.

Board will meet this week and have a decision by November 15. If people have input, please send to [board@benhempto.org](mailto:board@benhempto.org).

**Spirit Shirt**

Students' designs for the new Spirit Shirt were distributed and voted upon. Results to be announced!

Also- there will be a new Spirit Wear item- water bottles- BPA free

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## **Support/Give**

See slide show for additional information or visit the PTO website at:

<http://www.benhempto.org/give>

**Fundraising Update\***- we're ahead of plan. About 90% to our full year of revenue

Budgeted revenue: \$36,915

Current revenues: \$32,206

\*See PTO Meeting slides for more detailed breakdown

- **Tilly & Salvy's Bacon Street Farm Pumpkin Festival:** Was very successful, full crowd, seemed like everyone having a great time. Ben-Hem earned just under \$1000.
- **Monster Mash-** earned about \$3500. See comments on following page about event.

Ben-Hem exceeded our **Community Participation Goal** of 60%- will have free frozen treat night as promised. This will be part of Scholastic Book Fair- Friday night, November 22.

**Points Programs** will be the focus now that Fall fundraising is done.

- **Stop & Shop A+ Rewards-** have 186 cards registered. Still a lot of potential as Ben-Hem has roughly 450 families. Great promotion being done- separate communication will go out school-wide. The school with the highest number of cards registered between Nov 1- Nov 17 will win a visit from a Patriots player. Also- the higher number of cards registered the higher percentage of money received.
- **Amazon:** be sure to use our Amazon link: <http://amazon.benhempto.org>, with referral code: **bhp0f-20** when making Amazon purchases. This link and code can be used by anyone- so please share with friends and family. It's super-easy to use and a great opportunity to make easy money for Ben-Hem.
- **Box Tops for Education-** overall down. Next (final) deadline March 1. If people have suggestions on how to improve involvement, e-mail Krissy [kfernandes@benhempto.org](mailto:kfernandes@benhempto.org) or Karin Sutter.

**Square One Art:** Information going out Wednesday November 6. Order deadline November 18

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## **Volunteer**

See Slide show for additional information or visit the PTO website at:

<http://www.benhempto.org/volunteer>

Thank you to all Monster Mash volunteers- great support provided by 30+ volunteers.

We still need many volunteers for many upcoming events and ongoing needs:

- Holiday Fair
- Scholastic Book Fair
- Lunchroom Helpers
- Teacher Timesavers

Check out the many sign up genius lists via <http://www.benhempto.org/volunteer>.



## **Get Involved**

See Slide show for additional information or visit PTO website at:

<http://www.benhempto.org/getinvolved>

### **Recap**

Restaurant of the Month Fundraisers went well- many happy Ben-Hem families enjoyed socializing with each other, earnings below.

\$150 Zitis

\$222 CPK

### **Monster Mash**

Hugely successful- Had approx 150 pre-registered, and 100+ unanticipated walk-ins.

Overall feedback- some chaos for parents but kids had a great evening.

Financially did very well. Net \$3500- budget was \$1000

Discussed what went well- suggestions for next year.

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## Get Involved, continued

### Recap, continued

#### Cultural Arts

States of Matter (done for 4th grade) - survey results positive

Fire Seed Arts (all school) didn't get great reviews across the board- may not be done again next year

Nutcracker will be coming in December for first grade

### Upcoming

- Scholastic Book Fair starts November 18 and will go throughout the week. Additionally, evening hours for the Scholastic Book Fair will be combined with the Holiday Fair on November 22. This is also frozen treat night. Need lots of help for this to be successful.
- Holiday Fair- Being held on Friday November 22- great vendors signed up. As part of evening there will be a card making station 'Holiday Cards for Heroes' in coordination w. Red Cross, craft activities and hula-hooping. Need help putting up flyers, and yard signs- contact Jen Little- [JLittle@benhempto.org](mailto:JLittle@benhempto.org)
- Definitely need support for this. Help at check in, raffle table, help direct vendors where to go and general monitors during fair to ensure safe time for all.
- Laser Tag at Fun & games – next Wednesday half day \$5/pp. 12:00 – 8:00 pm. 100% of funds go to Ben-Hem. Will also be setting up table w. food sales- if anyone wants to donate baked goods, juice boxes, etc. please contact Kelly Gaugenty at [kellyannegaugenty@yahoo.com](mailto:kellyannegaugenty@yahoo.com).

### Future Restaurant Fundraisers:

- ❖ December 10- Bertuccis
- ❖ January- Samba & Kelley's Kids Night

Meeting concluded with Hands on Volunteering (Holiday Fair Preparation)