

## PTO Meeting, Tuesday, October 8, 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

**Guest Speaker:** Mr. Cappabianca – Speaking about how physical education has changed over the last 25 years

Old days - referred to as gym- it was a military model with very strict rules/guidelines. (ex. line up on the line- don't move)

Current day - Physical education is a completely different model. Activities have changed – typically students now work in small groups with a lot of different activities, working on skills, keeping kids moving. Of 40 minutes of class, 20-30 minutes is spent on activity.

For Ben-Hem:

Grades 1-4 have PE twice a week

Kindergarten has PE once a week

This is not the norm across the state- we are very lucky to have this.

**See slide show on website for additional information. Key highlights:**

- ❖ 95% of students say they like physical education
- ❖ 99% of adults feel it is important for their child(ren) to be physically fit
- ❖ Level of achievement in school tied directly to physical activity

A saying he goes by- Physical activity promotes mental activity

Mr. Cappabianca has the beginning stages of a web site- please look at website- eager to hear feedback from people. It can be accessed from BenHem's home page- under the grade level drop down menu, under specialists- physical education

*Question:* How does he manage inside gym-particularly with multiple classes

*Answer:* Typically a warm up in gym, then large group activities, or break into smaller groups- ex. multiple smaller soccer games.



## **Give (Support Your Kids, Genevieve's)**

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

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

Still somewhat under on fundraising. We're at \$21,000, need to raise about \$37,000. This includes \$13,000 from AEO last year, Bill's Pizza fundraiser and Target payment (from last year), Support Your Kids Drive, and sales from Spirit Wear.

### **Genevieve's**

- ❖ Paper orders ended today, although orders can be placed online all year- be sure to use the Ben-Hem School number which is 504. For online orders after today, orders will be shipped to individuals and shipping will be charged.
- ❖ To date, we are well below last year, however projections had been lower so may hit budget- but we're still off from last year.

**Donelan's:** ongoing receipts through March 31 are eligible. Drop off in the PTO mailbox or in an envelope to your child's teacher labeled PTO: Donelan's

**Amazon:** huge potential and a great simple way to make money for Ben-Hems at no added cost. We could make up to 15% per order however typically get 7-8%. This percentage is based on the actual number of items ordered. Bookmark our Amazon URL (<http://amazon.benhempto.org>).

Our referral code is: **bhp0f-20**

Works for those with Prime account too.

**Stop & shop A+ Rewards:** To date 79 cards are registered- out of 460 families. Last year we had over 200 cards registered and was huge free money-maker yielding \$3300.

**It is critical to sign up now vs. later because as more schools join we get less allocation.** Tell friends, relatives, neighbors, etc.- you don't have to go to Ben-Hem to sign up for Ben-Hem. Here's a link for more info & sign up details:

<http://www.benhempto.org/give/points-programs>

**Square One Art** is coming up. Being chaired by Susan Murphy.

By end of October we should have packets about this fun fundraiser.



## **Volunteer**

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

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

**Picture Day:** Thank you to Joanna Jones and all volunteers – it was a huge success.

**Lunchroom helpers:** Focus for now is K, 1 & 2 grades. If interested please sign up via sign up genius, however please only commit to four weeks at once. Please check in with Mr. Gatto to go over guidelines before going into lunchroom

**Teacher time savers:** - all labeling, copies, lamination that teachers requested has been completed. Per Ms. Craig, a huge thank you from teachers, it's very much appreciated.

**Monster Mash:** October 25 6-8 pm, tickets currently on sale. It's been expanded this year to include different crafts, scavenger hunt. In response to feedback from past years, there will be a 'quiet area'. To make sure kids are safe and having fun, we need parents to be part of it and volunteer.

### **Restaurant of the Month**

There will be two in October.

- ❖ Ziti's on Columbus Day 12-8 pm. It's a huge span of time during which we can make 20% of sales back- take out, delivery & dining in. Be sure to mention Ben-Hem, although you don't have to be a Ben-Hem family to help raise money.
- ❖ CPK 10/22 ALL day at the Natick Collection location. 20 % back to Ben-Hem - includes dine in, take out, ALL beverages.

There are flyers to be posted if anyone is willing to post any- contact Tracey Gondelman at [tgondelman@benhempto.org](mailto:tgondelman@benhempto.org) .



## **Get Involved**

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

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### **Recap:**

#### **Family Events:**

First annual family picnic was a big success with over 50 families in attendance. Suggestion was made- maybe have grade specific gatherings, and also online suggestion box.

#### **Community Events**

Bill's Pizza Night - brought in about \$250 (half of last year). It was money off of everything sold.

### **Upcoming:**

#### **Family Events:**

##### **Monster Mash**

Ticket sales are going well

#### **Community Events**

Restaurants of the Month

Tilly & Salvy's Bacon Street Farm Pumpkin Festival: October 20 at 2:00

#### **Cultural Arts**

10/15- States of Matter- 4<sup>th</sup> grade Museum of Science program- partially in response to request last year for more science-related program.

10/24 Fireseed Arts (all school) new this year- being done at all schools in Natick

**Educational Enrichment:** PTO is now offering a new grant (in addition to \$150/teacher).

## **Other**

### **❖ Update from Mr. Kelly.**

There was an all school assembly held on Tuesday October 8, 2013. He read Oh the Places You'll Go! to start students thinking about not what they will be, but who they want to be. He will be sending out a follow up homework assignment and powerpoint presentation with additional background.

### **❖ Update from Mr. Gatto:**

There are lots of great things happening with the garden. There's a real desire to get classroom teachers and families more involved. We still need more volunteers-however

not necessarily for gardening. Need people to help with community connections, PR, communications. Please contact Mr. Gatto or Kate Clancy if you're interested in helping.

- ❖ Thanks to people who have been helping with morning drop off.
- ❖ The next 'On the Prowl' hardcopy newsletter is coming out at end of October. We're looking for students to interview teachers- contact Krissy Fernandes at [kfernandes@benhempto.org](mailto:kfernandes@benhempto.org) if your student is interested.

❖ **SEPAC**

Jody Robie spoke briefly. Jody is the Chairperson for the Natick Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) whose focus is on families of children with disabilities in Natick.

She offered herself as a resource for parents who have any questions on SEPAC. Your child doesn't need to have serious issues – anyone with a child on an Individual Education Plan (IEP), 504 plan, etc. can feel free to reach out to her w. questions at [jodyrobie@gmail.com](mailto:jodyrobie@gmail.com).

Meeting concluded with volunteers helping prepare for upcoming Monster Mash.