

# Natoma Station Elementary (NSE) PTO Meeting



**Tuesday, March 9, 2021**

**I. PTO Zoom Meeting was called to order by Nikki Tilson at 6:05pm.**

**II. Introductions**

PTO Officers: Nikki Tilson (President), Melissa Messer (Vice President), Melody Benavides (Treasurer), Ajit Vaidya (Secretary).

NSE Teachers / Admin: Vickie Boudouris (Principal), Juli Thompson (KG), Kristina Cameron (2<sup>nd</sup> Grade, Garden), Stephanie Cantu (music teacher).

PTO Members / Volunteers: Kristin Hallstrom (Communications), Courtney Hvostal, Natalie Dougherty (Teacher Appreciation), Mary Swick, Margaret Whitehurst.

**III. Secretary's Report: (Ajit Vaidya)**

Minutes of the February 9, 2021 PTO meeting were approved. The minutes will be uploaded to the NSE website.

**IV. President's Report (Nikki Tilson)**

**A. Cheetah Strong Spirit Wear:** Student Council was very excited to be included in designing the new tie dye t-shirts for this year's Spirit Wear. In addition to the tie dye design, there are other designs for sweatshirts and trackwear for kids and adults. March 12 is the deadline to order. Mary Swick is managing t-shirt printing services.

**B. Student Council**

- 1) We now have volunteers to help emcee the talent show.
- 2) The remaining Spirit Days for the rest of the school year are as follows:
  - March 26: Spring Colors Day
  - April 23: Crazy Outfit Day
  - May 21: Beach Day

**V. Treasurer's Report: (Melody Benavides)**

As of March 1, 2021, the PTO bank balance was \$19,275.35. Budget to Actual report has been updated with activities through February 28, 2021. Checks were ordered and will be delivered in March. PTO is requesting budget to include \$500 for site improvements due to COVID-19. The payment for jump ropes will be reflected in next month's report. We may realize some cost savings since Donuts with Dads and Muffins with Moms has been combined into one event.

## VI. Principal's Report (Vickie Boudouris)

- A. **Read Across America:** This event took place last week. It was a lot of fun. Thanks to PTO for the Target gift cards. Some staff and students dressed up.
- B. **Jump Ropes:** Jump ropes were purchased by the PTO for all students at NSE. Thanks to the PTO for this contribution. Jump ropes were distributed to in-person and virtual kids last week.
- C. **Kid's Heart Challenge:** NSE children and their families helped raise money for the American Heart Association as part of the Kid's Heart Challenge. As part of the challenge, those kids who were able to raise over \$100 had the chance to throw water balloons at Mr. Gomez, the P.E. teacher. Also, as a school we met our overall fundraising goal of \$3,000. As a result of meeting this challenge, Principal Boudouris agreed to receive a pie in her face. She will include the video of the pie-smashing in the next Monday morning message.
- D. **Daily Health Screening:** Parents have two options (Frontline online or paper screening) for daily Covid symptom screening. We are encouraging parents to use Frontline digital tool. We have seen a big jump in screenings with the daily text reminders. If you have not used Frontline, it's very easy, and it takes less than a minute.
- E. **School Modernization / Playgrounds / Fencing:** We have started our school modernization project. We are currently in the process of updating the school playgrounds, and we are going to get state of the art playground equipment and a shade structure for the outdoor amphitheater. The construction of new playgrounds is in full swing. In addition to the playgrounds, there has been discussion of adding fencing to make the campus more secure. There will be some new fencing between the school and the park, and possibly some additional fencing at the front and sides of our campus to make the campus more secure. New security cameras will also be installed throughout the campus. The focus will be on safety and security. Other school modernization features will include new desks, furniture, HVAC systems, etc. The playgrounds will be finished in April, but the whole modernization project will take another year or so. Most of the improvements are expected to happen over the summer of 2022.
- F. **Learning recovery:** As a result of the long-term distance learning environment and other effects of the pandemic, a number of children have gaps in their learning and can benefit from extended learning opportunities. As a result, FCUSD has prioritized assisting those students who are not performing below grade level or have otherwise suffered learning loss this past year. Learning interventions for the third trimester have already begun. FCUSD will offer summer school for children who need additional support, particularly students who are not meeting grade level standards for math or reading. Extended learning summer school will be held in the first three weeks of June, and will be hosted at various schools throughout the district. There will be more discussion about this at the FCUSD board meeting next week. We hope to be able to host some of these kids at NSE. However, we have not yet received approval, as the ongoing school modernization may impact our ability to host Summer School.

**G. Amazon Smile** – We are trying to promote Amazon Smile as a way to raise funds for Natoma Station Elementary. If you normally purchase products on Amazon, you can select the option to donate to NSE using Amazon Smile. Using this feature, 0.5% of eligible purchases can be donated to NSE. Note that this does not increase the overall price of your order. More information can be found at [www.amazonsmile.com](http://www.amazonsmile.com).

## **VII. Teacher Report (Ms. Juli Thompson)**

We miss seeing people on campus. Activity is very limited on campus. We are happy to see the progress on the Kinder playground construction. Kids are excited about the jump ropes. Thanks to PTO for providing the jump ropes. Teachers appreciate the passion and energy of the students, even with the distance learning and hybrid in-person learning formats.

## **VIII. Garden Report (Ms. Kristina Cameron)**

Thanks to Nicole Ball for watering the garden. Yesterday, three Green Team students got to work in the garden for the first time in a year. We planted tomatoes and started planting for the summer season. Grandma Esther is back to work. Stephanie Cantu has started a Google site for the garden. Thanks to PTO for helping to fund the garden. We have some money from the grant funds, but we will not have grant money next year.

## **IX. Parent Coordinator Report (Nikki Tilson for Maryann Hewitt)**

Please continue sending pics for distant learning and events. Please also check out the NSE website to stay up to date with all the happenings at the school. We have cleaned up the school news area, so it's easier to find things on the website. Monday Morning Messages are all in one place now. The website includes the Virtual Library, Staff read-alouds, Videos (A Day in the Life), NSE reopening handbook, etc.

## **X. Old/Current Business**

- A. Yearbook Cover Contest:** We had a lot of submissions and the winner were announced in the Cheetah Bytes last Friday. The winners were Emma Tran in 4<sup>th</sup> grade (front cover) and Nadra Jabir in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade (back cover).
- B. Fusion Taps Spirit Night:** This event, held on February 24, was a success. We raised \$230 for PTO during this event.
- C. Upcoming Events / Deadlines in March:**
  - **March 12:** This is the current deadline to order Spirit Wear.
  - **March 12:** Talent show audition videos are due. Students should have gotten permission slips. Families can email their submissions to [natomastationpto@gmail.com](mailto:natomastationpto@gmail.com). Vickie and staff will review the submissions. Mary Swick will be our videographer, and will stitch together all of the videos.
  - **March 15:** Donuts with Dudes and Duettes will be held at the Hug and Go area from 7:30-8:15am.
  - **March 24:** The next Spirit Night will be held at Taco Loco from 11am-9pm.
  - **March 26:** Final talent show submissions are due.
  - **March 26:** Spring Colors Spirit Day
  - **March 26-April 5:** Spring Break

## **XI. New Business / Upcoming Events**

- A. **Talent Show:** Viewing party date for the Virtual Talent Show has not yet been scheduled. This will be sometime in April. More details to follow.
- B. **Spirit Night:** We are still looking to schedule the next Spirit Night in April. Corner Tavern is a possibility. More details to follow.
- C. **Code Ninjas:** Code Ninjas is a business on Bidwell and Blue Ravine that is run by Eunike Jonathan, who has a 4<sup>th</sup> grader at NSE. Code Ninjas is a kids coding franchise, where kids learn to code while building their own video games. They gain problem solving, critical thinking, and STEM skills in a fun, safe, and inspiring environment. Ms. Jonathan wanted to partner with NSE to offer a free class for students based on their grades. The free virtual trial classes will be held the week of April 12-16. Class sizes may be limited. Links for signups for the trial classes will be sent out in the Cheetah Bytes. For those people who end up signing up for full classes at Code Ninjas, 10% of sales from the first month (i.e. signups completed before May 31) will go directly to the Natoma Station PTO.
- D. **Teacher Appreciation Week:** This will be held in the first or second week of May. More details will be provided soon.
- E. **2020-21 Yearbook**  
By mid-April, we will need to submit all photos that need to be included in the yearbook. We are looking for more Spirit Day pictures. Pictures can be downloaded to Tree Ring or emailed to [natomastationyearbook@gmail.com](mailto:natomastationyearbook@gmail.com)

## **XII. PTO Meeting adjourned at 7:08pm.**