

**Muraco Elementary School Parents Association  
Meeting Minutes  
October 12, 2011**

**Approvals** September 2011 Minutes unanimously approved.

**Annual Appeal**

As of October 12th, approximately \$12,000 was raised for the Annual Appeal and another \$2,400 is expected in company matching. So far, 103 families have donated this year whereas 140 families participated in total last year. A reminder will be sent in upcoming newsletters and in November and December to encourage participation. The Annual Appeal for the 2010-2011 school year raised over \$20,000.

**(as of 11/1/11, the total raised is \$14,570)**

**Committee Updates**

**Multicultural Fair**

The fair, held on Saturday, October 1st in the school's gymnasium, was a wonderful night. We had amazing food that families carried in with pride, lots of engaging and fun crafts, some educational displays and incredible dancing and parading. The performances were all done by kids and ended with a beautiful moment in which all the children held hands and carried a sign for world peace. Thanks to everyone who was a part of the night!

**Facilities Enhancement**

There will be a fall clean-up after school on a day in November. A Friday afternoon is being considered, from 2:30pm-4:00pm instead of a Saturday or Sunday, as weekend days seem to be filled with family events such as soccer, football, hockey, etc. As soon as a date is picked, Jannene will let everyone know.

**Boxtops**

Stacy and Kristen are collecting Boxtops this week. The next collection will be in February.

**UNICEF**

Laura Moloney will be sending home UNICEF boxes with the children the week of October 24th and they will be collected at school after Halloween.

**Holiday Craft Fair**

Due to the lack of interest in vendor registration, this year's craft fair will be

cancelled. As of October 12th, there were 8 vendors signed up. This time last year, we had 23 vendors (half of the 46 total). Several ideas were suggested as other fundraisers for MESPA, such as a yard sale in the spring where MESPA would raise funds by renting space.

### **Staff Appreciation Breakfasts**

We are a little behind for Staff Appreciation Breakfast signups. All monthly breakfasts are online and available for signups. If you are not able to help this month, please consider volunteering in an upcoming month. Also, Suzanne Leslie, the SAB coordinator, would like help with set up. If you are able to help please email Suzanne at [s.leslie@comcast.net](mailto:s.leslie@comcast.net).

### **Spirit Wear / Items**

A new logo using the existing artwork has been designed by Kristine Kamakawa. Jill Mawn has been in contact with Spankywear for price quotes:

Hats are embroidered. Sell for \$15

Water bottles are PBA free. Sell for \$5

T-shirts come in different colors. Sell for \$15

The question has been asked if we should pre-purchase 100 water bottles (with our logo) to sell at upcoming events throughout the year. A motion was made and approved to pre-order 100 bottles. Kristine will ask the vendor if there is a way to write names on the water bottle.

To order Muraco t-shirts and hats, please print out your order form [HERE](#) and return it along with your payment to the main office.

### **Directory**

The directories are here and were sent home with children the week of October 17th.

### **Math Club**

Due to an overwhelming response, the math club is closed to any new members. The club is considering options for the spring and may offer the club as a Muraco After School Program (MASP). If there are any parents who would like to join Kristen Bellaire to help, please contact her at [klbellaire@gmail.com](mailto:klbellaire@gmail.com).

### **Stop & Shop A+ Rewards Program**

Last year was our first year enrolled in the A+ Rewards program and we did well. We raised \$432 for Muraco. It's very easy to participate. All you need to do is register your Stop & Shop card (or re-register for this year if you did it last year). You can do it online or at the store or MESPA can register your card for you. Then, when you shop, scan your card at the register and start accruing points. You will still earn your gas points if you are already participating in that program.

Points started accruing on 10/7 and the program will continue through 3/29/12. Maura Sullivan ([mdsullivan@comcast.net](mailto:mdsullivan@comcast.net)) will be happy to answer any questions you might have about the program.

### **Curriculum Enhancement**

A letter to the teachers/staff informing them about their available enhancement money and the reimbursement process was sent out week of September 19th. According to Jennifer Wilson's (MESPA treasurer) budget spreadsheet, to date seven staff members have already used all or some of their funds. \$1006.01 of the total budget has been spent with \$4343.99 remaining. We will plan to do a reminder letter midyear.

### **5th Grade Committee**

Huge thanks to all parents and students who have participated in the Fall Conference babysitting! This is a wonderful service that Muraco 5th Graders have been providing for the past several years.

### **Discussions & Announcements**

#### **Laurie Kirby - Q&A**

The DPW laid more mulch on the playgrounds and another load will be coming. Thank you to Jannene Levesque and her family for all their work in making the Muraco grounds look so beautiful!

During the winter the town will plow paths to the back of the school so that students can continue to line up in the back.

#### **Redistricting Committee**

If you are interested in serving as Muraco's parent representative on Superintendent Bill McAlduff's Redistricting Committee, please send a notice of your interest by email to Bill McAlduff at [wmcalduff@winchester.K12.ma.us](mailto:wmcalduff@winchester.K12.ma.us) by Tuesday, October 18th.

It is expected that the first Committee meeting will be held no later than the first week in November and continue its work (meeting approximately twice a month or more if necessary) until final recommendations are forwarded by the Superintendent to the School Committee in May or June 2012.

For more information about the Redistricting Committee, please read Superintendent McAlduff's 10/7/11 letter to parents [HERE](#).

#### **Rug Remnants**

If you have extra rug remnants that are not being used, please consider donating them to the school. These rugs are helpful for students in defining their space

during community and classroom meetings.

### **Sound Systems**

The school wide sound system needs updating as does the one in the gymnasium. There was discussion about looking into replacing it and getting an estimate of the cost.

### **Upcoming Events**

Thursday, November 10	Professional Development Day - No School
Friday, November 11	Veteran's Day - No School
Wednesday, November 23	Early Release
Thursday and Friday, Nov 24-25	Thanksgiving break - No School
Wednesday, December 14	Early Release
December 26-January 2	School Vacation