

## Minutes of the October 30, 2011, Takoma Park PTA Meeting



### PTA President

PTA President thanked volunteers for stepping up and organizing first and second grade mixers  
We have spirit gear coordinator and will be getting gear to the classroom  
PTA puts out a directory and lists all parent addresses and contact information.  
People can put information in themselves on line and it must be done by Friday

### Principal's Report

Recess drills on the playground have been taking place recently. We blow the whistle three times and ask the kids to line up at unusual times. We do this because if we do have an emergency, we need the kids to respond quickly and orderly. We've done this three times because the first time didn't go well and the second time went really well. We did it a third time to see if the second time was a fluke and it went 'okay'.

We don't use the term "code blue" - we are using terms 'shelter alert' and 'lockdown'. We're still working on ways on how to explain and present these drills to the students.

Indoor Recess: if misting, we send kids outside. We do push the envelope and no one benefits from indoor recess. For indoor recess, we pair up classrooms and to indoor activities. We don't do TV. We do games and we do stories online.

Heating/AC: Switched off the AC in the old building this week. We have more flexibility in the new building. Pray for nice, cool days.

Fire Drills: We do these once per month and we have to have them regardless of the weather.

Volunteer/Visits: Please sign in and go directly to the location where you are going to volunteer or visit. It is not acceptable to find a teacher on a free period and discuss your child.

Safe Routes: We are teaching kids to cross the street safely. Every classroom will be a part of this seminar.

Televised Communication Announcements: We are doing these in the afternoon and kids are doing all of it. Once we've worked out technical difficulties, we will share a few examples with you.

### Michele Koopman, TPES Reading Specialist

Ms. Koopman provided an overview of the reading and reading compliments in the classrooms.

Assessments are completed in September, January and May. The assessments help to identify guided reading groups and kids who may or may not need extra help/assistance.

Components of Reading Instruction:

Whole Group Lesson (20 mins)

Guided Reading (small group)

Centers  
Learning high frequency words  
Alphabet Puzzle  
Dictionary Work  
Words their Way (word study)

#### PTA Budget

The budget was presented at the last meeting and discussed. It is up for a vote this evening.

Current budget: our spending is 5K more than what we have and we are being very conservative in our estimation.

Question if we have surplus: If we have surplus, we should take into account how we want to spend that surplus.

A member moved to vote for the budget, another member seconded it and it was approved with a show of hands.

#### VP Of Communications (Lynn Haisley)

We are here tonight to vote Lynn Haisley into her position as VP of Communication. A member moved to vote and another member seconded the motion. She was approved with an overwhelming show of hands (vote).

#### Fundraising

Only two more days of fundraising left for the fall fundraiser!