

# PTO Meeting Minutes

## MONTESSORI SCHOOL OF ALEXANDRIA PTO

Date: Wednesday, September 10, 2008  
Meeting Called to Order By: Helen Stewart  
Number of attendees: 21

Location: Montessori School of Alexandria  
Time: 6:15 p.m.

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The co-presidents opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and introducing the Board Members. The goal of the PTO is to facilitate communication between the parents and teachers and to enhance our children's learning environment.

Board Members: Sheryn Anthes, Co-president; Helen Stewart, Co-president  
Meghan Morgenstern, Treasurer; Hiwote Tadesse, Secretary;  
Members- at- Large: Petya Campbell, Michael Campbell, Mery Bustinza

The meeting discussed the PTO events that will be held during the 2008/2009 School Year.

- **Fundraisers**

- Flea Market – Saturday, October 18
- Z-Pizza Nights – TBD
- Silent Auction – Saturday, March 28
- Fun Fair – Saturday, April 18
- Art to Remember – TBD

ATR reproduces original artworks on a variety of high quality items that make ideal gifts and keepsakes for friends and family. Some of their products include: bookmarks, coasters, calendars, coffee mugs, magnets, etc. <http://www.arttoremember.com/>

- **Chair**

Hiwote Tadesse  
Sheryn Anthes  
Beth Winegar  
Petya & Michael Campbell  
Helen Stewart

- **Fun Events**

- In-House Field Trips
  - Mad Science – Tuesday, October 7, 2008
    - For Primary Students: PRESCHOOL "A, B, C'S" OF SCIENCE
    - For Elementary Students: Cells Workshop
  - Trout Fishing in America – Friday, December 5, 2008
  - Under the Sea – Tuesday February 3, 2009

- Holiday Party – Saturday, December 6
  - International Night – Tuesday, April 21
  - Garden Day – Saturday, April 25
  - Teacher Appreciation Week – May 4-8
- Chair: Mery Bustinza  
Need Chair  
Need Chair  
Chair: Helen Stewart

## Budget

The draft budget for the 2008/2009 School Year was read and discussed. The treasurer stated that all expenses were covered last year. In addition, the fundraising from last year will provide for a number of fun events during the 2008/2009 school year. This year the budget for Classroom Materials is being increased from \$500 to \$750 per classroom. This increase includes money to assist in caring for the classroom animals. The PTO also purchased a new picnic table based on the request received from teachers. A motion was passed to accept the budget and the motion was seconded. Report attached.

## Announcements

- Box Tops for Education, eScrip, Upromise                      Chair: Marie Alexander  
Grocery Store Links  
Parents were reminded to bring in Box Top coupons from products they use such as Cheerios, Juicy Juice, Ziploc, etc. Parents can also sign up for eScrip and Upromise where MSA gets a percentage from their purchase. An e-mail will be sent out to parents detailing the various programs.
  
- Social Committee    Chair: Marion Lange  
The Social Committee organizes fun activities to do with the children at least once a month. Past events have included attending High School Musical and Performances for Young Audiences at the Kennedy Center. Parents should use the blog to post ideas for activities.
  
- Class Dinner  
The idea is to have each class out for a dinner and arrange with the restaurant to charge us a fixed price. For example, if the restaurant charges MSA \$10 per person, then the PTO can charge the parents \$20 per person and get the difference. One suggestion for such an event was Paradiso Restaurant on Franconia Rd.

## Auction

Chair: Beth Winegar

The auction will be held on Saturday, March 28 and a sign-up sheet was provided for volunteers. Volunteers will have to start sending out donation letters in October/November as businesses will want to donate before the end of the year for tax purposes. Some of the new items we will be auctioning off are 10 birdhouses. Local artists will be given plain, cedar birdhouses to decorate. Thus, we will need to find artists, as well as, get donations of the wood. It was suggested to advertise for local artists at the Torpedo Factory Art Center.

There was a suggestion to install a new wireless access point in the school so all the classrooms can have internet access. It will have to be seen if the budget will allow for this and if it is something the teachers want/need.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 9 at 6:15 p.m.

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Meeting Adjourned At: 6:40 p.m.  
Minutes Compiled By: Hiwote Tadesse, Secretary