

## PTO Meeting – February 2, 2012

### Meeting Minutes

The DMS PTO meeting was well attended, with over 30 parents filling up the DMS library.

Robert Blaney, Director of the Youth Commission, talked about the RISE program, a summer recreational enrichment program for incoming 9<sup>th</sup> graders. RISE is a free program that runs Monday – Thursdays, from 9 – 1 p.m., from July 9 – August 2<sup>nd</sup>. It is designed to prepare rising 9<sup>th</sup> graders academically and socially for high school, college and careers. Activities include writing, math, college and career awareness, recreational activities and social workshops. Students will go on field trips, including visits to local colleges on Thursdays. The program is limited to 30 students. For an application, please contact [rblaney@dedham-ma-gov](mailto:rblaney@dedham-ma-gov).

TREK, the program for incoming grades 6-8, will run from June 28 – July 13. Cost is \$340 for the 3-week program. Flyers will be going home in the backpacks. The program runs from 8 – 12:30 daily, with an optional 12:30 – 2:00 math session on Thursdays.

On Friday, February 3, Joe Kilroy got up on the roof of DMS and captured the kids spelling out GO PATS. This was picked up by local TV stations and the photo was sent to the local papers.

Based on the enthusiastic response to last year's pilot program, DMS will once again offer parents and guardians the opportunity to purchase supply kits for students entering 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades. You will have the option of purchasing all supplies needed, which will be delivered to your child on the first day of school. No more long lines in Staples, plus they cost less as we get a group discount. More information to come later this year.

Students in all grades were offered the opportunity to apply to participate in a new school leadership team. This leadership team meets regularly with the administration to plan programs that will include peer mentoring.

Based on the feedback from the new student leadership team, DMS is revising its policy of honoring students who have achieved honor roll. Students in 6<sup>th</sup> grade will have an afternoon ceremony with ice cream sundae party. Students in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades, will have a morning ceremony and receive coupons good for snacks at the cafeteria. All honor roll students will continue to get one homework pass.

The DMS Jazz Band was invited to perform at the Krocs Community Center in Dorchester this month, to help celebrate Black History month. The PTO granted the funding to pay for the bus.

We need Bingo volunteers as the PTO gets \$1,000 for staffing this once every 6 weeks during the school year. If you can volunteer from 5-7, or 7-9:30, please contact Patty Perno ([pperno@comcast.net](mailto:pperno@comcast.net)).

There will be a Staff vs. DMS boys and girls hockey game in March (date TBD). Tickets will be sold for \$1 during lunch, and pom-poms will be given to kids who attend to cheer on the teams. Pizza and snacks will be sold at the game.

There will be a DMS Lacrosse clinic offered over February vacation week. Announcements will be made in school and boys/girls can sign up to attend the sessions. In addition, lacrosse will be added to the DMS sports schedule for both girls and boys (separate teams), with signups in March. Details to follow.

Please save your boxtops and send them in with your child. The homeroom that collects the most boxtops, will win a breakfast provided by the PTO.

Have a topic for a future meeting? Please email [dgately@dedham.k12.ma.us](mailto:dgately@dedham.k12.ma.us).