

Claxton PTO
Monthly Membership Meeting
November 5, 2019

I. Thank you's

- A. Sarah Howell & Lindsey Kuscera for the Staff Appreciation lunch
- 4th grade families hosted this one.
 - We are collecting more and more crock pots. Be sure to pick yours up!
- B. Susannah Watson and Kelly Yeiser for the Fall Carnival
- What a huge success!
 - Appreciation for all the volunteers who made it happen.
 - See more on the Fall Carnival in the Principal's Message below.
- C. Amy Brown, Kimberly Eggett, and CLX families for Libro Love
- Huge thanks to Ms. Brown and Ms. Eggett for organizing this opportunity for our students.
 - And an equally huge thanks to parents who came in to read to classes in Spanish. They took time off from work to come in, and some even brought food and other cultural items to share.
 - Our kids were excited to try out their Spanish, participate, and hear the stories!
- D. Abby Owolabi for the Eblen Walk, Run, or Roll and Eblen Pumpkins
- Thanks to Ms. Owolabi for all her energy and all the things she does.
 - These charities help support Asheville families in need; please support them!
- E. Meredith Love for Corporate Sponsorships
- Still getting new sponsors!
 - Contact Meredith if you are involved with a business that would like to be a CLX sponsor!

II. Staff Updates

- A. **Principal's Message**
- **Fall Carnival** looked like it broke attendance records! The Cardboard Challenge in the Media Center created by 5th grade students was a huge draw; food in the cafeteria was great; music and games kept the multitudes busy on a rainy evening. The flow was great, too. It felt like an outdoor carnival indoors!

- Sliming was today! This was a Boosterthon award for top fundraisers. Keep your eyes open for pictures of the Slime-ees.
- **Winter Clothing drive is on now.** We are partnering with Jones so that our kids' clothing goes to them and their kids' clothing comes to us. **All gently used clothing (children of all sizes and adult) is gratefully accepted.** Drop off in the morning car line until November 7. We are also looking to extend this opportunity to give families the weekend to look through their closets for clothing items to donate. Coats and warm clothing are especially appreciated!
- **Thanks for Reading** will be Nov. 20. Traditionally, this has been the most attended academic event of the year. It is a chance for students to share their literacy learning with their families—and of course a Thanksgiving turkey lunch!
- **Holiday Assistance** is an invitation-only event for CLX families in need. The school hosts a party with music and crafts for students and a time for parents to meet with CLX administration to discuss concerns and needs. Families also get to collect holiday gifts for their children. CLX families who would like to sponsor a child can collect a tag with information about that child (clothing sizes and wish lists) and a bag to hold gifts purchased for that child. (Please make sure that all gifts fit in the bag if possible.) This is not publicized, so please reach out to Mr. Edwards if you would like to purchase gifts for a child in need. **Event is December 12; bags must be brought to CLX by December 11.**
- For families who are considering donation to charitable organizations, please consider **United Way**. They help many CLX families and are a wonderful organization for the CLX community.

B. Social Justice Team

- Social Justice Team planned and sponsored Libro Love (see above).
- They are busy planning other similar events in the future.

C. Lighthouse/Leader in Me Team

- CLX students have been working on their personal WIGs.
- WIG stands for “Wildly Important Goals.” According to the Leader in Me website, defining what is “wildly important” to them helps a child learn how to set and achieve goals.
- We are now moving to setting academic WIGs.

D. Specialist Team

- In October, we had a great LEAF residency and performance for 2nd grade students. They got to perform at LEAF (the Lake Eden Arts Festival)!
- Alice in Wonderland, Jr. is next weekend! Rehearsals are going great. Be sure to attend November 15, 16, 17 (Friday and Saturday nights, Sunday matinee)!

- ACS Crafty is this weekend, Saturday, Nov. 9. There will be live music 12-3, and slots still open! Contact Mr. Butler if you are or know a musician who's interested in performing.

III. Treasurer Update

- A. Treasurer's Report (Ashley Israel)
- **Boosterthon:** Final figures not quite in, but we should net about \$30,000. The budget was \$25,000, so once again it was a HUGE success!
 - **Fall Carnival:** Still writing reimbursement checks, but we should net almost \$4,000. This event is traditionally about community-building, not fundraising, so we budgeted for it to raise only \$2,500. What a success! Special shout-out to the organizers, Susannah Watson and Kelly Yeiser for their clear budget sheet!
 - **Budget overview:** See below for an overview of where the PTO's money comes from and what the PTO uses the money for.
- B. Annual Financial Review
- This is a regular part of an organization with a budget like the CLX PTO. It has not been performed in recent memory, and it's time!
 - We will be looking for **three parent volunteers** to help with this. Contact Stephanie Jones if you're interested.
 - We have checklists of items to review to help us ensure clear transitions as our officers shift over the years.
 - The CLX PTO takes in and distributes to CLX a **lot** of money each year, and the annual financial review helps keep this process running smoothly.
- C. New reimbursement process
- The CLX PTO is streamlining our reimbursement process, for both PTO members and teachers receiving mini grants.
 - PTO officers have received information on the online reimbursement process, and teachers receiving mini grants will as well.
 - If you are requesting a reimbursement and have not received this information, contact Ashley Israel or Stephanie Jones.

IV. Committee/Event Updates

- A. **Teacher Mini Grants** (Gabrielle Trott)
- For the Fall Mini-Grant application period, we received requests totaling \$2,533.92—falling perfectly within the \$6,000 budgeted for teacher mini grants over the school year. (There will be another application opportunity in the spring.)
 - It was moved, seconded, and the membership present approved the following grant requests:

- Writing Strategies Book Club, submitted by Molly Peebles.
\$313.08 funded to purchase 7 books that will help expose students to writing mechanics, content, and process.
- Sensory Classroom Supplies, submitted by Beth Kickert.
\$298.29 funded to purchase items for classroom sensory needs, including therapy brushes, counters for patterns and sorting, and answer buzzers.
- Junior Great Books, submitted by Shannon Hunt.
\$426.09 funded for K-2 Great Books, engaging texts for beginner readers.
- Claxton Step Team, submitted by Becca Wertheim Davis.
\$286.52 funded for 20 youth and 3 adult tee-shirts for our newly formed Claxton Step Team.
- Reluctant Reader Chapter Books, submitted by Shannon Morgan.
\$302.69 funded to provide chapter books geared toward student interests at an earlier reading level to help build confidence and encourage reluctant readers to become engaged with chapter books like their peers.
- Sensory Input Classroom Supplies, submitted by Ashely Allen.
\$312.00 funded to provide sensory input supplies for the classroom including weighted blankets; items for hands-on sensory stimulus in morning, literacy, and math centers.
- Diverse Books, submitted by Kaeta Seimer.
\$108.30 funded to provide eleven diverse books representing a variety of cultures and traditions.
- K-1 Playground Toys, submitted by Julianne Stickley.
\$352.35 funded to provide whole body movement and gross motor skills items for K-1 playground, including an active playset and corn hole.
- Compostable Flatware, submitted by Chris Carter.
\$134.60 funded to provide compostable flatware for use at holiday lunches.

B. ACS Craft Fair (Tricia Johnson)

- THIS SATURDAY, November 9.
- We have 40 booths filled! And we're still accepting vendor applications (remaining booths are outside). See the CLX Parent website for an application.
- Live music playing 12-3. If you are a musician interested in playing, contact Mr. Butler.
- All ACS schools are participating with the exception of Asheville High and AMS.
- Online publicity is going well (e.g., Google search and local event calendars).

- **We need help with signs directing people to the Salvage Station!** (Making a sign and putting it up on Friday or Saturday.) Contact Tricia Johnson if you can help.
- Thanks to Tricia Johnson for organizing this and inviting other ACS schools to participate!

C. Partnership with Asheville Primary

- The CLX PTO is collaborating this year with the PTO at Asheville Primary, our sister school. Asheville Primary is a smaller school with fewer families to help support their PTO.
- We have invited them to partner with us on JuBEElee (formerly the Claxton Winter Auction, a big fundraiser for our PTO). They will offer new ideas, volunteers, and auction items.
- This is an opportunity to share our strong volunteer force/fundraising with a smaller and newer school.
- This is starting a great partnership, especially as their students leave after 3rd grade and may be coming our way.

D. JuBEElee

- Formerly known as the Claxton Winter Auction, our big spring-semester fundraiser.
- We have a venue confirmed and are making sure it has capacity. Still open to other suggestions!
- February 29—save the date!

Dates to Remember

Saturday, November 9: ACS Craft fair at Salvage Station 12-7

November 5-7: CLX and Jones Winter Clothing Exchange

November 15, 16, 17: Alice in Wonderland, Jr. performances

Tuesday, December 3: PTO Meeting 6-7

Thursday, December 5: Winter Dance (3rd to 5th grades) 3-4

Friday, December 6: Storytelling Festival

Claxton Elementary PTO Budget 2019-2020



How does the PTO raise money for Claxton?	
Category	Amount
Fun Run (Net, After Expenses)	\$25,000
Auction (Net, After Expenses)	\$20,000
Carnival (Net, After Expenses)	\$2,000
Corporate Contributions	\$5,975
Dances	\$2,000
Craft Fair	\$500
Merchandise (Net, After Expenses)	\$250
Student Running Club	\$225
	\$55,950

What does Claxton use the PTO money for?	
Category	Amount
Teacher / Classroom / School Support (Honeybees, Curriculum, Field Trips, Staff Appreciation, Grounds, PE Equipment, Principal Discretionary Fund, PTO President Discretionary Fund, Classroom snacks, School Framing, Teacher Assistant Supplies, Teacher Supplies, Teacher of the Year, Tshirts for Staff, Community Volunteer Coordinator salary)	\$27,600
School Programs (Drama (school play) support, After School Arts, Guidance Counselor Discretionary Fund (to help students in need), Cultural Events, Student Scholarships, Social Justice League)	\$20,350
Misc. Expenses (Bank/Credit Card Fees, Liability Insurance, PTO Supplies, PTO Operations Expenses)	\$3,750
Parent Support (5th grade celebration, Ice Cream Social, New Families, Claxton Chats, Field Day)	\$2,200
Student Support (Student Tshirts, 5th grade portraits)	\$2,050
	\$55,950

