



1/18/18 Meeting Highlights

- Principal Lundgren highlighted **parent communication improvements!** Things to expect include: a Google calendar, use of the Remind app for students in after-school, website updates, and new bulletin board installations, including a new after-school bulletin board in the ECE wing.
- PTA VP, Dari Pogach is working on **updating PTA By-laws** to include: the purpose of the PTA, membership, elections, how to fill vacancies, duties of chairs, committees, financial procedures, and more. She is looking for volunteers and can be reached at daripogach@gmail.com.
- The Local School Advisory Team (LSAT) explained the guiding principles they have developed for funding to ensure equity across the school, summarized as: Resources and opportunities should be accessible to all students, regardless of a number of factors, including SES, language, race, grade level, ability, etc.
- Teacher requests for PTA funds for special projects totaled about \$19,000 and are still under review.
- PTA Treasurer, Anne Rodriguez gave a detailed presentation on PTA funds, which now total \$37,297. We discussed how a large grant funding all but about \$10,000 of FoodPrints will continue for the 2018-2019 school year but to continue the program thereafter will require private funding that we should start to fundraise for now.
- The PTA will provide **babysitting and pizza for PTA meetings** so parents can reliably attend PTA meetings. If interested in volunteering, please contact Emily Toubali at emilytoubali@gmail.com or Hallie Shuffler at hshuffler@yahoo.com.
- Congratulations to Brandon MacGillis, our new **PTA Communications Co-Chair**. Brandon is a Communications Officer at Pew Charitable Trusts and in his first 4 days found a sponsor to facilitate the redesign and a 3-year sponsorship of the Marie Reed website! Way to go Brandon!
- Terra Blodnikar shared an update on the **new website** being created by a team of parents and teachers. The goal is to launch it before summer. If you have ideas please contact her at terrablodnikar@gmail.com.



Mark Your Calendar

- 2/12-16 Kindness Week!
- 2/14 – Panthers Basketball 4pm
- 2/15 – Next PTA meeting, 5:45pm
- 2/31 – Panthers Basketball 4pm
- 3/16 – International Night
- 4/20 – Movie Night #3
- 5/7-11 Teacher Appreciation Week

PTA Breakout Groups

Two breakout groups convened to discuss:

1. **Increasing family/parent engagement**
2. **Networking within our community.** See below for highlights!
 - Parents and guests with a wide range of careers/skills are needed for career day in March. If interested, please contact Ms. Silva; Jessica.Silva@dc.gov
 - There's a desire for more social interaction between families, which is more challenging when it's cold outside!
 - Stay tuned for follow up action items at our February PTA meeting!

What is International Night?

Mark you calendar for International Night on 3/16 at 5:30pm in the gym (it is free). Come join our celebration of the many countries and cultures represented by Marie Reed families, teachers, and staff! There will be food, crafts, music, and dancing from around the world! It's a potluck - bring a taste of your heritage to share! We need volunteers, please contact: emilytoubali@gmail.com or paty.c.huber@gmail.com.

To join the PTA Google Group, an online forum for teachers and families to communicate, sign up here: <https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/marie-reed-pta/join>

New After-School Remind Messages

Open the Remind app, choose "Join a Class" and enter "mrwcasti" for ECE, "mrwcastil" for K, "mrwcast" for 1st, "mrwcastill" for 2nd, "e6c4c6" for 3rd, "9g7cf2" for 4th or "e3cdh8" for 5th grade. OR text the code above for your grade level with a "@" in front of it to 81010.