

SEQ CHAPTER \h \r 1 **Friends of Franklin**
Parent Meeting --September 15, 2009
Minutes

The potluck began at approximately 6:00 p.m. The meeting began at approximately 6:30 p.m.

Lori Krause, President, introduced all the Board members and welcomed the parents for the first Friends of Franklin parent meeting for the 2009-2010 year. She also thanked the babysitters and custodians for making it all possible, as well as the administration and the parents who do so much volunteering.

The purpose of FoF is to raise money. Last year, FoF raised over \$130,000 gross. The money pays for many things that are not in the school's budget, including: field trips, online subscriptions in classrooms, Ranzouli (sp?) and Brain Pop, class magazines, music teacher Ms. Aimee, percussion teacher, ceramics teacher, Duplo machine, portion of our full time nurse's salary, extra supplies for the teachers (each teacher gets \$250 [lower grades] or \$350 [upper grades]), and many other things.

How do we raise money? Volunteer parents and fundraisers. Here are some of the fundraising and other FoF efforts this year:

Tamson Carlson and Laura Whitmore – Sally Foster gift wrap. The school gets 50% of what gets ordered. A packet will go out Monday, 9/21. Includes magazine sales.

There are always 2 pledge drives each year – one at the beginning of each semester.

Leslie Weinstein is graciously agreeing to help update the website and help keep it up to date.

Bake sales – every other Friday. Need 5-6 parents to volunteer their time.

See's candy drive right before the holidays.

Halloween Festival – will be on October 31 this year. This year's committee will include: Jenny Gomez, Madeline Peterson, Molli McIlvaine, and Tanya Goodman. It will need lots of volunteers to continue in the fine tradition of past extravaganzas!

Walk-a-thon – Madeline Peterson and Jenny Gomez will also take this on.

Talent Show

Scholastic Book Fair

Silent Auction

Pinewood Derby and chili contest

Used Book Fair

Franklin Kids – Sandi Picazo. Will be doing a cookbook this year, we need your submissions. Also does its own fundraising.

Treasurer's Report from Jim Contratto.

We raised approximately \$132,000 gross last year. There is a new expense report to fill out for parents who need to request reimbursement on fundraisers. Please get it from the office and fill it out and include your receipts.

Parents' Questions

What about the cuts to LAUSD budget? Mrs. Sasso responded that we have been affected by the cuts. Class sizes have gone up to 24-26 for the lower grades, up to 36 for the upper grades. The office now has just one staff member, Ms. Poupee, although Ms. Hasuike is coming in to volunteer. A substitute will start on Monday. Communications with parents may be affected. Personnel – we lost an AP for Special Ed and needs of specific students – no longer have that position. Lost one of our teachers to a RIF. There will be more cuts coming up, don't know what they will be, just know that LAUSD has been asked to cut more money over the next 2 years.

There is 434 students enrolled in the entire school.

FoF has been helping to pay TA's as well. Is funding one TA. TA's are for 3 hours in the lower grades, and one and a half hours in the upper grades, which is quite a good amount.

Mrs. Sasso asked parents to be sure to fill out the Title I meal applications even if parents don't think they qualify since parents may not know or may not plan to always use the school lunch program; it is important that we get that money if we qualify. If don't get 40% eligibility. Right now we are at 43%.

Question: can parents volunteer to help the teachers? Answer: check with your child's teacher and ask what they would like. Also have to show a recent TB test and fill out a volunteer slip and wear a Franklin Volunteer button.

Is Franklin an Arts Protocol school? Answer: yes. It means that a few years back, additional art instructors came to the school and taught our teachers how to include arts in their classroom. Now we have been cut back from 2 to 1 days for the arts, but the skills taught to our teachers have meant that arts are a greater part of the curriculum even when art is not directly being taught. Some discussion over FoF paying for some additional art teachers, in addition to what we are already doing.

The proposal was made to do a survey of the teachers and find out what their wish list is so we can figure out what priorities need to be paid for.

Mrs. Sasso then delivered some really good news. Franklin's API score is now 889. All subgroups made it over 800.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:45 p.m.

