

AL PTO Meeting NOTES

April 13, 2021

6:00p



Académie
Lafayette
EST. 1999

PTO

Events –

- As of right now, no approval for school/family events like the picnic etc through end of school year. Alonda will check back with Admin though. Anyone who can help with this, please contact Alonda!
- **Family Feud** – this is under consideration
- **Boulevard Drive-In** – this idea is floating around as a summer fundraiser!
- **EIP Fundraiser** –
 - Definitely on for 2022.
 - EIP provides the budget for PTO and other things – any alternative fundraisers? We raised \$ last year, but didn't need it towards much this year, so it's going to be rolled over for upcoming things.
 - Other charter schools have struggled to meet even low-bar goal thresholds statewide (Michele Markham)

Funding Appeal – Michele Markham – there is a plan for a fund-a-need type appeal that will go out before the end of the school year.

Treasurer's Report – PTO will get the approved budget, along with a current report, onto the AL PTO website within the coming week. (Betsy Campos is the current Treasurer)

Spirit Wear - Spirit Wear/trash bag revenue thru April: \$845 clearance of inventory we owned. New spirit wear program (created on demand, no inventory owned) Q1 cut was \$128.50 (net of paying for samples, shipping, digitizing logo).

Teacher Appreciation Week – will be May 3-7 – This needs to be planned and information provided to families!

Some Ideas for Teacher Appreciation Week – the following are previously used messaging to use as fodder for planning the 2021 Teacher Appreciation Week

- Here are some relatively easy options for Teacher Appreciation Week. Please choose a way to recognize your children's teachers and support staff. This is a hard time for many families financially and there is no expectation that you buy gifts or gift cards. Just a simple and heartfelt thank you.
- Email a letter of gratitude – from you, the parent. Don't forget the support teachers. All email addresses are first initial followed by last name @academielafayette.org.
- Your child can email [Teacher Name here] a drawing or letter of gratitude.
- Your child can email a video of gratitude.
- Email an e-gift card to Door Dash <https://www.doordash.com/gift-cards/> (which can then be used to help support local restaurants, including some owned by or who employ many AL families)
- Email an e-gift card for Amazon, Target, Walmart, etc. ***See next page for gift card tips from Mme Werner**

Another message idea:

- Monday start off with something from the students. Something handmade. A picture, or note is wonderful.
- Tuesday, we are doing the breakfast.
- Wednesday ask someone to bring flowers to your teacher. Perhaps someone has some beautiful flowers from their own yard that would make it even more special
- Thursday we are doing the lunch.
- Friday, it's the parents turn to write a note of appreciation to the teacher.

TIPS about sending GIFT CARDS to Teachers (from Mme Werner):

- If you send a gift card to a teacher, please email them and let them know. Gift cards email get hidden in a different email tab and sometimes get missed. Thank you for all your support to our great teachers. I agree with Janelle that notes are hugely appreciated!

Other Topics Covered –

6th Grade (now 7th Grade) Student Trip to France – (parent Diane Rizzo spoke)

This trip is currently being planned for the coming year for soon to be 7th Graders. There is a group of parents who are wanting to call attention to the fact that the organization Language and Friendship didn't refund a fair amount, primarily because they could not provide a detailed log of where the non-refundable amount was used for. The school canceled the trip on behalf of AL students proactively, so parents would like something fair to be resolved.

Parent Diane Rizzo would like the AL community and Administration to consider switching to a different organization that we can work with to facilitate this trip.

Also in question is the PTO funding that was used as scholarships. Where is this money?

Covid has been bad for everyone, but \$825 per family is not right. Language and Friendship kept more than was even stated in the contract. They claimed hotels kept some of the money, hence they had to keep more. Diane wants to point out that if you are treated poorly by an organization, why would keep going back over and over?

\$3,100 was initially paid by each family. One more payment was going to be due. Families were penalized \$825.

Language and Friendship did qualify for the U.S. government PPP – two amounts.

There are no background checks on host families with Language and Friendship. ... They also do not require background checks on us when we have their children come here.