

## **Merriam PTO Meeting Minutes** **May 18, 2010**

**Board Members Present:** Donna German, PTO Co-Chair, Tricia Forrester, Secretary, Neena Arora, incoming 2010-2011 PTO Co-Chair

**Also Present:** Ed Kaufman, Principal, Sandra Bonzagni, Sherene Raisbeck, Amanda Lye, Teachers present were Christy Nealon, Rachel Russell, Fran Strohm

### **PTO Business**

Donna called the meeting to order at 7:40pm.

The PTO forecast for the year was \$84,050 and we came in with \$87,756. Direct Appeal donations are still coming in and will be added to the total.

The PTO has two open positions for fundraising events that need to be filled soon because the events will happen in September. Some initial planning is needed in the late spring. The Board is looking for someone to head-up Directory Ads and School Photos. Donna will send an email out to the school community to see if anyone is interested.

Donna introduced Sandy Bonzagni from the Acton Garden Club. She is working with the Acton Health Department to disseminate information regarding Lyme Disease. Sandy gave a brief overview of signs of the disease, treatment for the disease and prevention information. She referenced two websites: [ActonGardenClub.com](http://ActonGardenClub.com) and [LymeDisease.com](http://LymeDisease.com) for more information.

### **Technology Update**

Smart Boards will be available in grades 4, 5, 6 and will be introduced to the third-graders in the Fall.

Fran Strohm presented technology projects second grade classes worked on this year. Students completed a collaborative technology project aimed at highlighting the important people, places and events that occur at Merriam. During the process, children learned how to use digital cameras, voice recorders and how to download these elements using PowerPoint and I-Photo programs. We viewed examples from "Important People At Merriam", "Important Places At Merriam" and "A Typical Day in Second Grade At Merriam."

Rachel Russell presented the technology projects third grade students completed in her class as well at Melissa and Colm's classes. Students wrote acrostic poems about winter and with the assistance of Art Teacher, Ann Kress, students illustrated their poems. Using their laptops, students had to record their poem and scan their illustration.

Christy Nealon presented technology projects from the fifth and sixth grade students. As students get older, their technology skills grow. In fifth and sixth grades, students are creating podcasts for their projects. Fifth grade students were writing fables. Students are taught to write, thinking about mood, how to use sound effects to convey their story and image for layout. Sixth grade students work on the newspaper project. They wrote their articles and learned how to link their articles from the front page. The students work in small groups with the teacher and technology specialist. Fifth and sixth grade students integrate more technology software with their projects, using GarageBand, iWeb and learning PDF formatting.

A collection of student work can be found on the Merriam school website under Merriam Showcase, [www.merriam.ab.mec.edu](http://www.merriam.ab.mec.edu).

The meeting was concluded at 8:25pm.

PTO Minutes by Patricia Forrester, Merriam PTO Secretary 2009-2010