



Montessori Learning Centre

Parent Teacher Association

MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY NOVEMBER 19, 2020
LOCATION: ZOOM VIRTUAL MEETING | 7:00pm

Halloween Loot Bag Fundraiser

The Halloween Loot Bag Fundraiser was a huge success. 75% of the student body purchased a bag. The goal of this fundraiser was more about raising “fun” rather than “funds.” With trick-or-treating being discouraged, we wanted to stuff the bags as much as possible both to make the children happy and help parents feel like they were getting value for their money.

Younger children received a mix of toys and treats while older children received primarily candy. The profit made per bag was a function of the age group:

- Infant & Pre-Casa Bags: No profit (bags full of mostly toys and few treats)
- Casa Bags: Profit of \$1.25 per bag (mix of toys and candy)
- Junior Bags: Profit of \$1.75 per bag
- Intermediate Bags: Profit of \$2.00 per bag
- Total funds raised: \$203.25

Holiday Fundraisers

Each of you should have received our first PTA newsletter in your children’s cubbies today. The newsletter described three campaigns we are running for the holidays: Recipes-in-a-Jar, Holiday Boredom Buster Busy Bags, and our first Scholastics Book Fair. Each campaign has their own deadline so that items arrive early before Christmas. We chose these particular fundraisers because they involved minimal contact (online ordering or e-transfer to minimize the handling of cash and shipping directly to your home).

Recipes-in-a-Jar

The company offers 12-15 various one-pot meals in attractively packaged mason jars to use for yourself or give away as gifts. These were a hit last year – the value and quality of the meals are fantastic. Each jar could either serve a family of 4 generously or make for appealing gifts to coworkers and neighbors. The jar contents are handmade locally

by artisans, packaged in 100% recyclable materials, and can be prepared in less than 5 minutes. For every jar purchased, the company will donate 1 free meal to our local food bank. Last year, our school purchased over 200 jars, which means over 200 needy families received a wholesome meal! This year, the company is offering online ordering and free delivery to your homes with a minimum purchase of 6 jars for a safe, contactless experience. Orders of less than 6 can be made through Nina, who will group the orders together for free shipping to the school.

Holiday Boredom Buster Busy Bags

In the same spirit as the Halloween loot bags, we are going to put together Holiday Activity Bags filled with numerous crafts, games, books etc. that you can give to your kids when you're home during the holiday break. Each bag will be different depending on the age and gender of the child. The bags will sell for \$20 for 1 child, \$35 for 2 children, and \$50 for three children.

Scholastics Book Fair

In the past, we have had 4-6 opportunities for parents to purchase books from Scholastics Canada by distributing fliers. Moving forward, we are eliminating the paper fliers and deadlines for ordering. You can now order any time you want directly from the scholastics website and the books will ship right to your home if you spend \$35. You have to enter our school code for the free shipping offer and so that the school benefits from receiving reward points. These reward points are then used by the school to buy books for your children's classrooms. I think parents will enjoy shopping from the website vs. the flyer because the fliers didn't contain the entire inventory of books to choose from. When you go online, you'll see that the options are endless and the prices of the books are hard to beat.

To order anytime during the year, go to **scholastic.ca/clubshop** to create an account and place your order. **IMPORTANT:** When you check out, enter our school code in the payment section **RC240596**

Free Holiday Babysitting

Every year, the PTA has offered one weekend morning of free babysitting on the school premises so that you could get your Holiday Shopping done. We sadly can't commit to this in 2020. With the COVID cases being as high as they are and the recommendation that we stay home, it isn't advisable that we mix age groups up if it's not necessary.

PPE Fundraiser

Cynthia is currently in talks with a few local small business vendors to obtain samples of masks so that we can choose the best design for the students. Laura B. pointed out

that Canada's top public health doctor now recommends 3-layer non-medical masks rather than 2-layer. We will be adding this to our search, so that we can provide the option to purchase either a 2-layer or 3-layer mask, depending on the preferences of the parent & child. Thank you for bringing this to our attention, Laura!

Next PTA Meeting

There is no meeting in December, but we will reconvene in the new year. Have a wonderful and restful holiday break!

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.