

**Brooks Museums Magnet Elementary School
PTA General Membership Meeting
January 15, 2015**

The meeting was called to order at 6:29 PM by PTA President Tricia Sharon.

Reflections Art Program, Angie Brandt (Program Chair)

<u>Title of Work</u>	<u>Award</u>
Walking with God	Drawing Award
A Solar Panel Car	Technology Award
Earth Saves the World	Hero Award
Creative World	Colorful Award
Help Hug the World	Stewardship Award
If Everybody Had A Garden	Green Thumb Award
Free Tree	Artistic Merit Award
Recyclable Mansion	Tidiest Award
...If everyone had a home	Happy Home Award
Helping Others	Most Helpful Award
We Are All the Same	Love Your Neighbor Award
Love	Big Heart Award
Duct Tape Purse	Fashion Award
Trees, Flowers and Food	Best Butterflies Award
Owl at Night	Most Unique Award
Friendship	Friendliest Award
Pay It Forward	Thoughtfulness Award
The Bells of Raleigh	Raleigh Spirit Award
Brooks Elementary School	School Spirit Award
Random Acts of Kindness	Good Will Award
A Pollution Free World	Clean Air Award
A Land Full of Litter	Respect the Earth Award
Stylist	Best Use of Dots
Rainbow Island	Best Texture Award

- The theme for this year was “The World Would Be A Better Place If . . .”. Each child who participated in this year’s competition was introduced and received an award.
- A big thank you to all of the children who participated this year and their parents. This was the first year that all of the artwork was completed outside of school. Please participate again next year!
- Thank you also to Angie Brandt, who stepped up to make this program possible for our children this year, as Ms. Moschberger was unable to take this on with her pregnancy/maternity leave.

School Improvement Team Report, Joan Certa-Moore

- Parent Representatives: Van King & Matt Cunningham.

- The SIT Plan states that Brooks Staff will utilize high engagement strategies to implement our Museums Magnet Theme as a support for instruction in all content areas. One of the key processes to carry this out is to provide yearly professional development for teacher assistants and parent volunteers for seminar facilitation (January 2015 - May 2016). A survey will be sent out to all parents asking parents how familiar they are with seminars (know nothing/seen it/participated myself and what time of day would be best for you to attend training). The SIT Team believes that seminars will be better conducted in smaller groups.
- Ms. Certa-Moore invited all parents to come and observe the next school wide seminar day, February 13. Parents will not be allowed to observe in their own child's classroom.
- A seminar is a guided intellectual dialog/conversation that is very content driven. There is usually an overarching value, i.e. February = self-discipline. The students will look at a piece of text/prose, an object, or at an image in relation to their discussion. The teachers create very specific questions, which are posed, but the teacher does not participate in the conversation. The students converse and prove that they can support their ideas and build their conversation skills. Seminars are based on Adler's work and are part of the Paideia strategy. Students (K-5) learn about waiting their turn, listening and speaking (part of Common Core standard) and are not graded on the seminar. There are certain norms/rules for these seminars: students can disagree, but must be respectful, they must actively listen, they should ask other students to explain their ideas further (if they don't understand), etc.
- Fifth-grade parents: All fifth-grade parents MUST submit a magnet application if they desire a magnet spot next year in middle school, even if your child already has a magnet status. Magnet application period is January 26 - February 5.

Principal's Report - Felicia Locklear

- Ms. Certa-Moore's is retiring as our Magnet Coordinator on January 30. Her replacement has not yet been found. Other staff members at Brooks will be covering her responsibilities until a replacement has been found.
- The seminar process allows students to build their confidence in being able to talk about their thinking and what they see, instead of having to wait for a teacher to ask a question or respond on a test. Students leaving Brooks at the end of 5th grade regularly receive complements on their ability to contribute in class with their thinking and ideas, and are not embarrassed to share their thoughts.
- Mid-year assessments are currently going on (as mandated by Wake County at the end of each quarter). These assessments are not reported to parents, but are used by teachers so that they may gauge their teaching focus for the rest of the year.
- M-Class Assessments (which were new last year, purchased by Wake County) is a reading level assessment tool. Students have always been assessed on their reading, however, they have historically been verbally asked the comprehension piece. Now, the students must write their response to the comprehension piece, which is very difficult for most students. To aid students with this, while reading together at

home, please verbally ask your student to answer questions about the book, but then ask them some specific questions and see if they can write those answers down.

- Magnet recruitment is going well. Open House was held Wednesday, January 7. The first session was completely full and the second session was approximately 2/3rds full.
- Our Cap has been lifted for next school year, which is due to a slow down of families moving into our base area after the school year beginning over the past two years. Ms. Locklear does not expect us to be overcrowded and she anticipates only have four Kindergarten classes next year (will not know for sure until school starts).
- Brooks Elementary has a twitter account (@BrooksMuseumsES), which is managed by Ms. Coats. This is a good method to receive instant information about happenings at our school, as well as the occasional picture.
- In March, WCPSS will begin sending out all of their information electronically via Peach Jar (<https://www.peachjar.com>), which will continue to reduce the amount of paperwork coming home in backpacks. Parents will signup to receive an email alerting them to go to the website when information pertaining to our school has been generated.
- Reminder to adhere to the school's carpool procedures to line up down Yadkin to left on Rampart (<http://brookspta.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/Brooks-Elementary-Carpool-Instructions.pdf>).
- Renovation Update: The Plan is to keep our Kindergarten Wing and tear everything else down. Ms. Locklear continues to meet regarding the plan (had another big meeting on Jan. 23) and hopes that the plan will be finalized by April or May. Once they are established, there will be a parent information night. Next school year, the drawings will be on display with a questions box for the builders and architects. The building will be either two-story or three. The hope is that there are more gathering spaces within the building so that entire grades can gather for discussions. The building will also be tailored to our Museums Magnet theme (gallery spaces, etc.). Reminder that during the year of construction, our school will be relocated for that entire year to a modular campus next to East Millbrook Middle School. Our students will have no interaction with the middle school. Before and after school care will continue to operate. Green Elementary is enjoying their time there now and working out all of the kinks for us before we relocate there.
- Ms. Chew sent her thanks for the teacher breakfast upon their return back from the Holiday Break.

Treasurer's Report – Millan Edmondson

- No Fuss company match donations continue to come in (\$400 in the last month, still more to come).
 - Received a check for \$2,850 from Box Tops.
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| Total Income | \$33,435 |
| Expenses | \$23,895 |
| Net Income | \$4,780 |

Cash on Hand \$23,500

Hospitality – Deborah Everett

- Thanked everyone who brought in food and volunteered for the Cookie Exchange and to the Third Grade families who brought in food for the Breakfast on January 5.
- The next Early Release day is February 13. The Second Grade families are being asked to bring in food for that day's Salad & Baked Potato Bar (<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080e4baca92a1-valentines1>).

Programs – Emily Goins & Amanda Stanley

- We are still in need of an organized individual to chair the Variety Show (preferably someone with an older child). Auditions for the Show are scheduled to be held March 31. If a chair is not found soon, the Show will be cancelled for this year.
- Volunteers are needed for the Book Stop (<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080f4aa4ae22a02-book>) and for the School Store (<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0f4eaaa6229-brooks>).
- The teachers voted on EduKits (<http://www.edukitinc.com>) as the supplier for the School Supplies Program. The teachers' lists for next year are due in February 27. Marketing will begin 4-6 weeks before school gets out and at the Kindergarten Orientation. Will accept orders until 3 weeks before school starts. All of the information for this will be on the website and all orders will be placed online.

Volunteers – Kristi Wilson

- Volunteers needed for the few remaining magnet tours (one tour added on January 29 due to a cancelled tour with the weather delay) - <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040e49afa82b0-magnet1>.
- Character Ed Breakfast scheduled for January 14 moved to the following week.
- Volunteers will be needed for Community Reads Day on April 27. If you know of anyone with an interesting career, hobby, business, etc. who would be willing to come in on that day and read to 1-2 classes, please contact Angie Brandt.

Ways & Means – Tricia Sharon

- We have raised over \$18,000 as of now with the No Fuss Fundraiser.
- The Original Works artwork has been completed and orders will be coming home in time for Mother's Day. Look for those forms in backpack.

Mini-Grants – Tricia Sharon

- The new paper cutters, hole punchers, staplers, etc. have arrived and are in the workroom. The teachers have been very appreciative of the new supplies.

President's Report – Tricia Sharon

- The minutes for meeting held on Nov. 13, 2014 were voted in (Angie Brandt and Anna Williams), as well as the minutes for the Dec. 4, 2014 meeting (Millan Edmondson and Emily Goins).
- Winter Carnival:
 - Sponsorship levels are down so far this year, so if you know of any businesses that would like to sponsor, please let us know (sponsorships begin as low as \$100). Families may also sponsor.
 - As much as possible will be done online this year (<http://brookspta.com/wintercarnival-2/>).
 - The Winter Carnival booklet will only go home to Kindergarten families this year.
- All VP's need to have their Standing Rules updates back to Becky Cunningham by the end of January.
- Please begin to consider if you would like to continue on in your PTA role again next year, and if not, think of who the nominating committee could ask to fill your role.
- Volunteer of the Month: Kristi Wilson.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 PM.