

NovaPTO Upper School Parent Advisory - "Strengthening the Nova Community"

Agenda – March -6-2014

NovaPTO Mission - Nova Classical Academy PTO is an organization of volunteers engaging families, teachers, and staff in fostering a school community that actively supports Nova's mission and enriches the students and the school. Any and all current Nova parents and staff are considered members. There are no dues.

USPA Mission - Interaction between Parents and Administration in an informal setting to discuss particular events and issues, thoughts and perspectives in a positive and proactive manner.

Parent Rep - 6th	Kimberly Adelsman	kimberlyadelsman@hotmail.com
Parent Rep - 6th	Charlene Hess	hesscharlene@yahoo.com
Parent Rep - 7th	Sara Waters	sara@saras-stories.com
Parent Rep - 7th	Russ LaPlante	russ@laplante.info
Parent Rep - 8th	Anna Brailovsky	a.m.brailovsky@gmail.com
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Parent Rep - 9th	Jo Burr	cjburrfamily@gmail.com
Parent Rep - 9th	Eugene Crawshaw	<e.crawshaw@me.com>
Parent Rep - 10th	Amanda Granse	amanda.granse@loonmagnet.net
Parent Rep - 10th	Tanya & Andrew Olson	tanyamarieolson@gmail.com; andrew.olson@hp.com
Parent Rep. - 11th	Claudia Blumenstock	blumenstockc@gmail.com
Parent Rep. - 11th	Kim & Graham Nelson	kimmernic@gmail.com
Parent Rep. - 12th	Liz palmer	palmer.gaffney@gmail.com
Parent Rep. - 12th	Pemly Fink	peeps44@comcast.net
NovaPTO Rep	Jane Lagerquist	jglager@gmail.com

1. Welcome and Roll Call (Jane)

- a. Agenda Additions
- b. Minutes and approval Motion
- c. Need someone to take minutes.

2. Review past EVENTS February 2014

Snow Daze-

- a. Friday: PJ Day **Logic Students are invited to participate on Friday
- b. Other events include **skating at Palace Park** on Thursday from 4-6.00pm,
- c. Cheering with Nova's Pep Band for the **triple-header basketball games** on Friday,
- d. **a movie night** showing Despicable Me 2 on after Friday's basketball game
- e. **Snow Dance**

3. General Topics

- a. Middle school schedule
- b. Need Teacher appreciation team

4. Upcoming events 2013-2014

Dessa at Nova: 3/18 - Nova is pleased to announce that musician and poet Dessa will be performing at the school on Tuesday, March 18 for an Upper School House Event. Dessa, a Minnesota-based and nationally known Spoken Word poet and rapper, graduated from the University of Minnesota with a major in philosophy and has published two poetry books in addition to her musical endeavors. Dessa will meet with students after her performance to share insights on her craft.

Parent Ed Night, Living the Nova Virtues: 3/11 - From its founding, Nova has sought to instill in students the ideals presented by the cardinal virtues – fortitude, prudence, temperance, justice, and knowledge. These virtues come down from Aristotle through the Romans and the medieval period, but still bear relevance to living well in modern society. Virtue

is one of the cornerstones of Nova's application of classical education and preparation of our children to succeed in the world with integrity. The Tuesday, March 11 Parent Education evening will present an opportunity for the community to discuss how the virtues are taught at Nova and how that translates into our personal and home lives. The evening will begin with a 45-minute panel discussion involving two parents, two teachers, and two Nova students, each to bring a unique perspective, followed by a 45-minute open conversation with those assembled. There will be no childcare provided for this event.

Date	Grade	Event and detail
Jan 27 (an in-service day)	6	<i>Grand Slam in Burnsville, 12:30 at school, return at 4pm. Fantastic time with trampolines, bumper cars, laser tag and more! Students should meet at Nova at 12.30pm and will return to school at 4.00pm. Permission forms will be sent home soon.</i>
February 1	6,7,8	Black and White Dance is this Saturday, from 7PM-9:30PM. Tickets are \$5 and available at the door.
Feb 3-8	9-12	Snow Days -Monday: Would you still be friends with me if I wore this? Day -Tuesday: House Color with a Twist Day -Wednesday: Redneck Day -Thursday: Dress like your Parents Day -Friday: PJ Day **Logic Students are invited to participate on Friday
Feb 8	9-12	School of Rhetoric Snow Dance will be held Saturday, February 8 from 7-10.00pm. Tickets are \$5 and available at the door.
Feb 8	9-12	Despicable Me 2 on after Friday's basketball game.
Feb 8	6-8	Snow Daze SoL - No dress-up days. But participate on final Friday.
March	7/8	Event Winter Event 7th and possibly 8th grade also. Suggestions made were Water park of America, Zero Gravity, Sky zone, (Ms. Morton will have these options researched); Memory Bowling Lanes (one of the grades). Discussed having it at school, but an offsite one was preferred - no school setup logistics required; also – wanted to have something equal to the 6th grade event.
April 21-25		Teacher Appreciation week – need a few volunteers. Ideas given – Post it note area on walls, mini boards around school for kids to post comments on teachers – or framed displays for kids well wishes. Posters can be tacked to the wall. teacher candy gram coffee gram, Frappacino's planned. cookie gram
May 3 or 8 th		8-11 PM Prom - at Humanities Center in St. Paul. (11-2am after promo discussed at Humanities Center)
May 17		Carnival & Run
June 6		Senior End of the year
June 10ish		8th Grade Honors
June 8		Graduation

For reference below- not needing to be re-discussed.

Suggestions for next year events school calendar (recommendations of previous meetings)

AUTUMN SUGGESTIONS

- a. **St. Croix weekend** – request for coffee at the St. Croix weekend drop off for parents.
- b. **Homecoming** – 6-8 grade parents, Teachers and Administration felt it was too many dress up days for the middle school group. Suggestion for just 1 spiritwear day. Homecoming suggestions to have tailgating by families, or concession event...
- c. **Comedy Sportz** – Feedback was very positive. There was some feeling that the younger kids enjoyed it more than those on the older end of things. Suggestion next year, show for upper school, but only gr 6-7 workshops.
- d. **Teacher Conference Meals** – Big success. The food was great and teachers appreciated the vegan and gluten free options.
- e. **Senior Fall Breakfast**– Next year Donuts and coffee might be enough, since the students didn't eat the full on Breakfast. Donuts from Cub were suggested. Cost around \$300 for 35 kids.
- f. **Motivation Parent/student ed night** in September/October. Large session in Great room, since more than 115 attended.
- g. **SoR overview** during early enrollment season
- h. **Reading SoR/SoL Parent Ed night** – suggested for October.
- i. **Parent ed night attendance recommendations** - No Homework Nights help! Promise of breakout sessions for parents/kids to talk to each other more, Reminders sent by email day of event.

WINTER SUGGESTIONS

- j. **Winter Treats** – Make signs alerting to special allergy food. Less volunteers needed. Discount quantity of food needed, due to lunch period service time.
- k. **Candy Grams** – make sure rest of administration is notified of event, so smooth delivery.
- l. **Grands Slam** – 6th Grade Event. The kids loved it, and we'd like it for next year.
- m. **Black and White dance** – 6th to 8th grade. Water available for drinks too. Other activities like open gym and game room. More Chaperones with better directions. Maybe name it something else, since the age group is not conducive to dances only.
- n. **Snow Daze** – 9th-12th. No RedNeck day.

MISCELLANEOUS SUGGESTIONS

- o. **Binders** – for volunteer needs to plan future events.
- p. **Open gym** – for grades on weekend to get back the school community feel.
- q. **Monthly Friday** coffee with Ms. Morton.
- r. **College fair** – Discussion regarding less faculty pushing of certain colleges.
- s. **Uniforms** – Parents and Administration were in agreement in frustration on Uniform violations. Request of donations of SoR uniforms to be kept on hand, sweaters etc
- t. **Health and safety protocol** protocol for when a student is hurt or ill during school. There have been instances when students were asked to call home themselves, which has been problematic. A request was made to look in to the procedures in place.

5. Our Meetings for the year are as follows, always after the NPTO meeting 4-5pm,

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|---|-----------------------------|
| Oct 3 at 5pm-6pm, room 202 | March 6 5pm-6pm, room 202 |
| Nov 7 at 5pm-6pm, room 202 | April 3 5pm-6pm, room 202 |
| Dec 5 US Parent Rep at 5pm-6pm, room 202 | May 1 at 5pm-6pm, room 202 |
| Jan. 9 5pm-6pm, room 202 | June 5 at 5pm-6pm, room 202 |
| Feb 6 5pm-6pm, room 202 | |

6. Pre- Approved NPTO Budget for 2013-2014 and Student count (as reference) – no action needed.

- Upper School Event/program's \$1000
- Prom \$800
- Graduation \$300
- Middle school event (spent already) \$2100
- 8th Grade Recognition \$300
- Opera for the young \$900
- Extracurricular Scholarships \$300 (shared with lower school)

6 th grade	80
7 th Grade	81
8 th Grade	79
9 th grade	61
10 th Grade	49
11 th Grade	37
12 th Grade	27