

GRMPA
Monday, March 11, 2014
Meeting Minutes – Chorus Room

February Meeting Minutes

Minutes were reviewed. Motion made by Lisa Lauterbach to approved and Pat DeCelie seconded. Minutes were approved.

Music Director's Report – Kevin Lagos

The 7th & 8th grade students did a great job selling pasta as their fundraiser for the Dorney Park trip in May. One student sold enough pasta to completely pay for his trip. There was over \$1,000 in sales through the students, and additional online orders were made as well. Any small overage from a fundraiser like this goes into a "kitty" which is then used to purchase a missing instrument's part from (ie: 2nd flute) from a piece that will be played soon, or to replace a small instrument that's been broken (ie: castanets).

The high school concert band is currently working on Spanish/Latin concert pieces for the spring concert.

The Pancake Breakfast is coming up this Saturday and all the student sign-ups have been done. All the slots are filled for Saturday, with a few still open for Friday afternoon set-up.

Mr. Lagos is currently putting together a tentative marching band show schedule for the fall 2014 season. The idea for the fall 2014 marching band show will be announced within the next week or so. This Thursday, March 13th is both the Middle School and HS Jazz Band Coffee House at 7pm in the cafeteria. It coincides with the Parent/Teacher Conferences, and hopefully, we'll entice a few new people to come in and listen to them play.

Regarding the school instruments, Kevin had asked to have John from Music & Arts come and assess the condition of all 80 of the school instruments, so that GRMPA could help to fund repairs for some of the instruments that are currently being used taking into consideration their condition, age, etc. Music & Arts rep is not jumping at this opportunity and Kevin may be asking Elefante Music, based in New Providence, if they would like this opportunity.

Old Business

Pancake Breakfast – Lauren Kinder

We had strong door-to-door sales on Sat. March 1st in conjunction with the fruit delivery. Advance ticket sales were slightly better than what has been done over the past two years. Reminders will be sent out to all of GR in the Wed./Thurs. time frame about the breakfast this Saturday. Lisa Lauterbach will be at the school on Thursday to give the HS students an explanation of the duties/job responsibilities for the pancake breakfast and how its run.

Fruit Delivery – Kelley Forsyth

Kelley was not present at the meeting, however Linda stated that all deliveries were made on March 1st with little leftover. In general, the day went well.

Treasurer's Report – Diane Chirco

According to the current financial report dated 3/10/2014, this year's fruit sale did better than in recent history and that may hold true for the pancake breakfast as well. We will see come next month.

Trumpets did somewhat better as well – we still need to send a check out to them.

Music Academy – Paul Byrne

Luanne Dragone, through Paul, is asking if it would be possible for her to use the GRMPA post office box for this year for the Music Academy. No objections were made, just that she would need to place back into the box anything that wasn't for her (ie: bank statements) and that for next year, she will need to have her own PO box. This should be in a memo agreement put together this year, stating all the details and exactly which party is responsible for what in terms of the Music Academy. Paul suggested that Luanne attend the next meeting, and Linda agreed to it.

GRMPA Website Upgrade – Linda Hall Winther

A small group of GRMPA parents got together on Wed., March 5th to review the new website that Wm. Kelly Designs has done so far. At this time, most of the major components are in place, and now the task at hand is content for each of the pages. The task of filling those pages with information has been broken down with 5-6 people to write them with Joan Giurdanella reviewing and editing the final copy. The new website has a home page for the current item (ie: showing now would be the pancake breakfast) as well as tabs for the different groups that we support, a photo/video tab, calendar tab, a "donate" tab, as well as "purchase" tab that may become "shop" as well as a volunteer button/tab. The old site is still "live" at this time, and we are looking to go live with this new site in July, before the start of the new school year. There will be the need for a group of people to keep this site up-to-date on several different aspects (current and upcoming events from the different groups, photo/video management, publicity, etc.)

Good question for Wm. Kelly Design – Is the site mobile friendly? Linda will ask and report back.

Jazz Band Coffee House – Beth Low

At this time, Beth has some people bringing baked goods, however she could use more as well as help setting up for the event, this Thursday, March 13th. Another email will go out on Tuesday requesting additional goodies and set-up help.

New Business

A reminder that scholarship forms will be due soon for the students applying for a scholarship. GRMPA give out one or more scholarships per year. The student does not have to be involved in music, however most have been in the past. There is a rubric which can be used as a guide in determining the winner(s). This process is done by a committee, usually the GRMPA officers. Kevin Lagos usually weighs in on each candidate as he has the opportunity to see them among their peers in a leadership role, which is different from how we, the parents, see them. The due date for the applications needs to be stated soon as the scholarships will be presented at the Awards Ceremony on June 6th.

Officers & Filling Volunteer Leads for 2014

At the May 9th GRMPA meeting, officers other than that of the President will be elected. Determined at this meeting was that Paul Byrne, of the Byrne/Young couple will be next year's President. Paul will be the official president for signing purposes. Sydney will be involved as well.

Vice President will be Sujana Chandrasekhar as per Kris Ramanathan, another husband/wife team.

It was also determined that Diane Chirco is willing to continue as treasurer for next year as her daughter will still be involved in the music department, either chorus or concert band.

It was mentioned that it would be of GRMPA's best interest to cultivate a few liaisons to the chorus, Madrigal and 7th/8th grade band parents, as well as making sure that personal invitations are extended to them for certain items, all in an effort to cultivate interest and involvement from those groups.

New volunteer leads/committee heads are needed for the following: Marching Band Props, Marching Band Roadie Manager (possibly Tim O'Connor), Marching Band Dinner co-chairs, Concession Stand (Pat DeCelle will run it again, but will need a shadow), Spirit Wear (Cecilia Adams and has offered to take it on with Lisa Lauterbach's coaching), Jazz Band Coffee House, Pancake Breakfast (Lisa Lauterbach is in training this year and will lead next year, but will need a shadow), Fruit Sale (Kelley Forsyth has agreed to stay on another year provided we don't have the second delivery in Feb./March) with Suzanne Tuck as assistant, Trumpets Cabaret Night (Ann Leccese taking care of the front of the house with another, and Tim O'Connor possibly helping with the acts/line-up) and the all important Communications Team consisting of a public relations person, a photography coordinator, a web "publisher" with writers/reporters, and a webmaster. To be continued!

June meeting is for new parents. Saturday, May 3rd is the GRMPA Car Wash, which Linda asked Jim Bogert if he and the chorus/Madrigals members would like to organize and have the proceeds of. He agreed to it. Last year Chorus (Mrs. Cino) was offered this arrangement and took it. Linda thought that it would be wonderful to have all the band members show up to help with the car wash even though it's for Chorus/Madrigals. (Great idea!)

Important Upcoming Dates

March 13, Jazz Band Coffee House, 7pm, GRHS Cafeteria
March 15, Pancake Breakfast, GR Congregational Church
April 4-6, Boston Trip
April 7, GRMPA Meeting, Chorus Room, GRHS
May 12, GRMPA Meeting, Chorus Room, GRHS
May 22, Jazz Band Coffee House #2, GRHS Cafeteria

Submitted by Ann Leccese, GRMPA Secretary