**Emerson Elementary PTO Meeting Agenda**

**Tuesday, February 10, 2015**

1. Welcome (6:00-6:10)
2. Welcome to new participants; introductions; sign-in sheet
3. How to help your child navigate friendships and other peer relationships – Wendy Ellis and Karen Kepler (6:10-6:50)
	* Handout “Social Development of Children Ages 4-12”
		+ Highlights of age groups:
			- 4K- lots of parallel play, working on developing social skills
			- Kindergarten- more cooperative play, developing friendships
			- 6 year olds- can be bossy, teasing, or critical of others. May have best friends. More competitive, sometimes poor sports. Friendships becoming more important.
			- 7-8 year olds- tends to be more social conflict, especially at recess and other unstructured time. Lots of conflict resolution. Sometimes tattle. Change friends often. Forming larger friendship groups, enjoy group activities, prefer same gender.
			- 9 year olds- more individualistic, complain of fairness issues, more critical of self, sensitive to social issues.
			- 10 year olds- quick to anger and quick to forgive, work well in groups, cooperative and competitive, highly sensitive and question fairness and other social issues.
			- 11 year olds- start displaying more typical adolescent behaviors- moody, self absorbed, sensitive. Form cliques, need lots of time to talk with peers, start talking on the phone more. Impulsive, have trouble making decisions.
			- 12 year olds- care more about peer opinions than teachers/parents, very self aware, insightful and empathetic.
* Handout “Helping Elementary Schoolers Deal with Social Conflict”
	+ Highlights:
		- Empathize, but don’t overreact
		- Using empathetic words and listening, instead of trying to solve the problem for them.
		- Get the facts
			* Kids often lack perspective, remind them that disagreements are a normal part of friendships
		- Questions to ask:
			* What did you try?
			* How did it work?
			* What else can you try?
		- Respect your child’s personality
		- Offer guidance
			* Help them understand social cues
		- Seek help
		- School counselor/pediatrician
* Hand out of book suggestions to read with kids to help with social situations and friendships. Most are found in the Emerson Library, along with many other resources!
1. Principal’s Report (6:50-7:00)
	* Just received information on the School Building Referendum that is coming up. Info sheets handed out. Vote on April 7th.
	* Family Fun Night- 157 students and 140 adults in attendance.
	* Celebrate Smiles was a big success. Close to 120 students seen, over 40 follow ups for outside care.
	* Love of Literacy Day is this Friday, February 13th.
	* March 6th- Emerson School Dance!
	* Climate Survey- please answer surveys, came via email from the MMSD.
	* Badger Assessment- based on Common Core. Will be given in April to grades 3-5.
2. Treasurer Report-Deanna Schuppel (7:00-7:05)
	* Treasurers Report handed out and discussed.
3. Committee Reports and Volunteer Opportunities (7:05-7:30)
	* Fundraising – Melanie Smith and Gabrielle Grimes
* Mallard’s Game – Heidi Habeger
	+ Looking into options for a fundraiser with the Madison Mallards.
* Fundraising at the Old Fashioned- Simone Munson- At the Old Fashioned a charity is chosen monthly. Proceeds from bar dice and brunch cocktails go to the chosen charity. Old Fashioned is excited to support Emerson and has chosen the Emerson Accessible Playground Project as the monthly charity for March and April. They are expanding their offerings for fundraising and will also will be doing a non alcoholic cocktail to pair with the brunch cocktail. Will also put donation bucket in restaurant for the entire 2 months, informational fliers in the menus, and in April instead of 4 cheese plates, there will be 5 cheese plates and if the 5th cheese plate is ordered a $5 proceed will go to the Emerson Playground Project! Thank you Old Fashioned! Please eat at the Old Fashioned in March and April and support the Emerson Playground!
	+ Events (Fun Night Recap; Dance – March 6th) – Deb Lease and Joanna Griffin
		- Need volunteers and organizers for the dance!
		- Need a science night liaison! Former had to withdraw. Please contact Deb Lease if interested!
	+ Playground Update/Urban Tree Alliance – Amy Kasper and Shaili Pfeiffer
		- Urban Tree Alliance- Willing to donate 20-25 new trees of wide variety to the Emerson campus. Have made a design for the campus to develop different areas of play. Themed areas such as the “Eagle’s Nest Woodland” and “Players Grove.” Also discussed ideas of building up accessible raised garden beds over the area of the playground where the old Dayton Street is buried. Maybe help solve the landscaping issues associated with that area of the playground, and would add a new accessible garden space for the Emerson community.
		- Need to figure out watering issues for the new trees, especially over the summer. Adopt a Tree Program?
1. New Business (7:30)
	* March PTO meeting will be a Summer Resource Fair- camps, activities, etc.
2. Adjournment – Thanks for coming!

## Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 10 – Parent Topic: Summer Programming/Resources