

Adams Spanish Immersion PTO Minutes for Tuesday, November 13, 2007 at 7:00pm

PTO Officers present: Chris Cloutier, President: Frank Zink, Vice President: Leslie Dwight, Treasurer: Kate Goodrich, Secretary

Staff present: Rosemary Peterson, Principal: Claudia Baldwin, Assistant Principal

Parents present: Kurt Christensen, Ned Brooks, Karlin Munoz, Sarah Kesting, Salvador Gama, Tanya Ibarra, Lisa Gervers, Tory Kielas-Jensen, Beth Kellar-Long, Sarah Sannes, Holly Goldschmitz, Amy Quast, Beryimar Perozo, Sarah Hayes Jewell, Merri Fromm, Theresa del Rosario, Marianne Jurayj.

Interns present: Juanita, Claudia, Liliana, Juana, Raquel, Lucia, Lizandro, Alejandro, Juan Carlos.

Adams' Spanish speaking interns introduced themselves individually. They share common reasons why they chose internships with Adams, here in St. Paul: learning and/or improving upon the English language; experiencing and learning about Minnesota and the USA; sharing their language and cultures with Adams' students and families.

From Spain, Raquel (3rd grade) and Lucia (kinder); from Honduras, Juana (4th grade); from Bolivia, Juan Carlos (kinder); from Colombia, Juanita (2nd grade), Claudia and Liliana (1st grade), Lizandro (kinder), Alejandro (5th & 6th grades).

Not present at meeting: from Uruguay, Cecilia (kinder); from Colombia, Dolly (2nd grade) and Karin (3rd grade).

Adams will say goodbye to Juana at the end of December and Cecilia at the end of January. An additional intern, Laia, from Andorra, will arrive within that time. Host families are needed, as well as tias and tios. To find out more, please contact Beth Kellar-Long at bkellar@mnoch.org or Merri Fromm at fromm@ntp.cc.

Holly Goldschmitz, volunteer coordinator of pedestrian safety for Adams, reported that the No Parking signs around the school are strictly enforced by the St. Paul Police - parking enforcement. Some parents whose cars have been ticketed have irately confronted Holly. She reminds us all that these precautions are for the safety of everyone coming and going from Adams, be it students, staff, parents, bus-drivers...on foot, by bike, in cars or in buses.

There are plenty of legal parking spots near the school and in the surrounding neighborhood. Please utilize them. If you believe the No Parking areas are poorly marked and require more signs, etc., please contact: Bruce Beese, Public Works Director at 651-266-6222 or bruce.beese@ci.stpaul.mn.us and/or Monica Beeman, Public Works at 651-266-6214 or monica.beeman@ci.stpaul.mn.us.

Marianne Jurayj, Adams' volunteer health & wellness coordinator, is forming a Wellness Committee to create a healthier environment at Adams. Among other topics, the Committee will discuss exercise and recess, the school's garden, school lunches, etc. For more information, please email healthykids@modernechef.com or call 651-293-0695.

The PTO is very pleased to announce a new volunteer coordinator, Theresa del Rosario. Theresa will connect parents who wish to volunteer at Adams with the desired event or fundraiser coordinators. Adams always has many volunteer opportunities. To find out more, please email tdr63@hotmail.com or call 612-327-0183. Thank you, Theresa!

The PTO is looking for a volunteer minutes-translator. Attendance at meetings not required. Meeting minutes need to be translated from English to Spanish once a month during the school year. For more information, please contact Kate Goodrich, PTO Secretary, at ckandsunshine@yahoo.com or Theresa del Rosario at above contact info.

The 2007/2008 Adams School Directory will hopefully be published before 2008. Parents need to "opt-in" in order to be listed in the directory. Please visit the office for more information.

Welcome Irma Rodriguez, a newly hired educational assistant (.6)! She will monitor lunch and recess with the upper grades, as well as help with end-of-day supervision.

Welcome Kathy Sabota, the new media specialist (.5) in our library! To be on the Library Committee, please contact the Committee Chair, Leslye Taylor, at leslyett@comcast.net or 651-482-9701. To volunteer in the library, please contact Janelle Rohr at jdrohr@pro-ns.net or 651-457-3522.

Thank you to all who attended and helped with the Adams Harvest Festival in October. We raised about \$5000.00!

Thank you to all who ordered and helped with the Geckler Catalog fundraiser this fall. We raised about \$15,000.00!

Principal Rosemary Peterson gave a Site Council (SC) report:

A SC member will attend PTO meetings; the SC is discussing improved communication with parents and prospective parents, marketing ideas, brochures, etc.; SC working with SPPS to address space concerns at Adams; Adams needs more custodial support, since so many events take place at school, day and night; SC is discussing budget issues and the writing of the School Continuous Improvement Plan (SCIP); there is not enough pea gravel on the playground, so more gravel-or other options such as mulch-are being discussed; bathroom doors will soon be repaired!

For more information, please see the most recent Site Council meeting minutes.

Adams PTO Annual Report is now available in the school office and in the November

2007 Palabras.

PTO meetings are moving back to the second Tuesday of every month during this school year, still at 7:00pm. Too many conflicting events are already scheduled on other Tuesdays each month. PTO or Site Council meetings may change nights during the 2008/2009 school year.

Please join us Tuesday, December 11th, 2007 for the next PTO meeting, when we'll discuss dual immersion or school data/LAS group testing (TBA). Come early –at 6:30pm- for dinner and conversation before the meeting! As always, childcare is provided by Adams' interns.