



### **The PTO aims to**

- help achieve the **AAS Mission** and foster a strong, supportive, positive community.

### **AAS Mission:-**

#### **Our Mission**

The Anglo-American School of Moscow empowers each student to:

- Respect self and others
- Love learning, and
- Contribute as a globally aware citizen

in order to achieve individual academic and holistic excellence.

**22 August 2017**

## **PTO General Meeting**

### **Welcome**

Clare has warmly welcomed everyone to this first meeting of the year and introduced herself to all new parents. She remembered how she herself was a newcomer and felt quite overwhelmed just two years ago. Clare mentioned that a lot of information would be said today, and the PTO members will be here to talk to afterwards if you would like anything else. The presentation will be available online so no need to take photos and stress over noting things down.

Before starting the presentation, Clare has introduced the PTO Executive team and talked about the three vacancies that need to be filled, as sadly some families are unexpectedly moving away.

### **PTO Executive Committee Members**

Clare Lewis, PTO President

Virginia Hague, ES VP

Linda Corallo, HS VP

Michelle Robson, VP Internal

Rupa Bhatassali, VP External

### **Vacancies:**

Secretary, VP Middle School and Treasurer

Clare encouraged everyone who may be interested in filling the above vacancies to come talk to her.

### **Director's Update**

Ian welcomed everyone. He told us that he went to a conference last year where everyone was asked to remember their first day at school. This is what our children are going through today. Ian then recommended to attend all PTO meetings, as lots of interesting things happen at school throughout the year. He too would normally give a report of what is currently going on. On this first day of school he invited us to the opening ceremony with a flag parade and some fun performances. Then he introduced some special people who are key to the school's functioning, among them Melissa Schaub (head of school curriculum), HS Principal Paul Sexton, MS Principal Noah Bohnen, the Cafeteria coordinator and last but not least Vitaly Verkhovsky, the head of communication department.

### **Divisional Reports**

Linda Corallo introduced herself as the new HS VP. She is looking to add to the team, volunteers in grade 9, 11 and 12 are needed. One or two for each of those grades are needed, even 4 for grade 12. If you are interested in helping, please see Linda after the meeting and she will explain all. She reflected that in all her years in AAS this is the best attended PTO first coffee!

Julie Vyskocil stepped up as a temporary MS VP. She is 7 grade rep. She explained that other than the middle school VP, two 6 grade reps, two 8 grade reps, and one more 7 grade rep are needed. The MS VP is mostly needed to coordinate socials. First one is on Friday 29 September after school. It is run by the student council, the PTO help supply the food and help supervise it. The socials are 4 in a year. First one is coordinated by 6th grade, second by 7th, third by 8th and the last one is helped by everyone.

Virginia Hague introduced herself as the ES VP. This is a big division, spanning pre-K till 5th grade. A class parent for each class is needed as a liaison for all events. There are three class parties each year decided and organized by parents. They are Halloween, Christmas and end of year parties. Another role of a class rep in ES is to collect money for teacher gifts for Christmas and end of year. Virginia will have a meeting once the volunteers are there to set up all the logistics.

To sum it up, Clare mentioned that the PTO section of weekly school's newsletter is right at the bottom, and asked us all to please read it. All the information about the vacancies will be put there.

### **Budget**

This year's budget was approved by community towards the end of last school year. As there is no Treasurer at the moment, Clare has decided not to present it at today's meeting. Once the new Treasurer or Interim is appointed, there will be a working party set up to include the new Treasurer

to review the 2017/2018 budget. This will then be presented for a community vote at our next PTO General Meeting in September.

The school website has a PTO budget under the PTO budget tab for everyone to view.

### **Newcomers Seminars**

Marjo, the Newcomers coordinator has introduced herself and welcomed all new families. She informed everyone that next Monday is the Hyatt coffee and all are encouraged to come. There will be a bus leaving school at 8.45 from the reception to go to Sokol metro to share first public transportation experience.

Korean coffee is on 31 August and then seminars will commence. They are very useful to attend as they talk about practical things, shopping, life in Moscow, transportation and lots of information about how the school works as well as the use of technology. All seminars start at 8.45 in the morning in the community room. Coffee and snacks will be provided. Everyone is welcome!

### **Fun Run/Family BBQ**

Julie has once again stepped up to coordinate the event as the person responsible is unexpectedly leaving. It will be held on Saturday 9 September. It is in conjunction with the school. The school takes care of the wellness fair and fun run and the PTO organizes the BBQ. Grill masters are needed, volunteers to direct and servers. Information will be sent out and your help is very much needed. It is the first kick off event and we hope to see you everyone there.

### **Library**

Kay and Chris came from 4th floor library to introduce themselves . Library is open to the entire community with access to a vast choice of books and films for students and parents

### **PTO Shop**

Angelina Quintero introduced herself as the person running the PTO Shop. This is another volunteer job and the shop is run entirely by PTO. Profit comes back into the school budget for our kids. There will be a variety of clothes, stationery will be sold from the second week. At the moment the priority is uniform sale. Store is open the whole year and you can come anytime. Mornings 8.30 till 10am and afternoons from 3pm till 4.30pm. It is run by volunteers and depends on their availability. Ten ladies are normally working and there are six vacancies this year. Angelina hopes to see new volunteers and asks only to adhere to the opening times. Children cannot come into the shop during school hours, only before the start and after the finish. Angelina gave special thank you to eleven ladies who worked hard selling the uniforms these past few days.

### **PTO Exchange**

Irina introduced herself as coordinator for the Exchange. The exchange is a place where you can leave your old uniforms and pick up used ones. All school items are accepted. They need to be in good condition, no stains etc. Tickets are given for those items and can be exchanged for books, skates (sold from November) and of course uniform items. The exchange also opens mornings

and afternoons and needs volunteers to operate it. It is a good chance to help the community and make friends. Please talk to Irina or email her if you'd like to help.

### **AAS Communication**

Vitali Verkovski introduced himself and talked about how he too was nervous as he was new last year. He feels much better this second year. Vitali has thanked the PTO for all the hard work. Vitali has introduced Kirby who is the Penguin Life coordinator and looks after all sports activities. Vitali will be sending lots of information throughout the year, please contact him if you have any questions. The communication department team supports the PTO, supports strategic direction of the school and sends the weekly Newsletter every Wednesday. It has information of all that is happening at school. There will also be pictures and videos taken of our children during the year. To see them, please click on Flickr or Vimeo respectively on the school's webpage. The department also runs the school's Facebook page where you can participate as well.

The first event coming up is a 3 in 1 event with the BBQ lunch, lots of wellness products and the fun run. The run itself is a 3 or 5 km walk or run. All the money from tshirt selling will go to the Nastenka charity, for a 2 year old Romil and his surgeries.

### **Visiting Artist programme**

Ian informed everyone that the programme has been founded many years ago with the support of PTO grants and in the last 15 years it has grown exponentially. There is a committee and Dawn Biyashev is the PTO coordinator, helping identify potential guests. Alena, Ian's assistant has then introduced some of the guests coming to school:

Matthew Harloff, October 2017 brass musician

Stuart Stotts, October 2017

Julie Wright and Nick Foster, Jan 2018 musicians

Marc Hill, March 2018 theatre specialist, returning

Tracy Irish, April 2018 from Royal Shakespeare Company

Sarah Holbrook and Michael Salinger, March 2018 poets

Bolshoy extravaganza in May 2018

Ian is especially glad to be able to make use of the local community like the local Bolshoi dancers, coming back for the third year. American company Bright Star is also coming back to work with the ES children in March and will be doing workshops.

Lastly Ian announced that next week on Friday after school there will be a very special performance by a Japanese opera singer followed by a presentation on Japanese space programme. More information will be sent by Vitali soon.

### **ECO Green Committee**

We were all shown a nice and funny video about all the work of Eco Green committee. The programme has been in existence for about 10 years and we have gone a long way towards being environmentally friendly.

The committee is looking for team members as there were some unexpected departures over the summer. Please contact Masha or Vitali if you would like to help. Clare has explained that Masha has wanted to step down but we unfortunately lost her replacements over the summer.

### **Cafeteria**

The nutritionist, Natalia, has introduced herself. She explained all the changes made and shown some examples of those. Ketchup has been removed, there are sugar free cookies and more salads available. The cafeteria is working hard on the variety and portion size. The main motto for this year is no additives. There will be farmers dairy products, working on dairy free ice cream etc. Natalia will be present at all PTO meetings and encourages you to talk to her if you have any questions.

### **Upcoming events**

Fun Run Saturday 9 September

Next PTO General Meeting 17 September at 8.45 in South Cafeteria

### **Volunteers**

Susan, the coordinator for all volunteers has introduced herself, talked about how she was put into helping others having newly arrived. She stressed it is a great way to meet friends, help the community. You don't need to be in charge, if you want to be behind the scenes and have a small role, please tell us.

Susan will ask everyone to write their details. They will be put into a database and people will be contacted for all kinds of bigger and smaller roles. Everything is run by the PTO volunteers and for those things to happen we all need to help.

### **Other business**

OlgaTitova will look after our relationship with Pepsi and Coke and Clare has expressed a huge thanks!

Clare has prepared a quiz about the knowledge of school such as how many floors the school has or how many seats are in the Bolshoy Theatre and when was the current campus open or when was the strings programme open. We had lots of fun!

### **AAS PASSWORD**

The AAS wifi password is Learning@AAS

Meeting closed at 0940 hours.

Next PTO General Meeting: **Tuesday, 19 September @ 0845 hours in South Cafeteria.**

## **FURTHER INFORMATION**

### **COMMUNICATION AT AAS**

Vitali, our Communications Director, would like to remind everyone to provide him with up-to-date information and that if parents are not receiving e-mails or Newsletters they should contact Vitali at [Vitali.Verkhovski@aas.ru](mailto:Vitali.Verkhovski@aas.ru).

Please like AAS [Facebook](#) page to receive up-to-date information too and remember to read the Newsletter which is issued every Wednesday.

Minutes by Aleksandra Arnold, PTO Secretary

Here is a [Link](#) to our PTO Bylaws which were adopted on 16 September 2014

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