

**PTA Meeting  
LISA North  
November 15, 2012**

A representative from Kumon was at the meeting to present information about their programs. They have a variety of tutoring options and are staffed with certified and retired teachers, including one from Montessori. Arlene Chan-Mouton spoke on Kumon's behalf about her experiences as a client there. Even though her daughter makes good grades, Kumon has improved her confidence and her interest level. Her children like to work on their Kumon packets and ask to do them. Kumon does not limit according to grade-level. They start at age 3 and go through college-level; for instance, you could get help with statistics or Shakespeare-level reading at Kumon. The representative emphasized that the younger the enrollment, the better.

Rose said that the new PTA minutes were on the school's website.

Treasurer's report was handed out. Our balance as of November 15, 2012 was \$15,318.38. Total revenue was \$2,120 which included membership fees, fundraiser from t-shirts, and a fundraiser shortage from one particular student.

For Winterfest, we have a \$25 gift card from Sam's to give away for the bake-off. Need more gift cards or items to give to winners (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> prizes).

Mrs. Paddock and Mrs. Kubas are still working together with the city on traffic flow, parking, striping, codes, and fencing for our school in regards to playground.

Ms. Henderson is writing a playground grant with Christine Archer's help to Little Tikes.

Donuts with Dads is happening Friday, November 30, 8:00 a.m. Donuts will come from Krispy Kreme again, that morning, fresh.

Muffins with Moms went great. Clean-up was only about 5 minutes with everyone's help.

According to by-laws, our meetings should be on Tuesdays. We officially meet on Thursdays, however. It was moved that Rose Kubas have discretion to schedule day and time of each PTA meeting. This was seconded.

Joanie Glasco, a parent, is working with Rose on fundraising. They are discussing another source of income for our school. This will be tabled until January's meeting. There are a lot of

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activities going on between now and then and so we will focus on those. Fundraising will be the January meeting's main topic.

Ms. Glasco has a travel agency. If a person books through her and mentions LISA, she will give a portion of those proceeds to LISA once her commission comes in. It will be \$10 for every \$2,000 and under trip booked and \$25 for every trip over \$2,000.

A directory of parents with businesses and services to offer was discussed. A LISA North Yellow Pages. It would be a source of free advertisement. We could distribute to parents to take home. Nothing costly or fancy. Forms could be handed out to dads at the Donuts with Dads event.

Winterfest is 3 weeks away. Friday, December 7, 6:00 p.m. Food, drinks, and the bake-off are the PTA's responsibility. We need 15 people to set up, serve food, man the dessert tables and the t-shirt table and also a table for PTA enrollment. We also need two people to sit at the meal ticket check-in table. Tickets will be higher at the door. Bake-off entries will receive one free meal.

Meals at Winterfest will be \$6 per each. The maximum cost per family will be \$24 for immediate family only.

It was questioned whether or not everything should be on a ticket system – each food item, each game, etc. The meals are already pre-paid and a ticket is used for that. The meal has never been a source of fundraising. It is more of a LISA family / community event.

Winterfest silent auction dollars all go toward the student activity fund. These moneys go toward student dances and other student-focused events.

Have we asked for volunteers yet from businesses / items to auction off? It is in Wednesday mail today.

If we register our Kroger cards, link them to LISA (specifically L.I.S.A. North on their website), LISA gets a percentage of all of our Kroger spending. We could set up a computer at Winterfest so people can sign up that night. Have to re-register every year. E-mail Ms. Heslep regarding set-up of that table and Wi-Fi access.

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Mr. Fatih spoke at the meeting. We have had great success at our LISA events with huge turn-outs. Cookies, Muffins, and Donuts, et al. Commander Mikelhof was here on Veteran's Day to speak with the assembled students and staff. We have 500 students with 670 on the waiting list. He would like to get a cap increase for our school to increase our numbers next year. Our charter renewal comes up in May.

Mr. Fatih also handed out a document that began with the LISA Academy report that showed our test score rankings as compared with Central Arkansas and the rest of the state. In most areas, LISA's test scores are higher, some remarkably higher. This document also went on to answer basic questions about the start of LISA Charter Schools, their focus on hiring more qualified math and science teachers (where the need is greatest), and how the LISA Foundation, a non-profit organization run by a Board of Directors (unpaid), oversees the operations of both LISA schools. Mr. Fatih also emphasized that any reports of LISA being tied to a religious movement of any kind are false. Additionally, the school is audited yearly, accredited by the ADE, and abides by the state curriculum using national and state funding. In short, we are a public institution.

At the Donuts with Dads event, Mr. Fatih was pleased to announce that Dr. Kimbrell, Commissioner of Education, would be there to speak.

We have to publish a school report each year. We received a \$92,000 grant for a CCI program. It is coordinated with UALR. 60 total students with low ACT scores receive Saturday tutoring from professors at UALR. They go once a month.

LISA also received a dissemination grant (only one charter received this grant) that totals \$25,000 from the Arkansas Department of Education. We will be presenting a seminar on February 15, "Sharing Best Practices." It is free to anyone who wants to attend: educators, general public, etc.

From the ESEA – all three schools are in the "achieving" category. There were no negative findings on LISA.

There have been some negative comments posted on a website called educator.com. These comments were inflammatory and all originated from a single source (although they appeared to come from multiple sources.) The website has since taken these posts down.

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Mr. Fatih encouraged all parents and those invested in LISA to go to the website, [lisaacademytruth.com](http://lisaacademytruth.com), to find out the origins and the true nature of our charter school. If we are interested in being proactive and letting others know about our good experiences at LISA, it would be helpful to post a positive comment on [greatschools.com](http://greatschools.com).

For the Veteran's Day celebration, the meeting participants approved a motion to reimburse Rose \$48.75 for getting drinks and refreshments for our guest speakers on that day.

On the last day of school before the Thanksgiving holiday, the teachers and staff are having a potluck. Volunteers are needed to cover teachers during lunch, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Only 15 minutes or so are needed. Volunteers included Rose, Arlene, Christine, and two others. Also, if anyone would like to bring a dish to share, they are encouraged to do that. When we are with children in their classes that day, we could encourage them to write thank you notes on the board or on paper to give to their teachers. We want to show our appreciation to everyone who works so hard for our kids at LISA.