

PTSA Recap: 2nd Meeting

By Lexi Miller

The Peters Township PTSA met for its monthly meeting on October 11 in the High School auditorium. Here are a few important items they covered that you may have missed.

Gift to School: Each year, the PTSA generously donates a gift to the school to assist with curriculum and benefit the teachers and students. They are discussing the possibility of purchasing models to gift to the Organic Chemistry classes. Organic Chemistry is in its first year here at the high school, and the teachers are in desperate need of models to use for demonstrations. The cost would be approximately \$472.50. Details are to follow as to whether or not the gifts will be approved.

Teaming Up with NHS: Mr. Bastos and Mrs. Kendrick, the sponsors of the PT chapter of the National Honor Society, have been in contact with Mrs. Allison in order to allow NHS students to help out at PTSA events. They have been working together to create a procedure for students to follow at events, as well as to advertise events to students in need of service hours using Edmodo. The PTSA wants the input of the students, and believe that it will strongly benefit their program. They want to start including students more, and especially want to help guide students through completing school-related service work. In order to earn NHS hours, students are required to join the PTSA, which costs \$5.50.

Guest Speaker: The PTSA welcomed guest speaker Caroline McGuire, who is a member of the Pittsburgh Pastoral Institute and a graduate professor at Waynesburg University. McGuire has also counseled in her own private practice in Mt. Lebanon for over 20 years. She focused on her main presentation, which was “How to Maintain a Good Relationship with your Teenager”, and also spoke about how to prevent anxiety and tension between parent and child. She said that the three key aspects to achieving a good relationship are separate boundaries, equality, and communication. Following her presentation, she held a question and answer session with the members of the organization.

Career Fair News: Mrs. Judy Alexander, who is the school-to-career coordinator, spoke to the PTSA about the upcoming career fair on December 7. She said that the career fair will have a similar format to last year’s, and will feature five panels: Law and Government, Media Communications, Business and Finance, Healthcare, and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics). All juniors who have not yet attended a career fair, as well as some randomly chosen sophomores, will be invited. Mrs. Alexander explained the high need for volunteers during transitions between groups and in serving the light breakfast for presenters. The career fair will also have a booth accepting donations for food.

Principal’s Report: Mrs. Pavlik recapped the recent pep assembly featuring Stephen Chbosky, author of “The Perks of Being a Wallflower”, which was filmed here at the high school. He came back to thank everyone for allowing the use of our school to film the movie. She also explained the spoof made by the media department, aptly named “The Perks of Being a PT Kid”. Mrs. Pavlik went on to say that the mentor meetings for the graduation project went incredibly well. She then spoke about the upcoming Keystone exams to be taken in January, which will replace the PSSA exams. The Keystone Exams will test students in biology, algebra, and literature. Each test is 2 modules, which equals 6 tests total, and

each module takes approximately 1.5 hours. All 11th graders will be taking the test. Some 9th and 10th graders who have taken algebra and biology will also be taking it; however, neither of the two will be taking the literature test. There will be a retest in May for those who do not score proficiently on the January exam.

The next meeting for the PTSA will occur on Wednesday, November 7th at 9:15 A.M. It will feature Mr. Lesnett as well as other students on a presentation called "Our School".