

PATHFINDER PTSA

June 2007

N = 27

COMMUNICATION

Please provide feedback on the following **PTSA communication** efforts this past year, *including comments* that help explain your responses.

Weekly Hot Sheet (kid-mail every Monday)	VS	S	N	D	VD	NA
	19	6		1		

Comments:

- Some are a bit vague
- Great!
- I liked the calendar on these plus the mini-articles on upcoming events
- I like weekly. I want a more business-like format. I want more complete information.

The Compass (kid-mail every other Friday)	VS	S	N	D	VD	NA
	11	13	1	1		

Comments:

- There were several missed
- I didn't always receive these but enjoy Lou's articles and other info
- It seems more of a vehicle for Lou's activities

E-mail from PTSA (occasional)	VS	S	N	D	VD	NA
	14	8	1	1		1

Comments:

- More!
- Can't remember getting one (NA)
- **Love**
- These are very effective although I get them twice
- Not HTML but plain text please - why not send through the Yahoo channel

Pathfinder Website	VS	S	N	D	VD	NA
	4	11	6			4

Comments (include how often you visit):

- Every two weeks
- For phone #s, to get clarification when the kidmail is confusing or lacking details
- Need to update it more often. During the school closures I went there 4-5x/week for updates
- Not often except during school closures – then very often! (great job of communicating to parents)
- Don't visit very often
- Never visited
- Two times/month
- Haven't used
- I never look at it
- Don't often go to the site
- Never visited – gak! I will now.
- Visited maybe half-dozen times, been pleased by layout, ease of finding what *is* there. Disappointed by what's not (e.g. times of events)
- I don't use it really because there is so much other communication
- Once/month
- Not often

Yahoo! Group (registration required)	VS	S	N	D	VD	NA
	2	2	8	1	1	11

Comments:

- I wish it were used more
- Didn't seem to be used much
- Didn't know this existed. See attached comments.
- Does it still exist? I haven't received anything since last fall?
- Have not done it yet.
- I don't belong and feel I get plenty of info
- I really like the Yahoo group. When dates/meetings are in the emails I can put them in my outlook calendar easily, especially when asking for volunteers.
- Wish could have weekly Hot Sheet come through this channel too.
- Not much action
- Do not subscribe to it

Main Hallway Bulletin Board	VS	S	N	D	VD	NA
	4	5	12			4

Comments:

- This is not helpful to me
- Didn't look at it much
- Needs updating
- Don't check this board very often
- I usually walk in by the lower field (NA)
- Multiple announcements on bulletin board are not as effective as focusing on one event
- I appreciate all the different forms of communication!
- Never see, since my route through school isn't through the front door
- I have a child in the Water Hall so I never see it!

EVENTS

PTSA General Meetings

(**September 27:** Kick-Off/School Closure, **November 30:** Instrumental Music/Wreathmaking/Schools First, **March 7:** Native Focus Community Conversation, **April 24:** Volunteer Appreciation)

Have you attended the PTSA General Meetings this year? 5 All 13 Some 7 None

If some or none, why?

- Time conflicts
- Personal life doesn't permit evenings away from family
- Too tired/too busy with work and family commitments/too many meetings at work!
- Working more – made it to one meeting!
- Scheduled to work 12-8 in the past
- I have missed some due to conflicts or illness in our family
- Sorry, I was busy!
- Schedule conflict
- I work evenings Monday-Wednesday
- Too busy ☹
- Don't really see a need

Rate <i>your overall satisfaction</i> with this year's PTSA General Meetings	VS	S	N	D	VD	NA
	9	7	1	1		5

What should we change or keep doing to ensure the value of these meetings?

- Divide up into smaller groups
- Babysitting is important. No sweets would be good (for kids).
- Too long. See attached notes. Maybe have more?
- Can't comment since I don't go
- Food helps!
- You're too cool already. Just keep on keepin' on!
- I think the quality has been great. If there were just some way to increase attendance.
- Conduct them the very same as this year.
- The meetings I attended were very well run. I have a lot of evening meetings and only go to those where I have something at stake when I don't have a conflicting meeting. Volunteer appreciation was not a priority to me.
- I wish they started at 7:30. By the time I get home from work there is very little time to see the kids and then make it to the meeting.
- Good agendas – keeping the meetings going.
- More time with other commitments to free me to volunteer more for the school!
- Not sure.

PTSA Events

Rate your overall satisfaction with the following PTSA activities this year, *providing specific comments* to explain your rating.

Back-to-School Barbecue	VS	S	N	D	VD	NA
	14	8	1			2

Comments:

- Can barely remember!
- Food could be better
- Fun way to reconnect with families and teachers
- Working – unable to attend
- Nice icebreaker transition to coming back to school
- Great toys for the kids to play on. Need a veggie food alternative.
- As a newcomer I wished there had been some type of activity to help me meet other people in our clan. Maybe just a quick activity in the cafeteria where clans meet and introduce themselves in groups.
- I didn't go but have appreciated it other years – especially our first year at school – nice way to meet people
- Great way to meet incoming students & parents
- Thanks for having veggie burgers!
- More food, more variety, salt & pepper

First Day Reception	VS	S	N	D	VD	NA
	10	9		1		4

Comments:

- Very short but appropriate for workers – didn't know how much time to allot
- Excellent
- Did not attend
- Small space
- Working – unable to attend
- Now we are all in a hurry to get to work, start our year
- I helped but would never attend as a participant
- I was very close to tears
- Thought it was nice
- I don't remember what this was

November Dessert Social

VS	S	N	D	VD	NA
6	5	3			9

Comments:

- Lots of fun.
- Loved opportunity for a date!
- Music too loud.
- Fun, but the music was a bit loud for me
- Delicious, fun, but music was too loud to keep conversing over.
- Couldn't attend – drat. Great idea!
- Out of town, hope to go next year
- Did not attend
- Never been, no draw or interest
- Too many other evening commitments to make this appealing to me.
- Didn't attend.
- Didn't go.

Science Fair

VS	S	N	D	VD	NA
10	6	2		1	5

Comments:

- So glad Pathfinder has one!
- Kids should not miss out on classwork to attend fair. Classwork should be optimal. Non-core stuff at that time.
- Great for the kids.
- Love seeing the kids learning the scientific process – sharing off their work proudly
- It came so fast after the holidays we didn't manage to participate
- Kid focused! This and Math & Spaghetti Night are where it's at. Forget adult-only events and focus on children and education.
- I didn't know what was expected of my child or I. I didn't know the format or look of the projects until days before and even then wasn't sure. My kindergartener wanted very much to participate, but we didn't because I didn't know what was expected.
- Did not attend.
- Didn't attend.

FUNDRAISING

Rate your level of satisfaction with the following fundraising efforts. Please *provide comments* that will help us improve or enhance these efforts.

Back-to-School Innisbrook Gift Wrap (raised \$6000)

VS	S	N	D	VD	NA
7	15	2	1		

Comments:

- A little tough given it happens right away
- Took a long time to get them by mail, next time will order and pick up through school
- Annoying, waste of resources (paper)
- Nice gift wrap
- Didn't know it would be the first DAY of school

Wreathmaking (raised \$7000 for Clan camping trips)

VS	S	N	D	VD	NA
11	9	1	3		2

Comments:

- Tremendous amount of labor involved but fun
- Fabulous fun!
- Such a coordinating nightmare, a lot of effort as so many levels
- Was a lot of work, but loved 'em!
- Beautiful wreaths
- Had fun

- November is too soon and too close to the holidays. Late January or early Feb would be better.
- Yes, might be better in Nov (Christmas giving season), also tax deductions will count for that year
- Yes, November sounds good as we had 2 other school auctions in March this year
- Yes, would still attend in November but it might be hard to get everything together that fast. Some people however need that under the gun to get things done.
- I would attend but it might be a harder time of the year to devote time and energy to getting items.
- Yes.
- Yes, I would love that because then my parents and siblings wouldn't be auctioned out!
- Yes, anytime would work – November may be busy w/ holidays, etc.
- Would have to be early November – holiday madness starts in mid-November.
- Wouldn't change my attendance.
- Maybe, I'd like to go. Depends on sitter availability.
- Yes, I would buy more and I think it would be easier to get donations.

Additional comments and/or ideas welcome!

- PTSA did a fabulous job this year.
- My biggest complaints about the media that came out of Pathfinder are inconsistency in information and inconsistency in schedule. Sometimes what one says contradicts the other. Others are inconsistent, occasionally (?) I never know when the next will be. Communication: I feel bombarded by info from so many sources and the info is sometimes complete, sometimes not, sometimes contradictory between sources. I go to the website for final complete info – it's not there (eg auction). I'd like to see better info, more consistent (weekly, no bi-weekly). Kid-mail and email, with regular updates to the website.
- Overall, the PTA is doing an outstanding job. I appreciate all your hard work. I want to help more but struggle to find the time.
- How do we get more people involved? Age old question...
- See attached document.
- The info about peanut allergies is helpful. Getting info on everyone's allergies (classroom) upfront would help.
- We have a two-parent family. The Hot Sheet and Compass go home with her to her mom, so I don't consistently see it. I wish we had the \$\$ to mail these to two homes.