



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Twin Cities German Immersion School PTO

December 19, 2013

LAST CHANCE TO SIGN UP FOR THE STAFF APPRECIATION POTLUCK!

The PTO is coordinating the 5th Annual Staff Appreciation Potluck on Friday, December 20 to show our support of and appreciation for our wonderful TCGIS teachers, interns, and administrative staff.

To bring potluck items or help staff the event, please sign up at VolunteerSpot: <http://vols.pt/bVSqq9>.

Contact Nicole Grenz with any questions at nicole_grenz@hotmail.com.



HAVE SOME SPARE TIME OVER WINTER BREAK?



Meet up with TCGIS friends for an afternoon of bowling at [Memory Lanes](#) (2520 26th Ave S, Minneapolis, MN 55406) on Friday, December 27, 4–6 pm.

Games are \$3 each before 5 pm and shoe rental is \$3. (Games go up to \$6 each after 5 pm.)

Please RSVP to Beki Cook (bekiLcook@yahoo.com) by Tuesday, December 24, so she can get an approximate head count.

STAFF APPRECIATION AT TCGIS

Holiday/Mid-Year Gifts for Teachers: After considerable discussion four years ago, the PTO discontinued having Elternkontakte (EKs) coordinate and collect money for holiday/mid-year gifts for teachers. The reasons identified at the time to forego the practice were: religious and economic sensitivity, the busy-ness of the season, and inequitable gifting (some teachers got a lot; others relatively nothing). To this, we now add the reasons of the growing size of our school; fiscal oversight (the money collected is untracked, and we currently have no secure money collection method for



cash donations); and a difference in pick-up and drop-off procedure in our new building, making card signing and money collection difficult.

While families certainly are welcome to recognize their student's teacher at this time of year, no group gift will be coordinated.

Intern Appreciation: Twice a year, the Amity Intern Committee coordinates an outing to show appreciation to the interns on behalf of the PTO and the wider TCGIS community. One outing occurs in January, before the first semester interns leave; the other occurs in June before the second semester and full year interns return home. The PTO budgets \$800 per year to fund these two outings.

Families are welcome to show individual appreciation for interns, if they choose. However, no group gift is coordinated, for many of the same reasons the teacher mid-year gifts were discontinued. Rest assured that host families usually do something special for their interns. If you would like to recognize your intern, keep in mind that their luggage space is limited. Consider asking them to join your family on an outing (sledding & cocoa, a movie, a museum) or invite them over for dinner, instead of buying them items that they will have to take back with them to Germany.

Teacher Appreciation Week: The PTO has decided to celebrate Teacher Appreciation Week (May 5–9), in lieu of year-end, EK-coordinated teacher gifts. The PTO has budgeted \$1000 to fund activities that will take place this week. Do you have some creative ideas for teacher appreciation activities? Send them to Nicole Grenz, chair of the Teacher Appreciation Committee: nicole_grenz@hotmail.com.

Better yet, let Nicole know that you'd like to join the PTO Teacher Appreciation Committee to see your ideas implemented from start to finish!

Appreciation Opportunities: In October, the PTO was asked to fund half the cost (\$399) of spirit wear T-shirts with the school logo on them for the entire TCGIS staff, including fall and spring interns. The Teacher Appreciation Committee decided that this would be a good morale booster for the staff, and agreed to do so. We are looking forward to the requested photo of the staff looking swell in their matching Ts!

Friday, December 20 is the 5th Annual Staff Appreciation Potluck. Many staff members have said that it is their favorite day of the school year! See the [article above](#) about the staff appreciation luncheon to find out how you can participate in order to show teachers, interns, and administrative staff how thankful we are for the great job they do educating our kids!