

## **When are Indy PTA meetings?**

There will be no formal PTA meetings this year. Instead, we will be hosting a series of different student, family, and parent social event to bring the Indy community together. Consider attending a PTA sponsored event to stay connected & meet other Indy families.

## **What is the Indy PTA Mission Statement?**

The mission of the Independence PTA is to support academic excellence and active student engagement so that all students may achieve their fullest potential. This is achieved by supporting the administration, staff, our students, and their families through many activities throughout the year which help enrich our school environment and our students' school experience at Independence Elementary.

## **What are the Independence PTA goals?**

1. Identify and fill needs that enrich the learning environment at Independence Elementary
2. Make it as simple as possible to be a volunteer within our school community

## **How can I contact the PTA?**

Please reach out at [PTAIndy@gmail.com](mailto:PTAIndy@gmail.com).

## How do I get more active at school?

There are so many ways you can be active at school- both in and outside of school hours. We have some larger Volunteer roles each year that we need to fill and many school events & activities will require volunteers during the school year. Contact [PTAIndy@gmail.com](mailto:PTAIndy@gmail.com) if you are looking for opportunities and/or have some new enrichment ideas.

## How do I join the Independence PTA?

PTA membership is not required to be an active volunteer at school! Because of this, we will not have a formal PTA membership drive this year. Each Independence Elementary family will receive one school directory this year; PTA membership will not be required. Please contact [PTAIndy@gmail.com](mailto:PTAIndy@gmail.com) for any additional questions.

## What is the role of volunteer?

We hope each family considers volunteering in some way at school! You are not required to be a PTA member to be a volunteer. We will use sign up genius to recruit volunteers as needed throughout the year.

## How do I meet other Indy Parents & Families?

The PTA will host several events this year to help bring the community together. We will be hosting Dinner Out each month, 1 family fun activity each quarter, movie nights, and more. Look for opportunities in Dr. Finke's regular school communications. If you have interest in setting up Indy Parent & Family event, please contact [PTAIndy@gmail.com](mailto:PTAIndy@gmail.com)

## How does the PTA earn funds each year?

The PTA host one (1) fundraiser every year- our Masquerade themed walk-a-thon at the end of October. This Indy tradition, the Masquerade March, is a student's most anticipated day of school! Each Indy student gets to show their creativity and character as they parade in costume! The money earned from our walk-a-thon covers most of our PTA special enrichment programs throughout the year. In general, we hope to raise about \$30 per student to cover our planned programming.

Additionally, the PTA is always looking for money from generous corporate sponsors and participates in Kroger Rewards and BoxTops for Education. If you are a small business owner and interested in being a corporate sponsor, please contact [PTAIndy@gmail.com](mailto:PTAIndy@gmail.com). If you have experience in fundraising, we would love your expertise on our team.

## How does PTA decide the budget?

At the beginning of the school year, a core team consisting of the PTA officers (presidents and treasurers) align to a proposed operating budget. This budget is an estimate based on the spending and income from the previous year and provides a reasonable starting place to balance the budget.

As needed, a spending committee will be assembled to identify monetary needs, unique for the new school year, that would result in an incremental budget item. For example, last year, the spending committee approved the technology grant for the additional laptops. Any large changes to the annual budget will go through a spending committee process.

## **How much PTA money is spent on our kids?**

Remember, all PTA funds come from our walk-a-thon and corporate sponsors/donations. Based on 2016-2017 budget, we delegated 70% of the money towards activities and programming that directly served our children. That leaves about 10% to cover the PTA's insurance policy and 20% to shower or teacher and staff with appreciation.

## **Who can make suggestions about PTA purchases and programs?**

Anyone! Send any interest or suggestions to [PTAIndy@gmail.com](mailto:PTAIndy@gmail.com).