

April PTO Minutes

April 9, 2024
Call to Order - 7:05 pm

Board Members in Attendance:	Nicole Moore (President) Maria Kowalik (VP, Committee Chair) Tracey Kilinski (VP, Grade Level Oversight) Gwen Perdomo (Treasurer) Rebecca Stark-Gendrano (Recording Secretary) Heather Anderson (Co-Correspondence Secretary) Cassie Muratore (Co-Correspondence Secretary) Beth Willoughby (Teacher Liaison)
Mr Tennant - Principal's Round Table	UPCOMING EVENTS <ul style="list-style-type: none">● 4/25: Take your child to work day● 4/26: First grade tree planting with the Dunellen Shade Tree Commission● 5/2: 4th Grade field trip to Sandy Hook● 5/29: 2nd Grade field trip to Turtle Back Zoo● 5/31: Kindergarten has a Staycation Field Trip● 5/31: 3rd Grade field trip to Ellis Island● 6/6: 5th Grade field trip to Liberty Science Center CLASSROOM UPDATES <p>Pre-K - Ms. Katz's class is working on the themes of flowers/garden, earth day, and weather. Letters of the month are W and X. They will do some planting in class and some sensory projects focused around weather and spring, and continue to work on upper and lowercase letter ID, number ID 0-20, one to one correspondence counting and AB patterns. Ms. Gutowski's class is working on letters Q, D, P, and U. In centers, they are doing a restaurant theme, playing different roles in restaurants such as cook, server, cashier, hostess. In science, the students are learning about Spring, the different parts of the flower, and what a plant needs to grow. In Math, they are reviewing patterns and graphing. Ms. Keen's class is working on the letters /Qq/, /Dd/, /Pp/ and /Uu/. They are doing a restaurant theme in centers. In math, they learned about simple addition and made a fun Spring craft showing our addition skills. For science, students are learning about rainbows, Earth Day, the life cycle of a ladybug. Mrs. Lowrey's class is following the Eagle Cam in Hillsborough and watching the 2 baby birds grow for their science lessons. They are also learning about the life cycle of a ladybug with live larvae that will grow into ladybugs. Students are making spring flower crafts and had an egg hunt. In Math, they are working on counting and graphing.</p>

Kindergarten - In Math students just started their Geometry unit, learning all about 2-D & 3-D shapes, as we look for shapes in our environment. They will move forward to learning how to classify a shape based on their sides and angles. In Language Arts they are exploring digraphs and learning to read words that contain a digraph. In reading, they are learning more sight words. They will soon start our Earth Day projects on making something out of something used, and will discuss the importance of keeping our earth clean!

1st Grade - 1st grade is excited for spring and warmer weather. In first grade, students are subtracting tens, learning and practicing many strategies for math. In Science, students are learning about the frog life cycle. Before spring break they observed tadpole eggs, and are now observing the tadpole phase of the cycle. Students also enjoyed learning all about the solar eclipse, and their planetarium visit. First graders have just finished their informational writing unit and are now learning to differentiate between fact and opinion, and will begin writing opinion pieces of their own this month. In ELA/Fundations, Students continue to work on mastering blends, vowel teams, and trick words, blending, and decoding sounds. Students are learning all about long vowel sounds.

2nd Grade - In writing, students have begun to write an All About Book about an animal they researched. Students are looking forward to their field trip to the Turtle Back Zoo in May which goes along with this topic. In Science, students are starting our plants and insects unit. They will begin by learning about plants and completing various experiments, like watching Lima bean seeds grow.

3rd grade - Third Grade is excited to be back from break. They are presenting their Women's History Month projects that were due at the end of March. They are working on sharpening addition and subtraction skills and adding lots of strategies to our tool boxes. They are beginning to write their informational writing pieces. In ELA students are reading about the solar system and trees.

4th Grade - The 4th grade students are reading a novel picked by their 4th grade students. During ELA students are also working on skills that may be found on NJSLA to prepare them for state testing in May. In Writing, students are working on an Informational Article. They chose a topic that they were experts in or interested in learning more about. For their overall topic, students brainstormed several subtopics that they will be researching. Before researching, students were taught how to paraphrase the information and put it in their own words. Students are in the researching stage. They chose three subtopics from their list. Students are researching facts for each of their subtopics. They are writing facts on their planning page and then paraphrasing it and putting the information in their own words. Students are also learning about the different text features that are found in an

	<p>informational text. When writing their informational article, students will be choosing text features to include in their writing.</p> <p>5th Grade - Students are reading either <i>Number the Stars</i> or <i>Stepping on the Cracks</i>. Both novels take place during WWII. <i>Number the Stars</i> takes place in Denmark while <i>Stepping on the Cracks</i> takes place in the USA. During ELA students are also working on skills that may be found on NJSLA to prepare them for state testing in May. For their Informational Article, students chose a topic that they were experts in or interested in learning more about. For their overall topic, students brainstormed several subtopics that they will be researching. Before researching, students were taught how to paraphrase the information and put it in their own words. Students are in the researching stage. They chose three subtopics from their list. Students are researching facts for each of their subtopics. They are writing facts on their planning page and then paraphrasing it and putting the information in their own words. Students are also learning about the different text features that are found in an informational text. When writing their informational article, students will be choosing text features to include in their writing.</p> <p>GENERAL NOTES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● NJSLA Testing starts the week of May 13th. On May 21st, the fifth graders take the science portion of that. ● Thank you to the PTO for the mobile planetarium assembly. The children are having a great time with it. ● In response to questions about the testing schedule, Mr. Tennant noted that the test will be given in two-hour increments. It should not conflict with the Book Fair. ● In response to a question about the earthquake, Mr. Tennant noted that the school administration will be meeting to discuss different procedures to prepare students for events like this in the future.
Nicole Moore - President	Meeting called to order at 7:05pm
Gwen Perdomo - Treasurer's Report	A motion was made to approve the treasurer's report by Jasmine Ramos. The motion was seconded by Kate Hrada.
Rebecca Stark Gendrano - Minutes	A motion to approve the minutes was made by Jasmine Ramos. The motion was seconded by Kate Hrada.
Nicole Moore - President's Report	Tricky Tray is less than a month away. We are busy planning, and wrapping/numbering the baskets. We have additional wrapping nights planned for upcoming weeks. We have great level D prizes, but we need more Level A, B, and C. We just placed an order with Scholastic, which will allow us to have a large number of prizes at a very reasonable price (including book

	<p>sets, smart watches, ring lights, etc). We have raised almost \$14,000 in pre-sales so far. Those of you who haven't ordered tickets are encouraged to order soon, so that you can get your free sheets. We are also doing a thank you to the teachers, as an additional incentive for teachers to attend. We printed flyers to post around town. If anyone would like flyers to post, just let me know. Our design committee members are updating the posters that will be posted during the event. We reached out to Miss Piano to give her information for the high school volunteers. Committee members will also be receiving a sign-up genius that will allow them to sign up for specific volunteer assignments for the day of the event. Thank you to everyone who has helped with the wrapping. The program cover is ready to go. We have several fandom prize baskets. We will have the 360 photo booth there to test it out for the first time. We are looking forward to a great event.</p> <p>BOARD NOMINATIONS: The link is now closed. We received 22 nominations for the board for next year. I will start calling those who have been nominated, and people will have the choice to accept or reject those nominations. In May, we will announce who has accepted their nominations. If more than one person has accepted the nomination, then we will have a vote. The May meeting will be in person only, as it is too difficult to manage online voting as well as in person voting. The new board will be announced at the next meeting in May.</p> <p>FIELD TRIPS: We were approached by the Middle School to provide additional funds for the 8th grade field trip. This is the first trip in a very long time, and the cost for school busses has gone up considerably. We told Mr. Altmire that we would match the school up to \$800, and the school has agreed to this arrangement. This will bring the cost to students down and allow more students to attend.</p> <p>STORAGE SPACE: We have decided to move to a new storage unit. The one we are currently in was fine in the beginning, but we have found a bigger space (10X20) and signed a year-long lease. We are using this to store all of our tricky tray prizes for the next few weeks. Once Tricky Tray is over, then we will move everything over from the old unit to the new unit, since the old unit is rented until June. This will allow the new president to use the storage unit rather than storing PTO items in their basement. It's also a closer space, which is convenient.</p>
<p>Maria Bartman - VP, Committee Oversight</p>	<p>The Planetarium Assembly will be happening today and tomorrow.</p> <p>Our last wellness night will be on Friday, April 12th. We will also have a wellness room with tea, coloring, and relaxation. Please sign up to let us know if you are coming so that we can have enough refreshments.</p> <p>Teacher appreciation is the week of May 6-10. Meghan Portik is chairing the committee and will get in touch to request volunteers and donations.</p>

	<p>Book Fair will be happening the week of May 13th. We will need volunteers to help run the event.</p> <p>Thank you to Kate Hrada for helping to run the committee. This year we are handing out 8 \$1,000 scholarships.</p> <p>Fifth grade farewell planning is in progress. We will have another meeting next Wednesday to finalize t-shirt designs.</p> <p>Eighth-grade promotion planning is also in progress.</p>
<p>Tracy Kilinski - VP, Grade Level Oversight</p>	<p>Dates are set for field trips. Chaperones are PTO parents, but the teacher will select the chaperones. The teacher should be reaching out to parents for chaperoning, and it is not organized by the PTO.</p> <p>We do not yet have a date for the 3rd-grade culture festival, which will require some volunteers. As soon as I have a date set, I will reach out to team leaders. The chaperone is often the team leader, but it is not always the case. If no one on PTO can attend, then the teacher would need to reach out to the entire class or to the administration for additional supervision on that day. Team leaders should contact the teacher with questions about the field trips.</p> <p>In late May, I will get in touch to begin planning the classroom parties in June. Expect to hear more about this in a few weeks.</p>
<p>Beth Willoughby - Teacher Liaison</p>	<p>Thank you for the Planetarium Assembly. The kids are loving it! And they are really enjoying the books on the stars and planets.</p>
<p>Open Discussion</p>	<p>In response to a question about absences with doctor's notices, Mr. Tennant noted that NJ law requires that the school notify parents once their child has been absent for a certain number of days. NJ does not have excused absences for religious holidays.</p> <p>In response to a question about class trips, Mr. Tennant noted that students will go with their class. Parents will also be given the opportunity to drive to the field trip and meet their class at the field trip site.</p> <p>In response to a question about membership flyers, Nicole noted that parents can go to the PTO website and sign up through the Google Form or through the form printed from the website. Kindergarten and preschool registration is open now, so parents can sign up if they have students that age.</p> <p>Remember that the next meeting will be in person only.</p>
<p>Meeting Adjourned</p>	<p>Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.</p>