

April PTO Minutes

April 19, 2023

Call to Order - 7:16 pm

Board Members in Attendance:	Nicole Moore (President, on Zoom) Maria Kowalik (Co-Vice President, Committee Chair) Tracey Kilinski (Co-Vice President, Grade Level Oversight) Gwen Perdomo (Treasurer) Rebecca Stark-Gendrano (Recording Secretary)
Mr Tenant - Principal's Round Table	Welcome back from spring break! <u>ANNOUNCEMENTS</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● April is Autism Awareness month.● This week was spirit week. Tomorrow is Wear your Favorite Jersey Day / Twin Day. Friday is Red and Blue Day.● Thank you to Mrs. Anastasi and Mr. Geiger for the 3rd grade choir and instrument concert. The kids did a great job.● We have 2 great assemblies: Grand Falloons talked about recycling and we had a Horse Trainer talk about horses.● READ-A-THON: We earned an astounding \$28,966 for our trips and PBSIS and field trips. Want to thank Mrs. Palmer and Ms. Vanraes for being the lead on this. In our K-2 classrooms Ms. Stuono's class won the party for having read the most minutes- the students chose a movie party in our APR. Ms. Shahin's class won the most minutes read and selected a pizza party. For our 3-5 classrooms Mr. Pasons class won the most money raised and selected a pizza party for their prize. Mr. D'Amico's class won the most minutes read and selected a pizza party for their prize. Congratulations to Aiden Mitchell in Mr. D'Amico's class for raising the most money. Congratulations to Jason Sierra in Ms. Beattie's homeroom for reading the most minutes. Both students won a Kindle.● NJSLA TESTING will take place on the following dates:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ May 16-17 for Math (grades 3-5)○ May 18-19 for ELA (grades 3-5)○ May 23 for Science (grade 5)● We are accepting nominations for teacher of the Year. Please submit the nomination form by Friday.● Next Thursday, April 27th is Bring your Child to Work Day. If you plan to participate with your child, please be sure to include a note from your employer to excuse your child's absence. If you don't have this note, your child will be marked absent. <u>CLASSROOM UPDATES</u>

Pre-K: Ms. Keen's class we completed a lot of fun activities. In science, students completed an experiment with Mrs. Mann's 4th grade class and learned about dissolving! We took marshmallow peeps and placed them in different solutions (water, soda and vinegar). Mrs. Mann's class helped us write and discuss what we thought might happen to the peeps and then observed the results for 2 days! This week students are going to be talking about Earth day, recycling, and rainbows. Students have been practicing writing the upper and lowercase letters. Mrs. Lowrey's class went out to the courtyard to weed the PreK garden and plant different seeds including sunflowers, corn, marigolds, and gourds. They also watched the life cycle of a Ladybug.

Kindergarten: In Math students are learning about shapes and their attributes. Students are exploring shapes that roll, stack and slide. Students are also comparing 2-D & 3-D shapes. In ELA students are becoming better readers as they begin learning long vowel words and silent e. In writing students are working on their opinion pieces and learning the importance of understanding the difference between a fact and an opinion. In Science/Social Studies students are discussing ways we can take care of the Earth in preparation for Earth Day this weekend. They are learning ways that we can "reduce, reuse and recycle. "

1st Grade: For Science, students just finished their weather unit and made their own weather instrument project. For math, students continue to learn about place value while adding tens and ones, and subtracting tens. For writing, students have been researching an animal of their choice (habitat, food, appearance, babies, etc.).

2nd Grade: Second grade is loving being back at school! The students are finishing up their Informational Writing pieces. In ELA and science students are learning a lot about Earth Day and ways to protect the Earth and keep it clean! The students are also super excited to participate in Autism Acceptance week and are learning about different ways to be accepting and kind to many different types of people.

3rd Grade: 3rd grade is excited for spring and warmer weather. Students are reading about trees and the classic novel, *Charlotte's Web*. In social studies students are studying communities and different cultures. In science students are learning about structures of life. In writing students are beginning an informational writing unit and can't wait to write about a topic they have researched.

4th Grade: For ELA, Mrs. Prael's class is reading *Esperanza Rising*, Mr. Fortugno class and Mrs. Caruso's class are both reading *Crash*, Mrs. Palmer's class is reading *Front Desk*, and Mrs. Mann's class is reading *Fourth Grade Rats*. For Math, students are working on Understanding and Comparing Decimals, as well as Geometric Measurement. For Writing, students are

	<p>working on their final writing piece of the year, informational writing. For Science, Praul's and Palmer's students are exploring the concepts of energy and change, waves, and energy transfer. Caruso, Mann, and Fortugno are focusing on the concepts that organisms need energy and matter to live and grow, and that living organisms depend on one another and on their environment for their survival and the survival of populations.</p> <p>5th grade: Students are working on Earth day activities for science. It will include us taking a virtual field trip to the Earth Day Network office, as well as doing a research project about some of the impacts humans have had on the planet. For Social Science, students are learning about the Constitution and how it became the model for individual freedom and responsibility. For ELA, they are reading a novel set in America in the 1940's and focusing on Character development, foreshadowing, author's style, theme. For writing, we finished up our Point of View writing pieces based on the novel Number the Stars.</p> <p>Picking Up a Student Early - If the need arises for you to pick your student up early from school, kindly notify BOTH the student's teacher and the main office (732-400-5900, option #1)</p> <p>Remember to check the Virtual Backpack, and also read the weekly newsletter.</p> <p>We will work with the committee to select the teacher of the year soon.</p>
Nicole Moore - President	Meeting called to order at 7:16 pm
Gwen Perdomo - Treasurer's Report	<p>We had deposits for Tricky Tray, Ticket sales, fundraising for shirts, wellness night.</p> <p>We had deductions for advertising in the yearbook, our donation to the women's shelter, purchases for tricky tray, the payment for zoom, mystery prizes that we purchased, sunshine committee.</p> <p>We're doing well on the Tricky Tray!</p> <p>There were no objections or questions. Motion to approve by Lucy Lopez. Second by Nicole Earnest.</p>
Rebecca Stark Gendrano - Minutes	Talent Show Update: The Talent Show will take place on June 4th at Washington Park during the Open Air Market. We have a sign up sheet ready to send out to students and families who would like to perform. This is a

	<p>community talent show, and it is open to students of all ages as well as teachers and staff.</p> <p>Motion to approve minutes by Jackie. Second by Lupe.</p>
Nicole Moore - President's Report	<p>Tricky Tray is two and a half weeks ago. We have more donations coming in. Thank you to everyone who has donated! We could use more donations, so feel free to send items in. We're currently at about 160 attendees, and there is still plenty of space available. It's a fun afternoon out! You can register to attend up until April 19th. That is a hard deadline, since we need to prepare tickets ahead of time. Thank you to the DEA for their help and the items they have purchased for us. The Sign-Up Genius has gone out, and we need as many volunteers as we can get for this big event, since there is a lot that goes into this. We do have Kohl's volunteers already, but we can use more help. We also have high school students who will be volunteering at this event. High school students get volunteer hours for helping out at this event. If you are already registered, remember to sign up for your time slot. We will have our final basket wrapping day next week.</p> <p>PTO Board nominations happened over the last month. Thank you to Brittany Gourlay for facilitating this. She will be calling nominees this weekend, so nominees can expect a call within the next few days. If you receive a call, you can let Brittany know whether you accept the nomination.</p> <p>The History Club reached out to us for help with their field trip to Philadelphia, as they need some extra money for the bus. We decided to donate \$250 to the club for their trip. This gave them a little more than they needed, so they will have a small reserve for next year's trip.</p> <p>Mr. Geiger has an Honors Choir, which will be performing at Ocean Township high school on May 13th. He requested matching tee shirts for the students to wear at this event and look nice.</p>
Maria Bartman - Vice President, Committee Oversight	<p>Book Fair will be May 1-5. The original email did not include the times for all of the teachers, but an updated list has now been sent out. We can use some more volunteers, so let us know if you can help out. Set up for the Book Fair will be on April 28th.</p> <p>Teacher Appreciation week will be May 8-12. Thank you to Meghan Portik and Trina Rios for chairing. The event will be on Tuesday (snacks), Wednesday (lunch) and Thursday (dessert). You can sign up for whatever you would like to bring by going to the Sign Up genius. We can also use some volunteers to help get everything set up.</p>

	<p>June 9th is the 5th grade farewell. Thank you to Suriya for chairing this. If there are parents interested in helping, please get in touch and we will connect you with the committee to get started.</p> <p>We do not have a chairperson for the 8th grade Promotion, so let us know if you are interested in chairing this committee. The event will be on June 14th.</p> <p>The Scholarship Committee has met to decide on the students who will be receiving PTO scholarships this year. The recipients will be announced at graduation.</p>
Tracy Kilinski - Vice President, Grade Level Oversight	<p>In May, we will have our field trips. Teachers pick the volunteers to act as chaperones. Only parents who have joined PTO are eligible.</p> <p>May 26th is the 3rd grade cultural festival, and each class is asking for three volunteers. This is a big feast, and we need some people to help get everything set up.</p> <p>In June, we will have end of year parties. Keep your eyes peeled for more information about these.</p>
Beth Willoughby - Teacher Liaison	<p>This is Volunteer Appreciation month, and we want to thank the PTO for everything that you do.</p> <p>We are currently collecting soda can pop tops for Ronald McDonald House until April 28th.</p> <p>Mr. Tseng thanked the PTO for the upcoming Teacher Appreciation week, as well as their work for Tricky Tray. We're happy to contribute to this event.</p>
Open Discussion	<p>There was a question about what happens if a student does not want to attend a field trip? Mr. Tennant noted that the child would remain in the school that day.</p>
Meeting Adjourned	Meeting adjourned at 7:37pm.