

# December PTO Minutes

December 12, 2022

Call to Order - 7:10 pm

<b>Board Members in Attendance:</b>	Nicole Moore (President, on Zoom) Tracey Kilinski (Co-Vice President, Grade Level Oversight) Gwen Perdomo (Treasurer) Rebecca Stark-Gendrano (Recording Secretary) Elizabeth Willoughby (Teacher Liaison)
<b>Mr Tennant - Principal's Round Table</b>	<p><b><u>ATTENDANCE CHALLENGE</u></b></p> <p>We are continuing our attendance challenge. Each month, homeroom classes will be earning daily points based upon their overall on-time morning arrival. At the end of each month, the homeroom classes with the most points will receive a reward. The November Winners were Mrs. Byrne and Mrs. Lowery. Remember that the horseshoe closes at 8:15am. Closing the horseshoe has helped reduce tardiness.</p> <p><b><u>IMPORTANT REMINDERS</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Our 2nd round of Student of the Month will be shared at the Board Meeting tomorrow. We'll be honoring a student at each grade level at the board meeting.</li><li>• 12/19 is the Kindergarten trip to DHS for the Polar Express.</li></ul> <p><b><u>CLASSROOM UPDATES</u></b></p> <p><b>Pre-K:</b> Ms. Burr's class is celebrating winter and holidays around the world and working on various math, literacy and fine motor activities that coincide with the week's story. Ms. Keen's class has been working on Holiday themes throughout math and science lessons. For math, they completed a vinegar drawing using triangles, and created pizza, an elf hat and a Christmas tree. They are completing holiday light patterns with a graph worksheet. For science we have completed the disintegrating gingerbread man science experiment and they will be completing the life cycle of a pine tree. Next week on the 21st we will be having our Preschool Grinch day. Mrs. Lowery is getting ready for the Holidays by singing favorite songs like Frosty the Snowman and Jingle Bells. In science they learned about the life cycle of a Christmas Tree.</p> <p><b>Kindergarten:</b> In Kindergarten they are starting to travel around the world, as they explore holidays that are celebrated this time of year. Kids will travel to each Kindergarten classroom to learn about the following holidays: Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanzaa, New Years, and Las Posadas. They are also excited to go to Dunellen High School next week to watch the Polar Express. In math they are doing addition and</p>

excited to work on subtraction. In Language Arts, they are continuing to learn sight words and beginning sounds.

**1st Grade:** - In Science, the students used a syringe pump to move objects with air, and are beginning to talk about weather. Students have been learning about various organs in our bodies.. Students are writing many How-to writing pieces, and continuing to learn and apply addition, subtraction, and problem solving strategies in Math. We have been reinforcing nouns - students made Christmas tree and candy cane noun projects. This week first graders will be rotating to different classrooms to learn about holidays celebrated around the world, identifying traditions and celebrations of various cultures.

**2nd Grade:** Second grade has been working hard on their Personal Narratives for writing class. The students are enjoying telling stories of trips, games, and experiences they have had. The students are also finishing up their fourth topic in math on 2-digit addition. With winter break coming up the students have been enjoying our yearly Holidays Around the World project. They love learning about how different countries celebrate Christmas and other winter holidays!

**3rd Grade:** 3rd grade is getting excited for the December holidays and learning all about them. They are becoming masters of addition, subtraction, and multiplication. They are working on their persuasive essays for writing and love to share their opinions.

**4th Grade:** Each class has chosen a novel to read and study:

- Mrs. Caruso --Tiger Rising
- Mrs. Mann - Save Me a Seat
- Mrs. McKiernan - Esperanza Rising
- Mrs. Palmer - Just finished Esperanza Rising
- Mrs. Praul - Save Me A Seat

In math, students are learning how to use strategies and properties of multiplication to multiply 2-digit by 2-digit numbers. Each class is working on Soils, Rocks, and Landforms.

**5th Grade:** The kids are reading *Wonder*, and really loving it!! The book helps them in developing empathy and sympathy, and they are discussing point of view, and author's perspective as well as literary conflicts in literature, internal and external. They are working on persuasive essays. The students decide who they want to convince to buy something. Some students are choosing to try to convince their parents to get them a phone, pet, etc. Others are trying to convince their teachers to give no homework or extra recess. They've been having a fun time working on them. In Social Science we are working through the pre revolutionary, colonial years. The kids are currently researching and reporting on the old mystery of the Lost Colony of Roanoke. In math, students are working on adding and subtracting mixed numbers, as well as simplifying fractions

	<p><b><u>UPCOMING DATES</u></b></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="496 275 1419 464"> <tr> <td data-bbox="496 275 740 338">12/ 14</td> <td data-bbox="740 275 1419 338">Band and choir concert</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="496 338 740 401">12/19</td> <td data-bbox="740 338 1419 401">Polar Express DHS Trip for Kindergarten</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="496 401 740 464">12/23</td> <td data-bbox="740 401 1419 464">Half Day Dismissal - Start of Winter Break</td> </tr> </table> <p><b><u>DISCUSSION</u></b></p> <p>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). ALso, please try to avoid picking students up just prior to dismissal, as this creates problems.</p> <p>In response to a question about the movie, teachers reached out to parents to select chaperones.</p> <p>In response to a question about volunteers, Mr. Tennant noted that grandparents and other relatives could be selected as chaperones. But it would be up to the teacher to select a chaperone.</p> <p>The Band and Choir concert will begin at 6:30pm.</p>	12/ 14	Band and choir concert	12/19	Polar Express DHS Trip for Kindergarten	12/23	Half Day Dismissal - Start of Winter Break
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<b>Tracy Killinski - President</b>	Meeting called to order at 7:10 pm						
<b>Gwen Perdomo - Treasurer's Report</b>	<p>Opening balance is \$49281.31 Closing balance is \$54141.75</p> <p>We had deposits for new memberships and fundraising including Amazon Smile. For Book Fair, we made \$5110, and we need to pay \$4974 back to the company.</p> <p>For deductions, we had to pay for the water bottles for Red Ribbon Week, the ad for Drama Club.</p> <p>Amazon Smile is an easy way to help contribute money to the PTO.</p> <p>Motion to approve by Megan Torres. Second by Jasmine Huerta.</p> <p>There were no objections.</p>						
<b>Rebecca Stark Gendrano - Minutes</b>	The November meeting minutes were not distributed in time to be approved at this meeting. We will review the minutes at our next meeting in February.						
<b>Nicole Moore -</b>	Tricky Tray will take place on May 6th, 2023 and everything is						

<p><b>President's Report</b></p>	<p>approved. The Facebook page will be shared soon. The committee reviewed plans and new ideas for the theme. In January, we will send notices home as we look for new donations and ideas for baskets. We are happy for any help that comes in.</p> <p>We will do Candy Grams in February. These are lollipops with a message for whoever you want to send it to. We had several people who buy for the whole class, or for teachers and administrators. Notices will be going home in mid-January. If you are available to help wrap, let us know.</p> <p>In response to a question about helping for Tricky Tray, Nicole mentioned that we can provide everyone with a form letter that they can use to</p>
<p><b>Maria Bartman - Vice President, Committee Oversight</b></p>	<p>Thank you to everyone who helped with the Winter Wonderland committee, especially Ms. Brown.</p> <p>We had a Family Fun Night, where we watched the Grinch and Rudolph, and decorated cookies. We will try to have another movie night in the Spring.</p> <p>Thank you to everyone who helped organize and sell items at the Holiday Bazaar, especially Ms. Willoughby who was there every day.</p> <p>We are hoping to do a Wellness Night, with yoga and zumba classes, as well as other ways to pamper and destress. The event would be geared toward parents and focusing on health.</p> <p>In response to a question about community collaborations, Maria mentioned that she would be glad to be put in touch with local dance studios or other businesses that might want to participate.</p>
<p><b>Tracy Kilinski - Vice President, Grade Level Oversight</b></p>	<p>Team leaders received messages asking them to reach out to their teacher as well as all of their parent volunteers. Please get in touch with the teacher to find out what items are needed for the winter parties, and also confirm the date for your child's party.</p> <p>We have received some notices that teachers don't always respond quickly enough to emails regarding parties.</p> <p>Please let me know if issues come up, so that I can fix the problem. Communication is key.</p> <p>Remember that food items need to be reviewed by the nurse before they go into the classroom, so you must contact Ms. North to tell her what food you are providing (recipe, brand name of cake mix, etc).</p> <p>For upcoming field trips, please remember that the teacher selects the parent who will chaperone.</p>

<b>Beth Willoughby - Teacher Liaison</b>	Dunellen Education Association received a grant again, so we will be assisting the PTO with Tricky Tray items.
<b>Open Discussion</b>	No one shared any concerns.
<b>Meeting Adjourned</b>	Meeting adjourned at 7:46pm.