

February PTO Minutes

February 6, 2023

Call to Order - 7:15 pm

<p>Board Members in Attendance:</p>	<p>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) Elizabeth Willoughby (Teacher Liaison)</p>
<p>Mr Tennant - Principal's Round Table</p>	<p>We are celebrating Black history month in February. Each day we will be celebrating the achievements of African Americans in our Morning announcements. Students will also be working on different projects throughout the month on their grade levels.</p> <p>UPCOMING DATES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● The NJSLA Schedule is available for 3rd, 4th & 5th Grade: Math (3, 4, 5) - May 16 & 17; ELA (3) - May 18 & 19; ELA (4, 5) - May 18 & 19; Science (5) - May 23 & 24.● Feb. 9: Half Day (12:18pm dismissal for K-5, 12pm dismissal for pre-k)● Feb. 9: We are starting our 5th grade/ kindergarten buddies program reading buddies● Feb. 20: District Closed - Presidents Day● Feb. 27: Mar. 23: Read Across America Week<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Feb. 27: Read to your Friend - bring your favorite stuffed animal and be ready to share a book with them○ Feb. 28: Reading Jogs the Mind - Wear your favorite workout clothes and be ready to workout your mind by reading!○ Mar. 1: Oh, the Place You Will Go - Wear your favorite college shirt, or a shirt from a place you enjoy!○ Mar. 2: Team up for Reading - Wear either Dunellen gear or your favorite sports team.● Mar. 8: Early Dismissal - Spring Parent/Teacher Conferences (FABER ONLY)● Mar. 9: Early Dismissal Students, PD Day Staff● Early March we will be doing a readathon fundraiser for our class trips so please be on the lookout for information on that. <p>Attendance Challenge</p> <p>We are continuing our attendance challenge for the rest of the school year. 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. Remember that the horseshoe closes at 8:15am.</p>

Classroom Updates

Pre- K: Ms. Keen's class is celebrating 100 days of school with fun math activities and then a count and roll identifying math game for Valentine's Day. In science, they are focusing on dental health week. Students will be completing an observation of what happens to teeth with sugar. Letters of the week for this month are /Aa/, /Zz/, /Cc/ and /Oo/. Mrs. Lowrey's class is getting ready for the 100th Day of School and Valentine's Day. In math they are using Fruit Loops to fill in a 100's chart. In Writing they talked about what we would buy for \$100. For Valentine's Day, they marbled painted hearts and made love bugs. In Science they are doing lessons on healthy teeth for Dental month and watching the Eagle Cam at Duke Farms. Ms. Burr's class is studying "Community Helpers." Each week, the class will be reading a book or poem about various community helpers and we will be completing math, literacy and fine motor activities that coincide with their literature of the week.

Kindergarten: February has been a busy month in Kindergarten. They celebrated Groundhog's day, made predictions on if the groundhog would see his shadow or not, graphed their results and then watched the Groundhog. For the 100th day of school, they took pictures that show what everyone will look like at 100 years old and wrote what they would do if they were 100 years old. Students are encouraged to dress up like they are 100 years old on the 100th day. In Math, they finished addition and subtraction and will be learning how to count objects beyond 10. In Language Arts they are exploring more letters and sight words and becoming better at tapping out sounds to help us with reading. In Science and Social Studies they are learning about Black History and taking a look at artist Alma Thomas as well as famous African American Inventors.

1st Grade: In science, students are continuing to learn about Air & Weather, and discussing wind and weather instruments. Students will soon be assigned a project in which they will have to build their own weather instrument. In math, students are continuing to learn about place value, especially tens and ones. In writing, students are writing nonfiction, informational books. Students will research an animal (habitat, food, appearance, babies, etc.) , and turn their findings into an informational writing piece, including a table of contents and labeled diagram. In ELA/Fundations, students are working on mastering blends and being introduced to vowel teams. In Social Studies, students will learn about various impactful & influential African Americans for Black History Month. First Graders are looking forward to celebrating the 100th Day of School and Valentine's Day.

2nd Grade: Students are working hard and getting through their ELA and Math Linkits these past few days. Students are also finishing up their How To Final Drafts and getting ready to start our Informational writing pieces. Students will be selecting their own animal and doing

research on their own during this unit. 2nd graders are also excited to start learning about Black History Month and influential black Americans such as Martin Luther King Jr., Jackie Robinson, Mae Jemison, Katherine Johnson, Rosa Parks, Duke Ellington and many more.

3rd Grade: Third grade is diving into the nonfiction unit with books about the Underground Railroad, Martin Luther king jr., and Ruby Bridges. They are completing black history month research projects in social studies, and learning about data in math.

4th Grade: Students are currently working on Novel Study by reading "The One and Only Ivan" about a silverback gorilla named Ivan who lived in a cage at a mall, and is written from Ivan's point of view (inspired by a real silverback gorilla). After reading the novel, the students will be watching the movie. In Math, students are finding factor pairs, multiples of a number and using the factor pairs to identify if a number is prime or composite. Students will begin to identify equivalent fractions in different capacities, name the same part of a whole and equivalent fractions on a number line. In Writing, students will be writing a literary essay about a specific piece of literature focusing on a character's traits or the theme of the text. In Social Studies students will be studying the Southeast Region of the United States including the environment and growth of the Southeast, conflicts in regards to Native Americans, slavery, and the civil rights movement, and the new south after the Civil War.

5th Grade: In writing, students are working on proper punctuation and capitalization in dialogue and revisiting literary essays from earlier in the year. Since they finished the book Wonder, each student is deciding on what they think the theme of the book is. The students did a project on character traits and literary conflicts on slides, they connected a song inspired from the novel and connected to characters from the book and supported why there was a connection with the lyrics. They wrote and decorated postcard to characters in the book with precepts based on what they felt would benefit the character. Students are also doing background info on World War II and Denmark's part to help save Jewish people's lives. They are talking about the geography, some of the reasons for WWII and the Resistance Fighters.

Reminders:

If you are picking up a student early, kindly notify BOTH the student's teacher and the main office (732-400-5900, option #1)

All notices can be found in our VIRTUAL BACKPACK and website.

Thank you for the community support with the passing of my mom.

<p>Nicole Moore - President</p>	<p>Meeting called to order at 7:15 pm</p>
<p>Gwen Perdomo - Treasurer's Report</p>	<p>Opening balance is \$\$54141.75 Closing balance is \$\$58037.14 We had deposits for Holiday Bazaar and new memberships. We had deductions for Winter Wonderland and Book Fair.</p> <p>Motion to approve by Cassie Muratore. Second by Erica Cairolì. There were no objections.</p>
<p>Rebecca Stark Gendrano - Minutes</p>	<p>Motion to approve by Cassie Muratore. Second by Mìette Brown.</p>
<p>Nicole Moore - President's Report</p>	<p>Candy Grams will go out next week. 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.</p> <p>Tricky Tray will take place on May 6th, 2023 and everything is approved. The Facebook page has been shared. The committee decided that the theme will be "All Around the World." Tricky Tray wrapping will take place on February 23. We need a lot of help to get these baskets put together and wrapped so please join us on Thursday if you are available. Notices were sent home in January for new donations and ideas for baskets. If you know anyone who has items that they would like to donate (such as trips, gift certificates, etc), please let us know.</p> <p>Drama Club has asked us for assistance with their fundraising, so we will be purchasing silk roses for drama club to sell during the performances.</p> <p>Board nominations will be taking place soon. If you are interested in serving on the board, please let us know. We're looking for someone who can assist us with the nomination process, such as calling nominees and setting up the voting forms. If you are available to help with this, please let us know.</p>
<p>Maria Bartman - Vice President, Committee Oversight</p>	<p>We are holding a Wellness Night on March 3, with zumba and dance classes, as well as other ways to pamper and destress. There will be adult coloring and tea in our relaxation room.</p> <p>Book Fair will be coming up at the beginning of May. The Scholarship Committee will begin reviewing applications from graduating seniors in the next few weeks. Please let us know if you are able to help out with either of these up coming events. In addition, we will need volunteers to assist with Teacher Appreciation, Fifth Grade Farewell, and 8th Grade Promotion.</p>

Tracy Kilinski - Vice President, Grade Level Oversight	<p>The next party will be the spring parties taking place in March or April. Please be in touch with your teacher to find out what items will be needed and to confirm the date of your classroom's party.</p> <p>The field trip will be a trip to Ellis Island for 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade. Volunteers will be needed to chaperone the students. For upcoming field trips, please remember that the teacher selects the parent who will chaperone.</p>
Beth Willoughby - Teacher Liaison	Thank you to everyone who helped with Book Fair!
Open Discussion	No one shared any concerns.
Meeting Adjourned	Meeting adjourned at 7:48pm.