

November PTO Minutes

November 7, 2022

Call to Order - 7:24 pm

Board Members in Attendance:	Nicole Moore (President) Tracey Kilinski (Co-Vice President, Grade Level Oversight) Gwen Perdomo (Treasurer) Rebecca Stark-Gendrano (Recording Secretary) Elizabeth Willoughby (Teacher Liaison)
Mr Tennant - Principal's Round Table	<p><u>ATTENDANCE CHALLENGE</u></p> <p>On Monday, November 4th, we will be launching a new Attendance Initiative that will be on-going 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.</p> <p>Beginning on November 1st we closed the horseshoe for late students at 8:15am. This is to help ensure that students arrive at school on time.</p> <p>If your child will be absent, please put in the Parent portal, email Ms. Cuevas, or call the main office.</p> <p><u>IMPORTANT DATES</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nov. 10-11: There is no school due to the NJ Teacher Convention.• Nov. 15-16: Parent Teacher conferences. Be sure to sign up!• Beginning Nov. 15: We'll be honoring a "student of the month" for each grade level at the Board of Ed meetings.• Nov. 21: Grades 1-4 will see a performance of <i>The Trail of the Big Bad Wolf</i> by the DHS Drama Club. Sgt. Chin will help chaperone.• Beginning of Dec: Kindergarten will take a walking trip to see <i>The Polar Express</i> at the High School <p><u>CLASSROOM UPDATES</u></p> <p>Pre-K: In Ms. Keen's Class, they are exploring the life cycle of a pumpkin for science and they are completing turkey tail patterns for math. Miss Burr's class is studying turkeys and the fall season, reading the books "Bear says Thanks" and "The Very Stuffed Turkey." Ms. Lowrey's class decorating their classroom with pumpkins and ghosts. In science they labeled the parts of a pumpkin and planted the pumpkin seeds in our Preschool garden. In math they have been busy graphing Halloween items. All three classes are working on the letter of the week li and Tt.</p> <p>Kindergarten: They are starting to get ready for Thanksgiving! They are brainstorming things that they are thankful or lucky to have. They are learning</p>

the life cycle of a turkey and working on family turkey disguise projects at home with families. They are also getting ready for their Thanksgiving feast.

1st Grade: First grade students are working on personal narrative writing pieces, as well as writing descriptive sentences about various fall topics. They are learning how to keep our bodies healthy and take care of ourselves by exercising and eating healthy foods. They also learned about bones & built a skeleton. Students are learning all about light in science. They have used flashlights and mirrors to make shadows and reflect light. In Math, they are using strategies to solve addition facts to 20.

2nd Grade: Second grade is starting the 3rd topic for math and currently working on an Author and Illustrator study on Tomie dePaola. They are also excited to begin our Thanksgiving Balloon project, and hoping students will use their creativity to create their own balloon design similar to the one in the Thanksgiving Day Parade!

3rd Grade: Students had a wonderful Invention Convention. Thank you to all of the parents! Students are preparing for Thanksgiving. They are reading 2 novels in November about thanksgiving and immigration. In math they are beginning to master multiplication facts.

4th Grade: Students are studying novels for ELA (Mrs. Caruso --*Tiger Rising*; Mrs. Mann - *The Twits*; Mrs. McKiernan - *Tiger Rising*; Mrs. Palmer - *Esperanza Rising*; Mrs. Praul - *Save Me A Seat*). In Math, they are learning strategies to multiply 2, 3, and 4 digit numbers by a 1-digit number. In writing, students are learning how to write an idea as a thesis and build the structure and support for an essay. In Science, students will be studying Soils, Rocks, and Landforms or Environments.

5th Grade: Students finished their novel and worked on a story map final project, which helped them work on management and organization. They are watching the movie as preparation for a compare and contrast writing piece. For Spanish, students completed a menu project to create a restaurant and include 25 vocabulary words in Spanish. For science, they are studying the Moon. They are also wrapping up their Fiction Friday projects, where they read science fiction novels and wrote about the science within them.

REMINDERS

If you need to pick your student up early from school, please 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.

DISCUSSION

In response to a question about the play performance, Mr. Tennant said parent volunteers would be needed.

	<p>In response to a question about the 10-minute drop off period, Mr. Tennant said that teachers cannot work before 8:05AM, due to their contract, so we cannot have a longer period in which to drop off students. There is usually no line between 8:05 and 8:10. The problem is when parents arrive at 8:15 and then drop off students right at the office doors, which creates a back-up down the street.</p> <p>In response to a question about parking, Mr. Tennant noted that the school is only in charge of parking on school property. Parking is a town issue.</p>
Nicole Moore - President	Meeting called to order at 7:24pm
Gwen Perdomo - Treasurer's Report	<p>Opening balance is \$56,939.66 Closing balance is \$49,281.31</p> <p>We had deposits for fundraising and new membership.</p> <p>For deductions, we had to pay for the Project Graduation, Field Trips, the DJ for Family Fun Night, and start up money for the Book Fair.</p> <p>Motion to approve by Kelly Castro. Second by Robert Morales.</p> <p>There were no objections.</p>
Rebecca Stark Gendrano - Minutes	<p>Motion to Approve the minutes by Robert Morales.</p> <p>Second by Kelly Castro.</p>
Nicole Moore - President's Report	<p>Comments by Kelly Castro: Project Graduation will be holding a number of fundraisers over the next few weeks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bake Sale for Thanksgiving, and orders are due soon. ● We will also be holding a Family & Friends photo shoot for Christmas on November 20 and 26. (Rain Dates are 11/19 and 11/27). ● In addition, we will have a Dime to Donate fundraiser at Rome Pizza on December 8th. ● Breakfast with Santa to be held on December 10th <p>Monster Bash on October 29th was a big success. Twenty-one families joined PTO that day, and we earned \$135 from people who attended. Thanks to all the volunteers and high schoolers who helped make the event happen.</p> <p>We have taken a vote on offering a virtual option for PTO meetings. We will continue to offer this option as long as people participate.</p> <p>Tricky Tray is set for May 6th. This date has been approved by the school, and we are now waiting for town and state approval of the raffle license. Keep your eyes peeled for in</p>
Nicole Moore - Vice	Maria is not able to attend tonight, due to a work issue, so I will give her report

<p>President's Report</p>	<p>tonight.</p> <p>The Book Fair just finished up, and the kids had a great time shopping for their books.</p> <p>Holiday Bazaar will take place on 11/28 - 12/2. We will set up on Wednesday afternoon before Thanksgiving. Clean up for the event will take place on December 2.</p> <p>LMS Winter Wonderland for 7th and 8th graders only will take place on December 9th at 7pm.</p> <p>We are planning a Family Fun Night for December, which will feature cookie decorating and a holiday movie.</p>
<p>Tracy Kilinski - Vice President, Grade Level Oversight</p>	<p>The Halloween parties were great fun, and we had a lot of parents at the parade! Thank you to Lupe Condit for providing so many baked goods for all of the parties. Tracy asked Mr. Tennant to please remind teachers that we need them to respond to email from parents with questions about parties.</p> <p>Volunteers will be needed for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Thanksgiving feast ● Play performance at the High School <p>Reminder to start talking with your teachers about the upcoming Winter Parties, and please reach out to parents once you know what will be required for the parties this year.</p> <p>For new members that have been received, parents will receive email updates with the contact information.</p>
<p>Beth Willoughby - Teacher Liaison</p>	<p>Thank you to all of our Book Fair volunteers!</p>
<p>Open Discussion</p>	<p>In response to a question about non-food options for kids with allergies, Nicole said that we would try to have an ornament available for children who are not able to participate in a food-based activity.</p> <p>In response to a question about what to do with extra money received for class parties, Nicole responded that we will save it for the end of year parties.</p> <p>In response to a question about volunteers for the Polar Express, Tracy noted that the teacher will choose which parent will attend.</p> <p>In response to a question about whether young children can attend events when their parents are volunteering, Nicole responded that non-school age children are not allowed to attend in-school events.</p> <p>In response to a question about lack of parent response for events which require food and other donations, parents are reminded that they can reach out for additional help from PTO board members.</p> <p>In response to a question about translating emails into Spanish, Nicole responded that PTO will include a check box asking students to indicate what</p>

	<p>language they prefer to receive PTO emails in.</p> <p>Comments from Mr. Tseng: At LMS, the year book is at its lowest price of the year. The teachers at LMS will be applying for a grant to assist with Tricky. They will also reach out to Kelly Castro to assist with fundraising for Project Graduation.</p>
Meeting Adjourned	Meeting adjourned at 8:22pm.