

November 2023 PTO Minutes

November 6, 2023
Call to Order - 7:20 pm

<p>Board Members in Attendance:</p>	<p>Nicole Moore (President) Tracey Kilinski (Vice President, Grade Level Oversight) Gwen Perdomo (Treasurer) Rebecca Stark-Gendrano (Recording Secretary) Cassie Muratore (Co-Correspondence Secretary)</p>
<p>Mr Tennant - Principal's Round Table</p>	<p>Parking Lot Paving: November 9th & 10th Teacher parking lot, the horseshoe and the recess parking lot will be paved. When we receive a schedule we will share it with you. We anticipate Arrival and Dismissal to remain the same.</p> <p>Native American Heritage month: Last week we had The Hopi Thunderbird Dancers visit our school. On Wednesday we will have an assembly on Ways of the Lenape indians.</p> <p>Stem Lab Open House: On the 14th and 15th please stop by and see the Stem Lab during parent teachers conferences.</p> <p><u>CLASSROOM UPDATES</u></p> <p>Preschool: Ms. Gutowski's class learned about Autumn, pumpkins, and fun things we do in the fall. They have been talking about being thankful and specifically who and what we are grateful for. They have been reading lots of books and in math have been learning even more about counting, shapes, and patterns. Mrs. Lowrey's class is getting ready for Thanksgiving. In math they are counting turkey feathers and putting Tom the Turkey together. In the Preschool wing you can see our Family Turkey projects displayed. Ms. Keen's class is getting ready for Thanksgiving and all that November brings! This week we are working on a Veteran's Day craft, learning about what it means to be thankful and thinking about what we are thankful for. In science we are learning about parts of a pumpkin, the lifecycle of a pumpkin and the lifecycle of a turkey. In math, we are creating and completing patterns using different colored turkey tails and counting . Letters of the week and this month we are completing the letter /li/ and the letter /Tt/.</p> <p>Kindergarten: Students are learning about Election day and what it means to vote. Students will listen to two stories and vote on which person they think would be best. Students will participate in their very own class election. They are also learning why Veteran's Day is so important. In Math they are using our "magic eyes" to compare numbers. They are using words like "greater than," "less than" "equal too" to describe numbers. In ELA they are continuing to learn more letters and sight words and starting to read!</p> <p>First Grade:In first grade students are working on mastering trick words, CVC words, identifying digraphs, glued sounds, and bonus letters. Students continue to learn strategies to solve addition and subtraction facts to 20. First graders are writing personal narrative stories, as well as reviewing the</p>

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	<p>important parts that every story should have. In science, students are learning about wind and weather and soon, each first grader will create their own weather instrument.</p> <p>Second Grade: Students finished learning about arrays in math and will be focusing on adding two-digit numbers. In foundations, they are learning about different suffixes. In writing, they are starting to write personal narratives. In social studies, they are studying communities, cultures, and traditions.</p> <p>Third Grade: Third grade just had an amazing invention convention. The students' creations were outstanding this year. They are excited to start reading about different Thanksgiving traditions and our nation's immigration history. We have mastered multiplication in math and will be exploring its relationship to division. In science we are learning about different forces. In social studies they are studying communities, cultures, and traditions.</p> <p>4th and 5th Grade: For ELA, Ms. McGrath and Ms. Kinsella are piloting Wit and Wisdom. Mrs. DeSousa, Ms. Beattie, and Mrs. Palmer are piloting MyView. Each class will be doing a mixture of novel studies and piloting a new reading program. In Writing, students chose a meaningful moment to write a personal narrative about. Students are writing their personal narrative in a first person point of view. 5th Graders are quickly moving through their math programs and are finishing up working on adding and subtracting fractions. In social studies we have had the students create and present their own totem poles that represent their families.</p> <p><u>REMINDERS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● 11/9-11/10: NJ Teacher Convention (No School)● 11/14: Parent Teacher Conferences (Early Dismissal)● 11/15: Parent Teachers Conferences (Evening Only) <p><u>OPEN DISCUSSION</u></p> <p>One parent raised a question about whether it would be possible to send a letter home through the teacher to all of the parents in the class, in an effort to increase the number of classroom volunteers. Mr. Tennant will raise it with the leadership team.</p> <p>Tracy Killinski mentioned that ingredients do not need to be approved by Mrs. North for the Thanksgiving festival or the Cultural Festival. What are we doing to maintain consistency with food at school events? Mr. Tennant mentioned that for festivals, those conversations are held between the teacher and the nurse. He will speak with Mrs. North to discuss what should happen at those events.</p>
Nicole Moore - President	PTO meeting called to order at 7:20 pm

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	<p>Thank you to Owen Mosley from OEM for sharing information about Emergency Preparedness. I will email copies of his handouts and flyers to send to the membership.</p>
<p>Gwen Perdomo - Treasurer's Report</p>	<p>Opening Balance: \$60,205.24 Closing Balance: \$49,736.05</p> <p>Money was taken out for Monster Bash, Class Trip for the National Honor Society, and Red Ribbon Week. We also spent money for donations for teachers' class rooms, as well as class trips for Faber and LMS, Book Fair start up, and Family Fun Night (DJ and Balloons). The majority of our spending was for class trips and the teachers' wish lists</p> <p>Money came in for tee shirts, membership, and the Outback Fundraiser</p> <p>A motion to approve the treasurer's report was made by Jasmine Ramos. The motion was seconded by Jackie Stadler</p>
<p>Rebecca Gendrano - Minutes</p>	<p>A motion to approve the minutes was made by Jasmine Ramos. The motion was seconded by Jackie Stadler.</p>
<p>Nicole Moore - President's Report</p>	<p>Updates to By-Laws</p> <p>We added the Teacher Liaison position to our By-Laws. We also made minor additions, such as that the president shall chair the Tricky Tray committee, and detailed the job responsibilities of the Corresponding Secretary (such as maintaining social media).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We updated the selection process for nominating members to the PTO Board. ● We also described the process that should be followed for requesting funds from the PTO, so that we can formalize the request rather than relying on the informal process that has been in place. We added all of the committees, including the Tricky Tray committee. ● We also removed the fundraising committee, since each group that does fundraising works independently and then reports to the President and Vice-President. <p>In updating the By-Laws, we simply brought the language in line with our current practices. A motion to approve the updates to the by-laws was made by Jasmine Ramos. The motion was seconded by Jackie Stadler.</p> <p>Monster Bash</p> <p>We had more than 32 PTO families attend the event. We also had 6 families join the PTO that day, as well as a few dozen more families who attended without joining PTO. We made more than \$400 from the bake sale, and \$170 from the door. The kids had a great time and the weather cooperated beautifully.</p> <p>Tricky Tray</p> <p>The event will take place on May 4th. We will have our first committee meeting in December to decide on the theme and discuss some new ideas</p>

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	<p>that we've had. We'll talk about what worked and what didn't work. Committee members should receive an email sometime next week.</p>
<p>Nicole Moore reporting on behalf of Maria Bartman - Vice President, Committee Oversight</p>	<p>We recently held our Zumba Wellness Night. Yolanda Quinones did Zumba for everyone. We also had a relaxation room for parents to enjoy. We will have another wellness night in April Yolanda is also open to doing a more regular Zumba class, so stay tuned for that.</p> <p>Book Fair is still ongoing. We have two more days to go. So far, everything has gone quite well. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered.</p> <p>Winter Wonderland for the 7th and 8th graders will take place on December 1st. This is the same night as the Mistletoe Dance for the high school.</p> <p>Holiday Bazaar will take place December 4-8. I don't know if the Google Form has yet gone out to the teachers, but we will soon be reaching out to parents with more information about set-up and volunteer opportunities for that week. This is a fun volunteer opportunity as the kids really enjoy shopping for gifts for their family members.</p> <p>Another Family Fun Night will take place on December 21st. We will have an ornament making craft as well as a holiday movie. This will be a fun way to celebrate the holidays just before the holiday break. We will have hot chocolate, pizza, and other treats.</p> <p>On January 12, we will have a Pillow Craft night. Cassie will show us how to do finger knitting with thick yarn.</p>
<p>Tracy Kilinski - Vice President, Grade Level Oversight</p>	<p>We just went through Halloween and nothing really went wrong. If you are the team leader, please ask your parents to send in their ingredients to Mrs. North by the deadline. We cannot send that information in the night before the party since Mrs. North needs time to review.</p> <p>We will have Thanksgiving feasts for Kindergarten on 11/22. The set-up time for volunteers will be 10:30am. For the first-grade event on 11/21, parent volunteers are asked to arrive at 1:55pm. We will need two volunteers per class.</p> <p>Winter parties will take place in December. Team Leaders will receive emails well before the party date.</p> <p>One parent asked a question about pre-school events for Thanksgiving. Tracy noted that different class years do different kinds of celebrations and crafts. Pre-school doesn't do a Thanksgiving meal, but they will have other activities.</p>
<p>Heather Anderson - Corresponding Sec'y</p>	<p>Membership Update: 101 families and 85 teachers have joined the PTO. It's never too late to join. If you run into someone at the end of the year who wants to volunteer, let them know that they can join on the website.</p>

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Cassie Muratore - Corresponding Sec'y	Please join us on Facebook and take a look at our website. Our next meeting will take place on December 12 th .
Meeting Adjourned	Meeting adjourned at 7:44pm