

October PTO Minutes

October 11, 2022

Call to Order - 7:21 pm

<p>Board Members in Attendance:</p>	<p>Nicole Moore (President) Maria Bartman 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>The Fall PBSIS kickoff was held on Friday. Students had a great time, and enjoyed their visit from Captain Faber, Mr. Musson. Thanks to the PTO for their Donation and the Parent volunteers for that day.</p> <p>School Violence Awareness week will take place next week.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Monday - Wear Blue• Tuesday - Mismatch Day• Wednesday - Favorite Sports• Thursday - Superhero Day• Friday - Dunellen colors <p>Tomorrow, October 12th is Walk to School day. We will be meeting at Columbia Park and St. John's starting at 7:30am.</p> <p>Rules for Drop OFF: To ensure the safety of all students, please adhere to the following Safety Rules:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• When dropping off your student, please drive your car to the furthest point possible along the horseshoe driveway. This will eliminate a backup of traffic in the street, causing students to arrive late for school. Staff members will greet the students and direct them to their designated location. You CANNOT park your car in the horseshoe and exit your vehicle.• Students should exit the vehicle on the same side as the sidewalk.• Parking in the Main Driveway and Teachers Parking Lot is not permitted during arrival time. <p>Students not picked up by 3:15 will be assigned to the aftercare program. The fee for this will be the responsibility of the parent and must be paid directly to aftercare.</p>

Aftercare and Before Care: Before Care starts at 7:00am and Aftercare closes at 6:00pm. If you are interested, email Mr. Appello or Ms. Scolaro and they will take you through that process.

Remember that Breakfast and Lunch are not free this year. Please fill out the Lunch application online for free and reduced lunch. Breakfast starts at 7:30am, the door closes at 7:45am that entrance is at door 2.

Classroom Updates

Pre-K: Miss Burr's class is studying farms and agriculture, and completing various math, literacy and fine motor activities that coincide with their story of the week. Ms. Keen's class is working on the Letters L, E, F and H. In science, they are learning about the life cycle of bats and bones (skeletons). In math, they are learning about patterns. In Ms. Lowrey's, they are working on the letter E and making a list of "E" words. In math, they are counting pumpkin seeds and identifying numbers 1-10.

Kindergarten: Kindergarteners are learning the importance of fire safety, and making a firetruck snack and hat too. In language arts, they are identifying letter S as we explore words that start with letter "s." In Math, they are working on equal and not equal groups and "fewer" and "greater" numbers. In writing, they are discussing the importance of labels.

1st Grade: First Grade is learning digraphs and sight words. In ELA, they are working on comprehension. In Math, they are adding and subtracting within 10. In Science they are working on Sound and Light, and they presented their Instrument Project on Friday, October 14th.

2nd Grade: Second Grade is launching their Writers' Workshop and beginning to prepare for Narrative writing. They had their first Math Test of the year and did very well. In ELA, they are talking about Finding Your Way in a New Place, Memory Stories, and doing an author study on Tomi dePaola.

3rd Grade: Third Grade is working on modeling for multiplication and division, and learning strategies to understand both operations. In ELA they are reading novels that highlight great inventors such as Ben Franklin, in preparation for their Invention Convention in early November. Parents will be able to come in and see a showcase of original inventions created by the students.

	<p>4th Grade: For ELA, students are studying the following novels: <i>Frindle</i> (Mrs. Caruso), <i>The Twits</i> (Mrs. Mann), <i>Tiger Rising</i> (Mrs. McKiernan), <i>Esperanza Rising</i> (Mrs. Palmer), and <i>Homework Machine</i> (Mrs. Praul). In Math, they are working on adding and subtracting multi-digit whole numbers. In Writing, they are working on realistic fiction. In Social Studies, students will explore the lives of people who lived in the Northeast and Native Americans.</p> <p>5th Grade: The students are reading the novel <i>Shiloh</i>, which deals with how to be brave. In health, they are studying bones and the skeletal system. They are beginning to study figurative language and how authors use it to make their writing impactful. In writing, they are working on developing compare and contrast writing pieces. For science class, they have finished investigating the sun, and will now begin studying the moon and stars! They are keeping a nightly log of their observations. In Social Studies, they studied the US Constitution and have been learning about pre-colonial Native Americans.</p> <p>Updates and Upcoming Events:</p> <p>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) so that we can get the students ready for you.</p> <p>We will be doing class trips but they will be at Faber. Teachers have started reaching out to companies for them to come to school.</p> <p>Waiting for approval to go see <i>The Trial of the Big Bad Wolf</i> on november 21st. This will be for the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th grade.</p> <p>Lastly, I wanted to congratulate Mrs. Willoughby for winning the AECT Award. This award is given to media specialists who help integrate technology with general education teachers in the classroom. Mrs. Willoughby will be attending a conference in Las Vegas where she will be receiving her award.</p>
<p>Nicole Moore - President</p>	<p>Meeting called to order at 7:09pm.</p>
<p>Gwen Perdomo - Treasurer's Report</p>	<p>We had deposits for Amazon Smile fundraising, new membership, tee shirt orders, some donations for the back to school lunch.</p> <p>For deductions, we had to pay for the Kindergarten Breakfast, to order new checks, we ordered a cake for the Board of Ed meeting, and a</p>

	<p>final check for one of our scholarship winners.</p> <p>Closing balance is \$56,000</p> <p>Motion to approve by Melissa Palton. Second by Jenny Chillecky.</p> <p>The budget has been adjusted for MD classes at LMS and DHS, to provide them with funding of \$600 for small walking trips.</p> <p>There were no objections.</p>
<p>Rebecca Stark Gendrano - Minutes</p>	<p>Motion to Approve the minutes by Andrea Hidalgo.</p> <p>Second by Nicole Earnest.</p>
<p>Nicole Moore - President's Report</p>	<p>Monster Bash: Monster Bash will take place on October 29th at Faber from 2pm - 5pm. Trunk or Treat will take place from 2pm-4pm.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We still need some volunteers and donations for the event. If you want to be part of the Family Fun Committee, let us know and we will send you the sign up. ● If someone is available to do face painting, we would be glad to have your help. Simple art is just fine. We are also looking for ideas to do some new games to introduce during the event. ● High school students get volunteer hours for assisting with this event. Talk to Ms Piano if your high schooler needs hours ● We're planning to have some food venders available. <p>Tricky Tray: We are approved for the room, but still need approval for the fundraising portion of it. The tentative date is May 6th. If you are interested in being on the committee, please sign up. Meetings will start in November. Anyone interested in making donations, let us know. Donations must be unused, unopened, and unexpired.</p> <p>Family Fun Night: We are planning to do a Holiday Movie Night in early December. If you have family-friendly movie suggestions for this event, please let us know.</p>
<p>Maria Kowalik - Vice President, Committee Chair</p>	<p>Thank you for signing up for Committees. If you still want to sign up for a committee or be informed about what is going on, please let us know and we will add you to the list.</p> <p>Red Ribbon Week (October 24-28) brings awareness to Drug and Alcohol prevention.</p> <p>Book Fair (November 1-7) allows kids to buy books from Scholastic. We will set up on Halloween. We have all of the class slots, so that you can volunteer during your child's visit to the Book Fair.</p> <p>Holiday Bazaar (November 23) allows children to purchase small gifts</p>

	<p>for family and friends. The Small World Gift Shop is available all year round on the website. We will set up this event on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving.</p>
<p>Tracy Kilinski - Vice President, Grade Level Oversight</p>	<p>Current membership is 170 families and 83 teachers.</p> <p>Halloween Party (October 31st) – Please follow up with your child’s teacher if you are a team leader.</p> <p>The Team Leader Role:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● PTO is responsible for organizing four parties throughout the year: Halloween party, the Winter party, the Spring party, and the End of Year party. ● Please be sure to ask how many students are in the class, as well as what allergies are in the class. Ms. North needs to approve all food that would be brought into the classroom. ● If anyone is donating homemade goods, they need to supply Ms. North with the list of ingredients. ● We are responsible for providing snacks and baked goods, paper products, and drinks. We also need to confirm whether volunteers are needed, or if the teacher would like to have a craft or activity during the party. ● PTO parents are the only ones allowed to supply items for the classroom parties sponsored by the PTO. This is a school rule that allows us to know who is volunteering and donating to the school. ● Remember to submit the form that outlines your responsibilities. There is a sample letter that you can use to reach out to other parent volunteers in your class. ● It can be helpful to have parents sign up for the entire year, and then you just need to confirm volunteers later in the year. Team Leaders are being supplied with lists of every parent in the class who has volunteered to help with parties. We do not expect the team leader to donate everything. Please reach out to the other parents for help.
<p>Beth Willoughby - Teacher Liaison</p>	<p>Thank you for coming to Back to School Night and for supporting us at Harvest Fest.</p>
<p>Open Discussion</p>	<p>There were questions about the following during open discussion:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is it possible to have a zoom option for meetings? <i>Meetings were always held in person before the pandemic. During the pandemic, we held meetings on Zoom, but very few people attended the virtual meetings. Moving forward, we will send out a poll to determine the interest in holding meetings on Zoom. If there is sufficient interest, then we will have a Zoom option.</i>

	<p>2. If the child does not attend on a field trip day, will that absence be counted against the child? <i>Yes, children are expected to attend.</i></p> <p>3. Are food allowed for Valentine's Day and birthday parties? <i>No, there will be no food for these events. Non-food goody bags are permitted.</i></p> <p>4. Is the team leader responsible for providing gifts for the teacher? <i>No, parents may give individual gifts to their child's teacher, but the Team Leader is not responsible for providing a group gift.</i></p>
Meeting Adjourned	Meeting adjourned at 8:02pm.