Northpoint Elementary PTO – November 11, 2019

Welcome

by Jessica Nelson (PTO President) at 6:30pm in Media Center. Snacks and waters available!

Introductions

PTO Board members, School Board Representative Amy Wheaton, Principal Judi Kahoun, Teacher liaison Tammy Saladis, approximately 8 other parents

PTO Business

* Scholastic update – successful book fair with about $800 to give back to school (about the same as last year)
* Fall Party cancelled (no chairperson) and no money lost, as it doesn’t bring in money
* Movie night – Ashley Miller is chairperson, thank you!
* Weekly library helper spots still available
* Holiday Open House is our next “meeting” on December 9! Watch the weekly newsletter and Schoology for more information to come!

Presentations

**Tammy Saladis** (Teacher Liaison) – Teacher Update

* Veterans day – Each grade celebrated and honored veterans in their own way, including learning the history of the poppies, 4th graders collecting food/toiletries to be put together into care packages, and kindergartners making veteran connections with their senior friends at Edgewood.
* Power Hour – This year there are more sessions to choose from, meaning sessions had fewer kids, which was successful. Retro video games was one option, as well as yoga, tie-dye, and more!

**Principal Kahoun**

* Updates
* Conferences – On behalf of the staff, thank you for meals provided! Conferences had a good turnout of parents attending.
* Wargo Nature Center – an exciting opportunity and lots of learning so far.
* Assessment
* It’s changed since we were in school! Grading is based on progress towards and mastery of standards. Students don’t have to demonstrate knowledge the first time they’ve learned something. When we give a report card grade it is based on a student’s progress toward end of year targets.
* SLP Balanced assessment chart (on SLP website – linked here: [Balanced Assessment](https://www.springlakeparkschools.org/academics/testingassessment/balanced-assessment))
* Standardized tests: MAP starts in 2nd grade fall and spring – this assessment adjusts to the student based on correct and incorrect responses.  SLP uses the MAP assessment for monitoring spring-to-spring growth in grades 2-8. MCA starts in 3rd grade – a grade level test. Both are aligned to MN targets.
* Benchmark assessments are those assessments given to all students at a given time.
  + Summative assessments at Northpoint are given in all subjects at end of unit. This includes math (Bridges curriculum) and Houghton Mifflin (reading curriculum) end of unit assessments.
  + Common Formative Assessment – Real time assessments within the learning cycle in which teacher at a grade level use a common assessment to inform them how their students are doing and to help them plan next steps in their instruction.
* Ongoing Formative Assessment – quick quizzes, work samples, and/or observations that in which individual teachers utilize to inform themselves about student learning and their planning
* Judi shared the “**Seven Strategies of Assessment for Learning**” which educators utilize as part of their assessment practices:
* Provide a Clear and Understandable Vision of the Learning Target
* Use Examples and Models of Strong and Weak Work
* Offer Regular Descriptive Feedback – know mistake and why, aligned to target
* Teach Students to Self-Assess and Set Goals
* Design Lessons to Focus on One Aspect of Quality at a Time – one thing at a time
* Teach Students Focused Revision
* Engage Students in Self-Reflection, and Let Them Keep Track of and Share Their Learning
* Math – we want to teach and be aware of three important elements to our students’ learning: skills, problem solving and concepts, and reasoning/justification.
  + Teachers emphasize the value of making a mistake and productive struggle, which leads to deeper conceptual knowledge.
  + MCA or MAP long term data – Often when implementing a new curriculum, overall results on standardized assessment won’t be evident right away.  At times there can be a 12-36 month dip in standardized assessment scores.
* Questions
* Standardized tests, time to finish? – Yes, students given time to finish or can come back to finish. Also, teachers try to set them up for a successful test-taking environment.
* How to differentiate in math, how to go deeper? - Low floor, high ceiling tasks. Open up task, ask different questions to go deeper/higher.
* 1st time test-takers? - Teachers walk through a lot of test logistics with them first and practice what they can.
* Other questions
* Playground equipment wear and tear, and possibility of special PTO fundraiser? – PTO budget set for the year, but equipment will be looked at, and we’ll look into how/when repairs or extras could be done.
* Substitute shortage? – We could put out information again in newsletter to let people know that subs are in need and how to apply if they are interested (only need a Bachelor’s degree for short calls) (\*info already included in weekly newsletter after meeting)

\*\*Next meeting – Holiday Open House on December 9! Watch weekly newsletter and Schoology for more information to follow!

\*\*Email [nppto.president@gmail.com](mailto:nppto.president@gmail.com) or [nppto.volunteer@gmail.com](mailto:nppto.volunteer@gmail.com) for questions, ideas, or for more information on volunteering!

\*\*Follow Northpoint PTO on Facebook!

\*\* Check out twitter! **#SLPPantherProud #NPPride**

<https://twitter.com/judikahoun>

<https://twitter.com/slp_schools/lists/northpoint-elementary>

Minutes by Allie Owen, Northpoint PTO Co-Secretary