December 2023

PTO Newsletter

Message from the PTO Board: Thanks to all who supported the Book Fair last month, especially to all of the volunteers who set up, took down and staffed the fair. We appreciate all of your support to promote a love of books for SME students! The PTO would like to wish everyone a healthy and happy holiday season. See you in the new year!

New Incentive for Parent Volunteers

The PTO needs more volunteers to make our events successful. For events during the school day, like the Book Fair or Penguin Patch, a background check is required, which does have a cost of $21.95. For the remainder of the 2023/2024 school year, the PTO is further incentivizing volunteers by reimbursing the volunteer for the background check after 4 hours of volunteering at PTO events.

Volunteers do not need to be limited to parents of the students. If another family member, like a grandparent, would like to volunteer, they can sign up as well. All volunteers must follow the requirements set by the Olentangy School District: https://www.olentangy.k12.oh.us/parents-resources/volunteer-information. Background checks are good for 3 years.

Once you complete your 4 volunteer hours, please email the SME VPs with the PTO events where you volunteered, dates and the number of hours.

Note that the background checks can also be used for chaperoning class field trips, but those hours would not count towards the 4 hours required for PTO reimbursement. Hours spent supporting teachers in their classrooms are also not included.

If you have any questions about this incentive, like whether an event qualifies as a PTO event, please reach out to shalemeadowsptovp@gmail.com.

Penguin Patch – Help Needed

Penguin Patch will be running December 4th – 6th and there are still slots open to help staff the shop and tear down at the end of the event. What could be more fun than helping a 1st grader shop for Grandma? If you can give even one hour of your time, it would be much appreciated. Sign up is linked here.

PTO Dollars at Work

Award winning author and illustrator Bethany Barton visited Shale Meadows in November to share a STEM-centered presentation on topics like bees, germs, and garbage. Students loved her toilet paper web shooter that she brought along! The PTO can support these types of enrichment events, thanks to the support from the SME community through our various fundraisers.

Chairpersons needed

Interested in taking more of a leadership role at PTO events? We need chairpersons to take on several events for next school year. You can shadow the chairpersons this year and know what to do in the future. Please contact shalemeadowsptopres@gmail.com for more info or if you can help.

Upcoming Events

Dec. 2: Flower Sale Pick Up, sign up to help here

Dec. 4 – 6: Penguin Patch Shopping

Dec. 12: PTO meeting, 6:30 pm in the school library

Dec. 20 – January 2: Winter Break

2023 – 2024 PTO Officers and Contact Info

Co-Presidents	Jennifer Lukas & Kristina Quatman	shalemeadowsptopres@gmail.com
Co-VPs	Elizabeth Beach & Kate Long	shalemeadowsptovp@gmail.com
Co-Treasurers	Sarah Janka & Katie Miller	shalemeadowsptotreasurer@gmail.com

Monarchs in the Meadows, Make today Amazing!