

Pennell PTO Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 11th, 2022

Call Meeting to Order

Welcome Everyone / Introductions

Teresa Mai

Principal's Report:

Mrs. Palladino

- Impressive participation at our meetings, volunteers sending in clearances, etc
- We had a great fire drill this week, everyone out & done in less than 5 minutes. There will be a lock down drill coming up soon, teachers will discuss in advance and we will be sure to make clear that it is practice.
- Drop off & dismissal are going more smoothly, thank you
- Benchmarking testing this week
 - Some parents raised concerns about so much testing, what is it benchmarking for, etc. Mrs. Palladino agreed that it is a lot & also a loss of instruction time. She's been discussing with Dr. Kuminka & Dr. Steinhoff about why we do which benchmarks & which ones can be better utilized
- Thank you to everyone who volunteered to be a Homeroom Parent. Teachers will send out official notices. We tried to spread out parents across multiple grades if necessary, so if you're the main person for one class you won't be for another.
- PSSA reports came back, one copy was sent home with students & one copy retained by the school. If you need a copy, reach out to the office.
- Holidays/Annual Traditions
 - Mrs. Palladino reached out to teachers about what celebrations & traditions we do here at Pennell
 - She will send home info about school wide events
 - Teachers will send home info about class specific events
- Clarifications/Ongoing Topics
 - Locked classroom doors - classroom doors are generally left open during the day, but the locks are set so that when the door is fully closed, they lock.
 - Recess
 - The students have a basketball, 2 kickballs, chalk & the playground. They are rotating kickball/4 square for safety
 - There was a big discussion about whether wall ball is allowed, or was ever allowed. Some older students are upset & parents will be following up about rules/equipment/etc specific to wall ball going forward
 - Lunch
 - Lunch is 5 minutes longer this year (students can sit on one side of cafeteria which means other side can be cleaned at the same time)
 - Aides give a 10 minute warning, then 5 minutes (clean up), then the lights are dimmed for the last 2-3 minutes to settle everyone before leaving the cafeteria
 - Kitchen lights & emergency lights are still on
 - Some parents shared concerns that it's too much quiet time for the kids, it feels long, or isn't effective
 - Some parents shared that they feel the Pennell aides are much stricter than at other schools, and that sometimes students are afraid to ask for help
 - Mrs. Palladino will work on explaining the process to students, in smaller groups of necessary & also working with the aides to be more approachable,

Teacher Representative's Report:

Mrs. Carlin & Mrs. Irving

- Thank you for the book fair donations & supply vouchers!
- There is a movable white board now available for the outdoor classroom, or other needs.
- Please make sure if you send money in with your student (book fair, pretzel day, pen's den) it is labeled in an envelope or baggie
- Wear your Pennell shirts tomorrow (10/12)
- Teachers will sign up for Fall Fest
- Asked about indoor recess kits - Amy Kusen will send out an email next week to work on supplies needed

Treasurer's Report:

Nicole Pharaoh

- See PDF

Business:

1. Membership
 - Thank you! Nicole Pharaoh is finalizing the list to send to Jenn Fisher to publish
2. Book Fair
 - Thank you to volunteers & all the support. We were able to get at least 2 books for every classroom (some still need to be ordered) & a book for most specialists.
 - We earned \$1500 cash & over \$700 in Scholastic Dollars, to use for classrooms & students who may not be able to shop otherwise - thank you to Mrs. Palladino for handing out those certificates & to teachers for helping their students. Working on having more volunteers involved in the Spring
 - The Spring Fair will be in May, it is Buy One Get One Free!
 - Amy asked if parents would prefer less "junk" (school supplies, journals, books with rocks/claws/toys) & most people said yes so we will work to limit that in the Spring. We do want to bring back the bookmarks, as they are inexpensive.
 - Please send feedback or questions to Amy Kusen & Kim Gallagher. We can't fix problems if we don't know about them.
3. Spirit Wear Sale
 - Orders will come home with your student the week of 11/4. If the order is a surprise, please let us know or let your teacher know so they can help make arrangements
4. Homecoming/Yearbook
 - Parade was great turn out & lots of fun
 - Please send any photos to yearbookpennell@gmail.com
5. Pen's Den
 - This Thursday - please send change & small bills!
6. Little Caesars Pizza Fundraiser
 - Orders due 10/26, pick up orders at school the week of 11/14
 - 2 flyers came home, please use the info on the WHITE FLYER
7. Fall Fest (this committee met after the full meeting, but these are the things discussed)
 - Please send in money for wristbands, donate nut-free candy or non-candy favors
 - Wristbands will come home Wednesday
 - Need more families to sign up for Trunk Contest (\$10/car)
 - Brittany Weichert suggested we do a tent tunnel rather than the maze (could be easier to set up, less destroyed by students?)
 - Brandi Radico is working on photo backdrop (balloon arch, hay bales, pumpkins)
 - DJ will be set up down on the soccer field like last year
 - Games - candy guessing jar, 50/50 tickets, guess the pumpkin weight
 - Class photos before the Treat Trail
 - Schedule will come home with wristbands
 - DJ will call each class (just mention photo, not trail)
 - Other activities - 2 inflatables, face paint (SV Art students), tattoos, crafts, lawn games, Katrina Hall will do some dance activities

- Maybe change layout this year - do photos near the building, trail across the field & inflatables closer to Pennell Road side of field?
- We need more volunteers for set up & supervising high school volunteers that night
 - Possible committee chairs for next year - Brittany, Jen, Brandi?
- 8. Garden/Outdoor Classroom
 - Jenn Fisher shared that Avery suggested Pennell PRIDE take it on
- 9. Fifth Grade Information
 - Committee met tonight, no updates
- 10. Questions

SAVE THE DATES

10/12 Pennell Day- wear yellow shirts

10/13 Pen's Den

10/21 Fall Fest (rain date 10/28)

10/26 Little Caesar's Due

11/7 & 11/8 No School

11/14 Little Caesars Delivery Week

11/15 PTO Meeting

11/16 Picture Make-up Day

11/21, 11/22, 11/23 Half Days

11/24 & 11/25 No School

12/5 & 12/6 Holiday Shop

12/8 Winter Concert

12/23 Half Day

12/24-1/2 Winter Break

Thank you so much for coming out tonight. We appreciate your support!

Any questions please email us @ pto4pennell@gmail.com

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Follow us on TWITTER @Pennell PTO

Visit us on the web <https://www.pdsd.org/Domain/620>

Join PTO & our school DIRECTORY

<https://bit.ly/PTOmembership22-23>



Become a VOLUNTEER

<https://bit.ly/Pennellvolunteers22-23>

