

## RES PTO General Meeting November 7 @ 7 pm Zoom

*Our RES PTO: A community connected and inspired by acts of kindness*

1. **Welcome** (Haley Erdlen)
2. **RES Principal Update** (Dr. Young)

Circus was a success! Children were nervous yet proud, and together they struggled and celebrated - truly exemplifying "together we can!"

Library Open House During the Pumpkin Parade – thanks to last year’s suggestion, we held a library open house during the Pumpkin Parade, allowing extended family to join in the fun. This was a wonderful opportunity for grands to attend – the children enjoyed showing off their school!

Trunk or Treat and Class Celebrations - Trunk or treat felt like a neighborhood block party and was very successful! The class parties were also successful, thanks to our homeroom leaders for navigating allergen management. I missed the annual parade but enjoyed the photos.

Navigating Early Dismissals and In-Service Days – thank you to our families for your understanding and flexibility with early dismissals and in-service days. We recognize that these days can be challenging for families, but they are incredibly valuable to our programming. They provide us with dedicated time to focus on both academic growth and social-emotional well-being. At RTSD, continuous improvement is a core value, and these days allow us to plan, reflect and implement strategies that are aligned with the latest research and the evolving needs of our school community.

ELA Curriculum and Structured Literacy – Our ELA curriculum pilot is an example of our commitment to continuous growth. Aligned with the Science of Reading and structured literacy, we use our time to re-evaluate and evolve our instruction and assessment tools to use the most valid, reliable methods for building fluent, intentional readers. Some may wonder why we are focusing so intently on reading, given our students’ success. The truth is that even high-achieving students can have hidden gaps in foundational reading skills. Addressing these areas early on ensures that students are equipped to think critically and read with deep comprehension as they engage with increasingly complex texts in later years. Additionally, last year we introduced several new assessment tools. Rather than relying on single data points, we now use a combination of shorter assessments to provide a clearer, individualized picture of each student’s progress. Starting in the 2024-2025 school year, we discontinued the use of F&P Benchmark testing, as it didn’t fully align with structured literacy principles or the Science of Reading. Instead of focusing on “levels,” which can sometimes be misleading, we are developing each essential component of reading, providing every child with a strong foundation for reading with confidence and purpose.

Dr Recess Update - Our Dr. Recess program is off to a great start! Each week, Mr. Jack introduces a new game, offering fresh options alongside traditional play. He also visits classrooms, providing a familiar face for students. With regular feedback from Mr. Nowak, we adjust games for specific

grades or classes to ensure everyone enjoys recess to the fullest.

We've also launched "Recess Reimagined" once a week: third graders on Tuesdays, and fourth and fifth graders on Thursdays, can enjoy arts and crafts as an alternative to play. Our goal is to make recess engaging and enjoyable for all students!

Thank you once again for your continued support. I look forward to collaborating as we keep making Radnor Elementary an exceptional place for our students!

### 3. Teacher Liaisons Update (Mrs. Grady)

- Dr. Young was giving a tour yesterday and one thing she spoke about was the PTO. The PTO truly makes RES the best and a special thanks for the recently approved teacher grants
- Circus Week was great for all, especially some of the kids that don't
- We are looking forward to conferences and working hard to prepare!

### 4. District Wide Updates (Haley Erdlen)

- Update on Thanksgiving Basket Food Drive: Revising number of baskets to 120 and increasing gift cards to 175. Please donate a gift card or make a donation via credit card (link is on PTO Website). Drop Off will be Monday, 11/18 from 3 - 7 pm. Gift cards go to Front Office in PTO Basket. We will get them delivered.
  - Sign Up/Donate [HERE](#)
  - Contact Vicki Browne with questions ([vicki.browne@gmail.com](mailto:vicki.browne@gmail.com))

### 5. Update on Past Events and Fundraisers

- Circus Week (Haley Erdlen, Maureen Niles and Amy Schwarz)
  - Philadelphia Circus has been coming to RES for 10 years and it was another successful program!
- Trunk or Treat (Kristen Balotti/Dawn Lincoln)
  - Final registration tally - 306 students, 347 adults, and 28 trunks.
  - Registrations were down from last year, but pretty close to 2022 numbers.
  - Number of trunks has declined the last two years
  - Registrations raised \$690 in donations toward Thanksgiving Basket Drive from 86 families
  - Raffle raised \$270
  - DJ Nic cost \$350 (NEW DJ) – he did an acceptable job (we booked him at the very last minute because our other DJ's were not available)
  - For next year, we need to book the DJ earlier and make sure whoever it is has the ability to light up the area in front of the DJ stand and has enough volume to make announcements heard.
  - New DJ contact that has this ability is LITE THE ENTERTAINER (856)739-1770, [watchmeworkent@gmail.com](mailto:watchmeworkent@gmail.com)
  - Pizza from food services cost \$570/60 pizzas (double cut) from New Wayne Pizza. Every piece was eaten!
  - Next year, add 2 gluten free pizzas to the order
  - Candy donations were VERY MUCH used for trunks who ran out and the rest was donated to Giving Fridays
  - Suggestions for next year:
    - Make the event earlier 5:30-7:30 for more daylight for raffle/voting
    - Charge more for treating, maybe \$10 per child vs per family?
    - We need more trunks each year, to increase participation we should start social blasts earlier. Really play up the trophy? Maybe have a winner's day at school where children can bring it in for the day? Maybe carry in the school parade?
    - It was suggested that we open the lower lot for more trunks to reduce

congestion.

- Starting earlier and extending the event to 8pm
- All in all, it was a successful event! Big thanks to Dawn Lincoln for chairing it and to the entire committee: Kate Fell, Dunham Churchill, Jill Lotz, Krista Kaliner, Nyara Sanglard and Melissa Bender for all the help with PTO trunk and raffle!
- Zesto Fundraiser (Annie Lee)
  - We made \$64.18 on this fundraiser. A great way to connect with the community but not a big profit.

## 6. Update on Ongoing Events and Fundraisers

- Annual Fund (Ana Welsh)
  - Giving Tuesday is the first Tuesday in December and we will give a big push on this day
  - We will be sending home a physical piece of paper in student backpacks to advertise
- Book Fair (Alison Brayford)
  - Book fair brought excitement to school all week. Kids filled with smiles as they shop and talk about books!
  - Family events were both well attended. Thank you to families for supporting the book fair.
  - Fair ends tomorrow. Report on profit for next PTO meeting.
  - Thank you to teachers: all students have been respectful of adults and the books.
  - Thank you to volunteers who have helped students shop. Wonderful response from the community.
  - Thank you to those on book fair committee, working behind the scenes in preparation and spending a good bit of time in school this week.
  - Thank you to Ms. DeLonda: she's gone above and beyond to help in any way possible.
  - Looking for a co-chair for next year to work with me and learn the ins and outs of running the fair. Preferably someone who will be at RES for 3+ years so that person can then work with the next and so on.
- Community Outreach/Giving Fridays (Caitlin Akins, Laura Curran)
  - Giving Fridays is going well!
  - The table is looking great due to the new bulletin board and the move of lost and found to the hallway outside the lunch room
  - We have started counting the number of items that collected weekly, and we post a running total at the Giving Fridays table.
  - RES has collected 88 items to date!
  - Since Halloween, we have also collected one full shopping bag of Halloween candy.
  - There is still time to send in leftover or unwanted candy – a special bin has been placed in the lobby specifically for candy donations.
  - Looking ahead to November, we will be highlighting Thanksgiving food donations.
  - The food pantry has had increased foot traffic lately, and they value our contributions!
- 5th Grade Activities (Danielle Dehoratius and Jenna Perkins)
  - 5<sup>th</sup> grade info page [HERE](#)
  - All 5<sup>th</sup> grade families are asked to contribute \$85 to cover the cost of this year's 5<sup>th</sup> grade activities, which include the Thrillz social event, yearbook, end-of-year pool party, 5<sup>th</sup> grade recognition ceremony and gifts.

- Financial assistance is available. Please contact Sarah Casey at [sarah.casey@rtsd.org](mailto:sarah.casey@rtsd.org)
- Registration form and payment can be submitted [HERE](#)
- First 5<sup>th</sup> grade social will take place on Thursday, November 14<sup>th</sup> at Thrillz
  - Students will be bused to Thrillz
  - Parents must pick student up after the event
  - Waivers must be completed and turned in to Dr. Young no later than Friday, November 8<sup>th</sup>.
  - Waiver can be found [HERE](#)
  - Thrillz requires a physical copy at the event. No online waivers will be accepted.
  - Paper copies of the waiver are available in the office for your child to bring home.
- Spirit Gear (Bonnie Silverberg)
  - Click [HERE](#) to purchase spirit gear
  - We are working on changing over our store from summer to winter items
  - Bonnie is working with Laura to add new spirit gear items to the store
  - We had a great back-to-school rush and hope to sell more swag for the holiday season
  - All suggestions welcome!
- Musical Theater (Suzanne Bowers, Sarah Lakin)
  - Registration for musical theatre has closed
  - Annie is the musical!
  - Auditions are November 4 – November 13
  - All students who signed up for the musical will be in the show. The audition process is for the lead characters only.
  - Roles will be announced on November 21<sup>st</sup>, which is the first meeting for the entire group as a whole.
  - Rehearsals will take place at RES in the theater room and music room from 3:40 5:30pm November – February, beginning November 21<sup>st</sup>.
  - Additional musical theatre information can be found [HERE](#)
- Pretzel Fridays (Dayna Peck)
  - Every Friday
  - 432/553 students registered (78% of student body). This is up 42 students (8%) from last year.
  - In 2023, we had 390/561 students registered (70%)
  - We have been receiving great feedback from students and teachers on the new vendor

## 7. Update on Future Events and Fundraisers

- Cultural Arts (Bree Truby, Suzanne Bowers)
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> grade Rock assembly is booked
  - The rest of the programs will be announced later in the year
- Parent/Teacher Conference Meals (Kate Hoffman, Alison Brayford)
  - We will order food for staff from Zesto again this year
  - The committee will coordinate with Dr. Young by the end of the week to pick a date for the meal – either dinner on Monday, 11/25, or lunch on Tuesday, 11/26, depending on RES staff preference
  - RES teachers and staff attending the conference will be invited to make their lunch selections via a google form.
  - The menu will include a variety of salads, hot and cold sandwiches, calzones and pizza.
- Bloombox Winter Fundraiser (Annie Lee)

- This fundraiser goes until November 15<sup>th</sup>
- RES gets get 15% back
- Minted Fundraiser (Annie Lee)
  - RES PTO is partnering with Minted again this season.
  - Receive 20% off all holiday cards and gifts with our exclusive discount code: FUNDRAISERADNOR and Minted will donate 15% back to RES PTO
- Dining Out / Local Business Fundraisers (Jacob Abramwitz)
  - Plans are being finalized for a takeout night on Thanksgiving Eve. Stay tuned for details.
- Multicultural Committee/International Week (Aaron Olivo)
  - No updates at this time
- Homeroom Representatives Update (Danielle DehoraNus, Emily Quinones)
  - Homeroom Reps will receive a list of upcoming holiday parties
- Yearbook (Bonnie Silverberg)
- Read for the House (need a chair!)
  - No current chair
  - Read For the House falls at the same time as the Heart Smart Challenge...should we keep both of these? Dr. Young would love to hear feedback from parents.

#### 8. Treasurer Update (Emily Quinones)

- Pretzel Friday should net us over 10K by the end of the year
- Trunk or Treat will likely bring in about \$500
- Cultural Arts is more than halfway spent already, with the biggest piece being circus week )6K)
- 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Activities Fee and Musical Theatre typically net zero
- 12K spent on teacher grants to date
- \$5,700 spent on teachers fund to date
- Approval of Teacher Grant – Mr. Serpico is requesting a grant to support his research project. He is now requesting \$486. More information can be found [HERE](#).

#### 9. Communications Update (Melissa Zaffin-Bender, Jessica More, Steve Kerr)

- REsexpress spent out a speial thank you to the circus committee today
- Jessica More has been leading the way with our social media and doing a great job!
- Please fill out the marketing form on the RES PTO website if you are chairing an event. Form can be found [HERE](#).
- Please share RES posts and tag @radnorelementaryschoolpto when you post photos of your children at RES events on social media

#### 10. Questions/Comments/Other

#### 11. Adjourn

**Next PTO Board of Directors Meeting is Thursday, December 12<sup>th</sup> @7pm via Zoom**

**Next General PTO meeting is Thursday, January 9<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm via Zoom**