

## **PTO Zoom Meeting Minutes**

*Thursday October 8, 2020*

### **President Report-Jennifer Duff, Jennifer Coppola**

- Our presidents shared that parents and children are so happy to be back at school.
- The PTO is currently on hold, as far as events, fundraising, and activities go as well as the majority of spending. Although, we were able to purchase masks and lanyards for students and staff. The tents we purchased for outdoor use are currently on backorder, the money is earmarked for this use, we are waiting on the school to see if they still plan on ordering these.

### **Principal report-Mr. Pietrantone**

- Mr. Pietrantone thanked parents, teachers and staff for the support, making the transition back to school easy.
- The first few weeks of school teachers focused on creating classroom communities and introducing new routines.

### *School pictures*

- Pictures were taken by Lifetouch on October 13th and 14th splitting the K-3 classes between the two days and having any 4th and 5th graders in school get pictures on that day.
- Physical distancing was practiced with two camera locations, one in D wing and one in the library. Students lined up in the hall and went in one at a time.

### *Google classroom*

- Professional development and planning for grades K-5 was given on google classroom
- 3rd grade teachers will be sending home chrome books to get used to logging in at home.
- Teachers are working on being prepared and preparing students if we have to go virtual at any point.
- The district has ordered enough chromebooks to go out to all students if we go virtual. Currently we have enough for grades 3-5. Chromebooks for grades K-2 should arrive in November.

A question was asked about whether or not the current cohorts will be combined.

- The answer is definitely not in January and unsure about what will happen in the next school year.

### **Treasurer Report-Tiffany Hsu**

- The PTO supported the purchase of masks and lanyards.
- We were able to fund Mr. Morton (the animal guy) for the Kindergarten classes. He was willing to be flexible and come only when the weather is good so he can be outside the building. PPE will be used and layers will be in place to keep children and staff safe. The hope is that he will come 7 times this school year.
- We are looking to fund more in house programming for other grade levels.

- If anyone needs to be reimbursed for purchases they need to provide a receipt

#### **VP Report-Kathy Bielecki, Kylene Nungesser**

- The welcome back packet went out via email and is also on virtual backpack
- Kathy is focusing on organizing event binders to pass from chair to chair each year.

#### **Teacher Report-Mrs. Clader**

- We held our first school spirit day last week, students were encouraged to dress in their Buffalo Bills gear or red, white and blue.
- The Wellness Committee will be scheduling more spirit days soon.
- Full teacher report by grade level is attached.

#### Committees

##### **Membership/Membership Toolkit-Tiffany Hsu, Jackie Westlund**

- Membership toolkit is up and running

##### **Communications-Amy Mumbach**

- Follow ELPTO Ellicott Elementary on Facebook @ellicottpto for updates and announcements.
- To request that something gets posted on Facebook please email [amymumbach@gmail.com](mailto:amymumbach@gmail.com) with the details of your request.

##### **Garden & Grounds-Sue McNeill**

- Sue and her family went to the school after hours to do a lengthy fall clean up around the pond. There is still more that could be done. Looking into other options to get this taken care of.
- Also looking into our options with the pond because of the expensive upkeep.

##### **Mentorship Program-Caren Chaffee, Erin Mastroianni**

- The Mentorship program is underway to benefit new 1st-5th grade families providing a 1:1 mentorship experience with a current Ellicott family at the same grade level.
- This will be a resource for all those last minute questions about day to day school operations.
- All questions are being kept track of for a frequently asked question page on the BET webpage.
- It was suggested to include a teacher directory for new families.
- To enter the mentorship program as either a new family or as a mentor there is an application. Families may list a family that they are familiar with if they have a preference to be matched with them.
- An email with more information will be sent out soon.

##### **Apparel Program-Gina Stavisky, Adam Markel**

- Looking into estimates from Vineyard and Vines as well as Mary from Finishing Stitches.

- Mary let us know that setting up online orders and getting apparel shipped to home is an option.
- Also looking to have masks available for purchase.

#### Events/Activities

##### **PTO on Pause-Jennifer Duff, Jennifer Coppola**

- There is very little that we can do at this time
- Buildings are off limits for all outside groups
- No fundraisers can take place at this time including Square One Art
- Looking into more virtual options such as a flipgrid costume parade, science week with prerecorded experiments and presentations from teachers, also a virtual book fair
- Things we can do: the apparel sale, mentorship program, masks and lanyards for students, Mr. Morton

##### **Picture Day (10/13 & 10/14)**

- No parent volunteers this year

##### **Box Tops**

- Online program only.
- Box Tops can be submitted virtually by scanning receipts.
- No class challenges

#### Representatives

##### **BET Update-Caren Chaffee, Jennifer Duff**

- Focused on getting the mentorship program up and running and organizing

##### **Board of Education-Carrie Stromecki**

- No update at this time

#### In other news

The PTO lost an amazing member and woman with the passing of Marisa Beechler. Her and her family are at the forefront of our thoughts. She will be remembered for her big heart and the kindness that she shared with everyone she met.

**Please email [elptopresident@yahoo.com](mailto:elptopresident@yahoo.com) with any questions or concerns or to receive the Zoom link for the next PTO meeting (date and time TBA).**



## October Teacher Notes: PTO Meeting

### **Kindergarten:**

Our Kindergarteners are off and running! We have been very busy practicing our daily routines. We just finished up Colors and Alphabet Boot Camp, which was a quick review of our letters. It was also great to meet/see the parents during our Virtual Open House last week. We have kicked off Readers Workshop with Read About the World or nonfiction books and look forward to exploring apples, Fall, and Columbus Day. Our Kiddos were so excited to meet Mr. Morton and his goats too!

### **First Grade:**

Our first month of school has gone by quickly! We want to thank the PTO for the terrific masks and lanyards! We're working on becoming "Avid Readers" through our readers workshop lessons. In Writers Workshop, we're writing "small moment" stories. In math we've been working on counting sets to 30 and adding and subtracting up to 20. This week is "Fire Prevention Week", so we're learning all about fire safety! We also completed a social studies unit on Rules and Laws. This month we're enjoying learning all about Fall!

### **Second Grade:**

We've been busy! It is so wonderful to be back in school! The students and their families have been wonderful. The kids are being rockstars about wearing their masks. We are "Meeting Characters" in our reading unit, writing about "Small Moments" and working with so many numbers, time and money in math. Science experiments and Social studies units on communities round out our schedule. We have hit the school year running and going full speed ahead!

### **Third Grade:**

We are excited to be back in school full time! In reading we have been working hard at building a reading life and making reading the best experience for ourselves. We just finished reading Stone Fox and learned how powerful literature can be. It's a story that we'll remember forever! In math we're working hard on our multiplication. We're learning different strategies for solving facts and gaining a deep understanding of the meaning of multiplication. In Social Studies we're learning basic map and geography skills. We're also excited to have our very own chromebooks this year! We've been working very hard on them and learning how to use them independently.

**Fourth Grade:**

The kids are doing a great job adjusting to learning in a hybrid model. They have really been impressing us with all their hard work both in school and at home!

Reading: We're working on our fiction unit, which involves reading intensely to grow ideas, deciding if a book is the right fit right now, sharing book recommendations to build a class community, summarizing to cement understanding, and envisioning, or making mental movies in our minds.

Math: We are in the world of multiplication! We are busy building arrays, finding factors & multiples, determining if numbers are prime or composite, and even working on multiplicative comparison. These kids are math superstars!

We are so happy to be in school with our 4th graders!

**Fifth Grade:**

We are trying our best to provide students with meaningful activities while in school and out during their remote learning days. We have started our DARE program with Officer Mazur providing weekly videos for the kids to check out. Our first unit in Reader's Workshop focuses on becoming the best reader you can be with lessons that surround being engaged, summarizing and making friends with your character. Our math lessons are focused on two digit by two digit multiplication and SS is looking at the geography of the Western Hemisphere.

**Specials:**

**K-2 library:** we're planning on going outside as long as it's dry so please keep sending your kids in with warm clothes.

**3-5 library:** we have started to check out books to the 3-5 kids. The goal is to see every 3-5 class once a month. Because of the long time between each visit we are allowing the students to take out up to 10 books. Also the books aren't due back for a month.

Remote Learners: we started including some books with the bi-weekly take home bundles. This pickup it was only our Kindergarteners but we hope to get to everyone soon.

**Physical Education:**

We have been working on some new Fall Fitness Challenges with grades 3-5 and locomotor skills / spatial awareness and some modified fitness activities with our lower grade levels. Also, the Play 60 / Fitness for Kids program kicked off on Monday, October 5th. The program which is provided by

independent health and sponsored by the NFL (Buffalo Bills) provides monthly wellness challenges throughout the school year and prizes for highest participating schools, classrooms and students.

### **Art:**

Miss Ebling's art classes have spent September refreshing their knowledge of line in art. Kindergarten students have been introduced to the color spectrum as well as many types of line. These young artists have created "line roller coasters" by manipulating paper strips into different lines to form a sculpture resembling a roller coaster. They are also underway with watercolor painting! Miss Ebling's 1st-5th grade students are now working on autumn themed projects, including still life artwork and clay sculptures. You can see what's happening in art class by visiting @Ellicott\_Artists on Instagram!

### **September Computer Classes @ Ellicott Elementary**

This year I am coming to all K-2 classes with a Chromebook cart. Each one is sanitized before each use. Gr 3-5 are using their own Chromebooks.

**Kindergarten:** In September we worked on using a mouse, logging in using our QR code, finding a shortcut on the toolbar, and opening programs. We accessed Starfall through Clever. Starfall is a site that helps students with both reading and math skills. We worked on using the letter blocks, the color activities and listened to some Math songs. If you are logged in to your student's Google account, you can access Starfall on their Kindergarten shortcut. Click the sign button on Starfall to access all of the games. The login information is saved for them.

**First Grade:** We logged in using our QR code, created some shortcuts in the toolbar, logged in to Teach Your Monster to Read and joined all of our Google classrooms. Parent letters are going home soon for Teach your Monster... This site (and many others) can be accessed on my Teacher Page ([mrsstott.com](https://mrsstott.com)) in the Grade 1 Grade 2 page. If you are logged in to your student's Google account, you can access your student's shortcuts and saved usernames/PWs.

**Second Grade:** We logged in using our QR code, created some shortcuts in the toolbar, and logged in to all of our Google Classrooms. We used Keyboarding Zoo from Abcya.com to remind us to use 2 hands while typing (right hand on the right, left hand on the left). This site (and many others) can be accessed on my Teacher Page ([mrsstott.com](https://mrsstott.com)) in the Grade 1 Grade 2 page. If you are logged in to your student's Google account, you can access your student's shortcuts and saved usernames/PWs.

**Third Grade:** We learned how to log in to our Chromebooks, logged in to all of our Google Classrooms, created a few bookmarks/shortcuts and renamed them as well. We also discussed the Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) and the proper use of our Chromebooks. We reviewed how to type using the proper fingers on the home keys. We will begin using Typing.com. A parent letter will be going home soon about Typing.com and how they can practice at home.



**Fourth Grade:** We learned how to log in to our Chromebooks, logged in to all of our Google Classrooms, created a few bookmarks/shortcuts and renamed them as well. We also discussed the Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) and the proper use of our Chromebooks. We reviewed how to type using the proper fingers on the home keys. Students should be practicing Keyboarding for 5- 10 mins at a time, always using the home row position.

**Fifth Graders:** We learned how to log in to our Chromebooks, logged in to all of our Google Classrooms, created a few bookmarks/shortcuts and renamed them as well. We also discussed the Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) and the proper use of our Chromebooks. We reviewed how to type using the proper fingers on the home keys and began using Typing.com. Students should be practicing Keyboarding for 5- 10 mins at a time, always using the home row position.





