

PTO MINUTES April 4, 2019

Board Members Present: Caren Chaffee- President, Liane Roy- Vice-President, Jennifer Duff- Parent Volunteer Coordinator, Erin Mastroianni- Secretary

Welcome

Meeting called to order at 2:03.

President's Report *Caren Chaffee*

Thank yous were received for the PTO from students. Nominations for 2019-2020 are out. Paper format may be available starting tomorrow. Email Caren Chaffee and Erin Mastroianni if you are interested. A list of vendors we've liked working with has been started and is available in a google doc. Tiffany Hsu and some others are working on new items for the library from the PTO. Next year we will have a new event to replace Movie Night, Get Active! We are welcoming ideas and are looking for two people to chair this event.

Principal's Report *Mr. Pietrantone*

State assessments have wrapped up in ELA for grades 3-5. Ellicott continued with paper copies of the exam so we did not experience the computer issues. On April 18 a relocation drill is being planned. The students will be dismissed by class to the Middle School, enter the auditorium, then be released by bus back to Ellicott. There will be no volunteer sign ups before 11am on April 18.

Teachers' Report *Mrs. Hackford*

Kindergarten:

Wow! We can't believe it is April! Our Kindergarten children are thrilled to be able to enjoy the playground again! In Reader's Workshop, we will be starting a new unit called "Becoming Avid Readers". In Math, we've been busy learning about 3D shapes and we will soon be learning more about addition and subtraction. In Writing, we have been focusing on correct sentence structure and editing our work. Mr. Morton is visiting us upon our return from Spring Break. In

looking ahead, we are excited that Kindergarten Orientation is just around the corner on May 6th and 7th. Our current students will be busy practicing a few songs to sing to our new incoming Kindergartners at Orientation. Thank you to the PTO for assisting us with the cost of our field trip to the Theatre of Youth to see the play "Dragons Love Tacos," which will be on May 15th!

First grade recently held their annual "Wild Animal Night." Over the past month, students have been busy writing non-fiction chapter books about animals, writing poetry, creating Google slides shows, building clay animals and more! All was on display for families to see at Science Night! First grade also enjoyed listening to Alicia Klepeis speak.

Second grade wants to thank the PTO for funding the buses for our field trip to New Era Field! We had such a great time and made lots of memories! They also LOVED the Author Visit and Science Night!

In March, the **3rd graders** enjoyed a lovely production of "The Jungle Book" at the TOY. We would like to thank the PTO for their generosity in helping to make that field trip possible.

In ELA, the 3rd grade classes just finished our test prep unit. The unit focused on a review of all of our reading workshop strategies from the year. Next week we will be starting our nonfiction unit on Research Clubs. In math, our 3rd graders are working on fractions this month. The content varies this month for Science, Social Studies, and Writing. Each class is at different learning points with regard to those subjects.

As the weather turns warmer, we hope to get outside more often. Please make sure your children are prepared for the weather.

The **4th grade** students have done an AMAZING job with our test preparation and are ready to rock the assessment! A BIG thank you to the parents for their support and also to the kids for working so hard. We're about to move into our Historical Fiction book club unit and are excited to learn strategies for reading a new genre. We also had an amazing time with Alicia Klepeis. She was interesting, fun, and we learned a lot about how to write exciting stories. Thank you PTO for all that you do to make our school fun and exciting!

The **Fifth grade** classes would like to extend a huge thank you to the PTO for the field trip to TOY and for the Subway lunch afterward. The kids truly enjoy having the chance to mix and mingle as a whole grade level and the lunch after allows them time to do that. Science night was a great chance for the kids to show off what they've been working on with regard to our Smithsonian Science unit on Getting Freshwater to People in Need. We look forward to wrapping up the State Assessments and delving into historical fiction in our Reader's Workshop unit.

March in Computer Lab: Many of the sites I mention can be found at my website: www.mrsstott.com.

Kindergarten:

We visited NetSmartzKids.org to learn how to keep ourselves safe near strangers. "Clicky" taught us how to "Know the Rules" and "Beat the Tricks". We also began coding using a drag and drop program called "Blockly". We used Code.org and followed lessons that taught us how to click the blocks together to make the characters move.

First Grade:

We worked hard to finish our Animal Research Projects. We created a class slide show using everyone's slides. We hope you enjoyed the presentation at Science Night! We also started using our Blue Bots! We are "programming" the bots to move around a grid. We press directional buttons to move the bot from one square to another. Ask your child about it.

Second Grade:

We are still working on the Pixie project about communities: urban, rural and suburban. We have been using many different Pixie tools to create pictures of the different communities and writing about what you would see in those communities. We should be finishing this soon and sending the completed books home.

Third Grade:

We used Graph Club 2.0 to create a pictograph and a bar graph. We created a question, collected data, labeled our graphs, and entered our data. We then answered questions about our printed graphs. We also watched a "Clicky" video about using good "Netiquette". We had great discussions on what to do if someone they are online with does not use good Netiquette.

Fourth grade:

We had lots of fun using our Lego WeDo 2.0 robotics kits. They made a Spy Robot and Milo the Science Rover. Then they were able to choose and experiment with other more challenging activities. They had to be good problem solvers and work together as a group. They did a great job!

Fifth Grade:

We had lots of fun using our Lego WeDo 2.0 robotics kits. They made a Spy Robot and Milo the Science Rover. Then they were able to choose and experiment with other more challenging activities. They had to be good problem solvers and work together as a group. They did a great job!

Parent Volunteer Coordinator's Report Jennifer Duff

Thank you for taking the time to come to the meetings and for your time. Please come to the Volunteer breakfast April 5.

Committees

Communications: Email/Newsletter/Social Media *Liane Roy, Caren Chaffee*

Deadline for submissions to the newsletter is April 8.

Wrap Up Reports

Authors Visit March 18-22 *Barb Lesh, Brigid McCann*

It went really well. The author sent a thank you note and stated this was her best school visit yet. She loved staying in the AirBnB. Book orders were delayed due to a miscommunication. Next year we will need a more clear plan of who is in charge of the book order.

Science Night (3/28) *Seshi Campbell, Kristi Crawford, Laurin Derrick, Kim Murray*

Was a blast. About 660 attendees, not including volunteers. 2 businesses also sponsored the night(Calspan and Gibson, McAskill & Crosby, LLC). A very huge thank you to the many people who helped, including the custodians, office staff, parents, teachers, and middle school and high school students. Many businesses and organizations donated their time. Feedback is welcome to Seshi Campbell or Krissy Crawford. Check in was done via chromebook. It went smoothly and first graders were checked in by their teachers in the classroom.

Upcoming Events and Activities

Spring Chocolate Sale (4/12 pickup) *Amy Mumbach and Tina Bauer*

Totals for the school were \$15824.50. So a profit of \$8267. Parent pickup is 4/12 from 3-630pm. Flyer will be distributed next week with the winners of the Target gift card and pick up reminder. We will need 1-2 volunteers Thursday evening and more for Friday.

Spring Book Fair (5/9-5/10) *Alexis Knavel, Jackie Westlund*

Will be through Book Outlet and More because tax is waived and it was last minute. Larry and his help handle the money. We will need a box of Ziplocs and Sharpie to send kids home with their labeled change. This will be in conjunction with the Art Show. Further discussion ensued about how to handle parents who may want to donate books to their child's classroom.

Staff Appreciation Luncheon (5/10) *Lauren Russo, Erica Wahl*

Will be catered by the Poppyseed. Some volunteers are needed. Also, there will be fun activities going on that week to show appreciation.

Representatives

BET Update *Erin Mastroianni, Kathy Bielicki, Paul Pietrantone*

We discussed a survey for entering Kindergarten families. A presentation and discussion on safe allergy practices occurred.

Board of Education *Julie Marzolf, Paul Pietrantone*

Budget was presented on Tuesday. The Powerpoint is on the website. There are some gaps/reductions but not anticipated at the elementary level.

Meeting adjourned. Next PTO meeting is Thursday, May 16 at 2pm.

Minutes submitted by Erin Mastroianni