

ELLICOTT PTO MINUTES

May 9, 2018

Board Members Present: Caren Chaffee- President, Jessica Merry- Treasurer, Erin Mastroianni- Secretary, Jennifer Duff- Parent Volunteer Coordinator

Meeting called to order by Caren Chaffee at 6:35pm.

Special Presentation- *Jeffrey Petrus, Assistant Superintendent for Business and Support Services, 2018-2019 District Budget*

Next Tuesday, May 15, is the vote for the School Board and Budget for 2018-2019. On April 1, NYS adopted its budget with little increase for Orchard Park Schools. The budget for the following year relies on using the tax cap, fund balance and reserves. Please come out to vote!

President's Report- *Caren Chaffee*

Congratulations to our Volunteer of the Year, Nicole Curtis. The dinner is June 6 at 6pm and sign ups to attend are in the Virtual Backpack. All 4 Central Council positions are available for next year. The outside sign is up and still needs some wiring to be operational. The transportation breakfast is coming up and will probably need help with backing, etc. The PTO board is in the process of creating a survey via Survey Monkey to be sent to all members, staff, and teachers regarding PTO events this year.

Principal's Report- *Mr. Pietrantone*

This is the last PTO meeting of the year and thank you to the board and everyone here. Thank you also to Mrs. Curtis for her volunteer efforts. Science night was amazing. The staff appreciation events are really appreciated. Math assessment is now completed. It's a busy month at Ellicott with field trips, concerts, Kindergarten orientation. There is a large Kindergarten class for this upcoming school year. Fast Bridge screening is now underway. Fun Days begin May 22. Art Splash displays will be on at the Orchard Park library so go check it out. May 25 is a half day for Staff development. Happy Mother's Day!

Treasurer's Report- *Jessica Merry*

See report. There are many outstanding expenses because of upcoming field trips. All are basically within budget or under budget. It helped to have the vice-Presidents reach out to all event co-chairs and explain the budget and process of purchasing items for events.

Teachers' Report - *Mrs. Silver, Mrs. Hackford, Mrs. Clader*

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

Kindergarten:

We used **Pixie 4** to create a booklet about the 4 seasons. Students used clip art to dress up a child for the season on each page. This took many weeks and they did a great job! We also started to use a program called "**Clifford Phonics**". The students are using sight words and rhyming words to create a float for a parade at the end of a carnival.

First Grade:

We used **Pebble Go** to research an animal. Mrs. Senn came into the Computer Lab to help us take notes on what we learned about our animal. Then we used our notes and **Google Slides** to create a slideshow for our Science Night festivities. They all did a super job!! We are working on a secret project for Mother's Day right now. Shh!

Second Grade:

We used **Code.org** to learn about coding. I am amazed how quickly they caught on to it. They can access this anytime at home by visiting the Grade 2 page on my website (bottom right). We are now starting to learn about using the home row and typing using the proper fingers. We'll go slowly with this for the rest of the year. We are using **Typing.com**. Students can also access this at home if they like. They need to use their 900# and redd to login. When using it at home, they need to go slow and remember to use the "home row" position at all times.

Third Grade:

We used **Code.org** to learn about coding. They are really good at this. They can access this anytime at home by visiting the Grade 3 page on my website (bottom right). We also 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 graphs. We are now using **Google Docs** to write an acrostic poem about spring. We'll be starting a project about butterflies soon.

Fourth grade:

We used **Code.org** to learn about coding. They really are good at this. They can access this anytime at home by visiting the Grade 3 page on my website (bottom right). We also used a program called "**Virtual Labs Electricity**". We had to create 3 working circuits: a simple circuit, a series circuit, and a parallel circuit. We then used part of the **nys.gov** site to research fun facts about New York State. We learned how to use "**Google Classroom**" to get our assignment and to hand it in. No paper touched our hands. Cool!

Fifth Grade:

We went into our **Google Drive** to organize our files. We created folders, checked for and/or deleted untitled documents and made our drive ready for use next year in 6th grade. We also used **Code.org** to continue coding. They really are good at this. They created their own sports games that other students can play. They shared them using **Google Classroom**. They can access this anytime at home by visiting the Grade 5 page on my website (bottom right). We then learned more about Internet Safety by using **Interland** and **FBI: Cyber Surf Islands**.

An update from the Music Room:

Kindergarten and First Grade students have been learning about instruments of the orchestra and studying a famous collection of orchestral pieces entitled "Carnival of the Animals." They have been learning to describe the various songs with music words and dance to the pieces with movement activities and song games.

Kindergarten students are now moving on to their end of the year celebration songs, chants and movements.

First graders will be performing a waltz from the Carnival of the Animals at their Mother's Day Tea classroom events. The first graders are about to start work on using "ostinati" or repeated musical patterns to accompany simple songs and chants.

The 2nd graders have been doing a Mariachi unit. They learned a mexican folk dance, learned about the instruments, costumes and rhythms used in Mariachi music, and now they are learning to sing De Colores in Spanish.

The 3rd graders wrapped up their recorder unit and are now covering some of the Mariachi material, as well.

4th and 5th graders are working on American folk songs and dances and have begun a square dancing unit. The students are having fun with the movements and the silly songs like "Old Dan Tucker" and "Bought Me a Cat."

We will soon announce next year's musical to the 4th graders and spend a lesson or two learning about the story, characters, and music.

The 5th graders will begin learning a graduation song for their end of the year celebration.

In the last few weeks of school, all K-5 students will be learning a school-wide dance to our Olweus theme song, "Give Love" by Andy Grammar. We will perform the dance, together, at our Rachel's Challenge celebration and I'm looking into the possibility of organizing a "flash mob" somewhere in Orchard Park so that we can "Give Love" in our community!

K-5 students will also be singing patriotic songs in music class as we head toward Memorial Day, Flag Day and the 4th of July.

The Spring Concert is Thursday, May 10th. There will be a performance for the school in the morning and a 7pm concert at the high school. We have 123 4th and 5th graders participating in chorus! They will be sharing the concert with the Ellicott Orchestra.

That's what's happening in the music room! We've had a great year and I'm so happy to be here at Ellicott. I look forward to all of the musical adventures to come. :) Mrs. Holden

What's Happening in the Art Room..

Our **Kindergarten artists** are creating ceramic music makers which will be used in music class to create music with Mrs. Holden or Mrs. Glasgow!

First Grade artists are incorporating weaving into a cut paper still life/collage.

Hundertwasser is the environmental artist/architect who is the inspiration for our **Second Grade artist's** fun and imaginative landscapes.

Third Graders are studying the life cycle of the butterfly. Our artists are creating butterflies using Andy Warhol's symmetrical blotting technique and pastels.

Painted weavings created by our **Fourth Grade artists** are beautiful.

Beautiful repoussé, inspired by the work of Georgia O'Keeffe are being created by our **Fifth Grade artists** and will be on display at **Rider Frames and Gallery** in Orchard Park. (*Date will be finalized soon.*)

With a heavy heart I share this news...

Because of a parking problem, ***Music in May*** has been moved to the High School.

The ***4th and 5th Grade Art Show*** which has always accompanied this event, will no longer be taking place.

On a brighter note...

The following students will proudly represent Ellicott Elementary at ***ArtSplash***, the K-12 district art show, Friday May 18th at the Op Public Library @ 7:30. (Show continues until June 10th)

Lily Suda, Ava Barone, Leela Clerica, Tate Starosielec, Michael Holden, Graham Stavisky, Zoë Curtis, Caroline Brady, Ellianna Meehan, Sadie Bellinger, Jayden Bruzgul, Ethan Ford, Sophia Bystrak, Ryan Coyle, Abigail Thorpe, Michael Oldman, McKenzie McCann, and Katie Gourlay

Thank you for all you do to support the arts and encourage your children!

Be creative and have fun!

Mrs. Benes

CLASSROOM NEWS

Kindergarten news

Kindergarten will see Mr. Morton twice this month (due to a schedule change from NYS testing) he brought rabbits and will be bringing tortoises next week. We have been busy with our songs for Kindergarten orientation, which was a huge success. This month we are completing some top secret work for moms and continuing to build our math and reading skills as well. We are

also going to TOY to see Stellaluna on 5/17. Thank you to the PTO for their generous support of our field trip.

First Grade

The month of May is moving fast. First grade is busy planning their Mother's Day tea. We are also getting ready to enjoy Zoomobile and a trip to the Buffalo Museum of Science. (Thanks PTO) The teachers are performing running records to see how much their students have grown as readers this year. We are fine tuning our math and language arts skills to prepare us for the challenges of SECOND GRADE! The year maybe coming to a close but first grade is still working hard!

Grade 2:

- Second grade will be taking a field trip to Tifft Nature Preserve this month. Classes are going on separate dates to accommodate the tours there.
- Also, on Friday, May 18th students are going to the Theatre of Youth to see *Stellaluna*. This is in place of the field trip we were scheduled to go on in December that was snowed out. Thank you **VERY** much to the PTO for their support to make these trips happen.
- Our second grade Fun Day is scheduled for Monday, June 4th. Afterward, we will have our 2nd grade picnic. Parents are asked to bring a lunch and a blanket and eat outside on the grass or tennis courts after Fun Day wraps up. It's always a very fun time!

Third grade has been enjoying learning about butterflies and is excited for our visit by Mr. MacRoy the "butterfly guy" this month. We will also be revisiting our Rocks and Minerals unit when we go exploring at Penn Dixie in Hamburg later this month! Thank you to the PTO for helping to support both the in-school and away from school field trips. They add so much to our curriculum.

We will be continuing our research unit in ELA and in June work on an If-Then unit. For our math curriculum, we will finish up geometry and then work on 2 and 3 step word problems. Making sense of what the word problems are asking is part of the process. Please encourage your child's persistence in solving them!

Fun Day is May 23rd this month at the high school! We hope you can join us for some fitness fun and games!

Fourth Grade is looking back on what a wonderful job their students did on the ELA and Math state tests. We are so very proud of the dedication our students had in preparing for them, in the perseverance they showed in sitting through them, and in working hard until the very last day! We are excited now to be looking forward, as May is such a busy month! Next week we head to Fort Niagara on a grant-funded field trip. Thank you to PTO for fronting the costs that will be paid back after the field trip is complete! In the final weeks of May we look forward to FUN day on the 24th, and a full day in Mumfords to finish out the month! In Science, we are

beginning a crawfish unit! Tanks and crawfish are to be delivered this week. The kids love the hands-on nature of this new unit! The Science performance test will take place on May 23rd, Thanks again for a great year PTO!

5th Grade is getting excited about end of year activities. We will have the Middle School Counselor speak to our students on Friday about what to expect for next year. Darien Lake day is fast approaching on June 11th. All parents are welcome to attend. Our 5th Grade Recognition Day is June 18 @ 9:30.

Parent Volunteer Coordinator's Report- *Jennifer Duff*

We are still getting some volunteer forms in for field trips, etc. Fun day popsicles have been purchased. Room parents will start getting in touch with parents for end of the year teacher gifts.

Wrap-Up Reports

-Science Night *Liz Duckham, Nicole Avitahl-Curtis, Seshi Campbell, Krissy Crawford*

Was a great success. Approximately 650 attendees, 300 Ellicott students. First grade class had the most attendees with about 100 students. There were 12 outside exhibitors. Thank you to everyone who volunteered their time.

Reports on Upcoming Events

-Staff Appreciation Lunch *Erica Wahl, Lauren Russo* Will be on Friday 5/11 and catered by the Poppysseed Restaurant. The week has been well-received by the teachers.

Updates

-Box Tops *Tiffany Hsu*

We just received a check for approximately \$500.

-BET Update *Erin Schneckenberger, Erin Mastroianni*

Goal setting for 2018/2019 was discussed.

-Board of Education- *Ren Choroser*

There was a budget forum last night. Vote is on Tuesday May 15.

VOTE

-2018/2019 PTO Positions

There was a motion to approve the PTO slate for 2018/2019 by Jessica Merry. The motion was seconded by Mary Claire Vivian. The ayes had the motion and the vote carries.

-2018-2019 PTO Budget

There was a motion to approve the PTO budget for 2018/2019 by Jennifer Duff. The motion was seconded by Lindsey Clader. The ayes had the motion and the vote carries.

Meeting adjourned. Minutes respectfully submitted by Erin Mastroianni, Secretary.