

PTO Meeting Minutes 3-2-17 6:30PM

Board Members Present: Tracy Brege, President, Karen Laudico, Parent Volunteer Coordinator, Jessica Merry, Treasurer

Tracy Brege called meeting to order at 6:31PM.

Special Thanks to Liane Roy for taking notes at the meeting!

President's Report- Tracy Brege

OPFAE annual Volunteer of the year dinner is June 7th – look for RSVP form in newsletter if you would like to attend. Anyone wishing to submit a name for our Ellicott Volunteer of the year should do so by March 15th.

We are looking to begin the nomination process to fill our PTO board and many chair positions for next year. Nominations process was explained.

Labels for Education will be submitted at the end of March. Send in any remaining soup labels you have. This will be our final submission as Campbell's is phasing out the program, and will no longer accept them.

Principal's Report- Mr. Pietratone

Thanked the PTO for approving purchases and for the DARE donation

Thanked all parents who helped with the Operetta!

Curriculum update – Grades 3-5 Readers Workshop – Literacy coach working hard with teachers and students.

Investments have been made in classroom libraries. Grades K-2- Some classrooms have started, all teachers trained in May, by next year all classrooms will do readers workshops.

Fall 2017- New science standards (next generation) new BOCES kits coming

Band and Orchestra concerts next week

Conference day next Friday.

3/10 at 3:15 report cards will be available on the portal.

ELA Assessments last week of March (Master schedule changes for whole school for the week during testing)

Treasurer Report –Jessica Merry

Highlights numbers are all new additions. Getting ready to create next school years PTO budget.

Teachers Report- Mrs. Silver

Kindergarten News Mr. Morton brought hedgehogs for us in February. They were adorable and we learned so much about the life of a hedgehog.

We are working enjoying our stories unit and some of us will be starting seasons and weather soon.

In math, we are working with addition and subtraction with a very fun Dr. Seuss theme! We can't wait for Thursday.

We learned about President's Day and read non-fiction books about George Washington and Abraham Lincoln

Our 100th day was a huge success. We had so much fun with centers with the help of our great parents.

We continue to have our Olweus Class Meetings focusing on being a good friend to those around us by saying kind words and understanding and welcoming differences.

We have worked hard with our Orton lessons to help our reading readiness skills.

First Grade ELA- We're starting Orton-Gillingham lessons after the training we had this year. We're also reading Fables.

-We are looking forward to celebrating Dr. Seuss' birthday on March 2nd.

- In math, we are counting up to the 120th day of school and will have a 1st grade celebration.

- We're taking a field trip to Albright Knox Art Museum on March 17- sponsored by Blue Cross Blue Shield.

Grade 2 looks forward to celebrating "Dr. Seuss Day" on Thursday, March 2nd with our annual Second Grade Read-A-Thon! Students bring in a blanket from home, and have time together to read Dr. Seuss books, along with other fun special projects. We are continuing to work on learning all of our cursive letters, and our students can't wait to learn all of the letters of their names so they can start signing their papers with their cursive signature.

Third Grade is learning about fables, folktales and fairy tales this month. We are figuring out the moral or lesson a story teaches, using text details to support our ideas, and discussing how these morals/lessons apply in our own lives.

In Math, will continue to review multiplication and apply these skills to solving for area. Our fraction unit will begin soon. Cooking with your children and using measuring cups can be a great way to reinforce the everyday use of fractions at home.

Our science curriculum involving the study of rocks and minerals is our next unit, and in social studies we will continue the study of the US and our government.

We would also like to thank the PTO for helping to support the cost for our grade level to attend the Theater of Youth on March 22nd to see Charlotte's Web! We are very excited to have this opportunity!

4th Grade

Our 4th graders are really working hard!

* In ELA, we are in the midst of our study of nonfiction. We are working on several projects including reading and writing expository texts, biographies, and narrative nonfiction. We had a special visit to kick off the unit from the Buffalo Beauts, who entertained us with a nonfiction hockey read aloud! The kids loved meeting the players, as well as a Silver Medal Olympian!

*We are continuing our study of fractions in math, which encompasses equivalent fractions, adding/subtracting fractions, and comparing/ordering fractions.

*In Science, we are beginning our study of electricity. This is a very fun, hands-on unit that the children are sure to love!

Finally, we are anxiously awaiting our trip with Earth Spirit to learn about how maple syrup is made. All teachers and students are really looking forward to this exciting field trip!

5th Grade is prepping for a trip to the Buffalo Museum of Science. We will also be "attending" a virtual field trip to Alaska to check out the native food chains. We are working on fractions in math, non-fiction in Reader's Workshop, and Motion and Design in science.

Library News- Just a big thank you to the PTO for all the help checking out books to kids, reshelfing them and keeping the library looking nice and organized.

Our kids are great readers and have checked out 27,000 books this year so far. 5900 in February alone! That's a lot of books to put back on the shelf!

PE Dept.

We are excited that our Fitness For Kids snowshoes for the intermediate grades have arrived! We have enough shoes for a full class of students and teacher! When there was a measurable amount of snow on the ground several of our classes were able to try them out... and had a ball in doing so!

To parents of 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders, Please be sure to have your child turn in your completed Fitness For Kids February Activity sheet. We are starting the March activity sheet soon which will focus on fun alternate activities (to watching TV). Thank you parents for supporting our fitness programs! Also... Mrs. Trampert's intermediate PE classes are learning about healthful food serving sizes.

Music-

The following students will be participating in the Erie County Music Teachers Association Music Festival in March.

The concert will be performed at Kleinhans Music Hall on Saturday, March 11th at 1:30pm.

In the Blue Chorus, Ellicott Fifth Graders:

**Adrian Lilleck
Caiden Lilleck
Anneliese Henrich
Jackson Brauer
Sophia Starosielec**

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

Kindergarten:

We used the iPads to practice our handwriting skills with "Letter School" and our math skills with "Bugs and Bubbles" and "Bugs and Numbers" We then used Pixie 4 to create a poster of "100 things for our 100th day". We also started a project about the 4 seasons using Pixie 4.

First Grade:

We used Pixie 4 to create Valentines for Veterans. We created a card and added a short message for the veterans in our area. We began using a site called "The Foos" that teaches very basic coding skills. I am blown away at how quickly the students are catching on to this. We also used NetSmartzKids.org to learn how to be safer online and in the real world (Stranger Danger).

Second Grade:

We used Pixie 4 to create Valentines for Veterans. We created a card and added a short message for the veterans in our area. We began using Word and PebbleGo.com to practice our research skills. We are reading about topics that interest us and then writing a fact or 2 (in our own words) that we learned about that topic. We also continued working on our Communities project.

Third Grade:

We used www.Tagxedo.com to create word clouds for our Valentines for Veterans project. We also began using www.Prodigygame.com to have fun while working on our Common Core math skills. It is very motivational! We then used Code.org to learn the basics of writing code. The students can work through the lessons at their own pace. Check it out at home!

Fourth grade:

We used www.Tagxedo.com to create word clouds for our Valentines for Veterans project. We then used Code.org to learn the basics of writing code. The students can work through the lessons at their own pace. Check it out at home! We also reviewed www.Prodigygame.com to have fun while working on our Common Core math skills.

Fifth Grade:

We used www.Tagxedo.com to create word clouds for our Valentines for Veterans project. We began using Everfi.com. This is a site sponsored by the NHL. It uses the theme of hockey to teach math and science skills. The students can access this anytime from home. We then reviewed using www.Prodigygame.com to have fun while working on our Common Core math skills.

Volunteer Coordinator's Report- Karen Laudico

Finding a replacement for next year. Room parents have been selecting themes for classroom baskets for our Spring Family Night.

Dr. Seuss Day – Thank you to the entire staff at Ellicott for making this a big success. Teachers did a great job correlating the day's lesson's to include Dr. Seuss themes.

Chocolate Sale – Total's should be close to the \$16,000 mark. 50% profit will go to the PTO. Pick up day is April 6th. Discussed next year avoiding pickup day right before the spring break.

Box Tops- Just under \$900 profit. Had to submit by March 1st. Bounce Magic prizes will be awarded soon.

Spring Family Fun Night – Luau Theme. Flyer and volunteer form going home next week. Event will feature DJ, Food Trucks, Carnival games, Bubblemaina shows and much more...

Author Visit – Matt Chandler for 4 days, writer workshops for grades 2-5. Author is staying for Science Night to meet parents, sign books etc.

Heather Harris will visit for grades K&1

Science Night – Volunteers needed for experiment stations. Event will have a mobile planetarium!

Board of Education – focus will be on upcoming budget

Discussion on status of outdoor track project – A request for an outdoor fitness path will be included in the Ellicott report to the district.

Discussion on the topic present at the Feb PTO meeting from the community member regarding a possible entrance to Ellicott from RT277. AT this time property is not identified as available to the district for this project.