

Ellicott PTO October 13th, 2016
PTO Meeting Minutes
Submitted by Erin Schneckenberger – Secretary

Board Members present:

Tracy Brege, President
Krissie Bonin, Vice-President
Karen Laudico, parent volunteer coordinator
Jessica Merry, Treasurer
Erin Schneckenberger, Secretary

Proceedings:

Meeting called to order by President Tracy Berge

Treasurers Report:

See treasurers report. New tax exempt form is now available for any chairs making PTO purchases. Contact me at jessicacmerry@gmail.com for a copy.

Presidents Report:

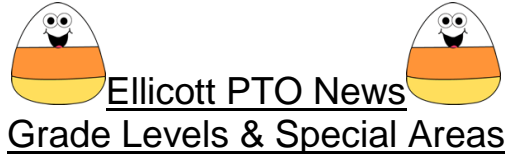
Lockdown drill will occur next week, be sure to discuss with your children. Ellicott T-Shirts are in and will be distributed to students, paid for by Ellicott PTO. Buffalo Public Library system is holding a contest – visit Orchard Park library for a library card, or present card. Thank you to the teachers and Mr. Pietrantone for scheduling field trips for this upcoming school year.

Principals Report:

Parent volunteer orientation was held at Ellicott this evening, Thank you to Karen Laudico. Fire safety week with Hillcrest Fire Company is this week; smoke house for K-4 and fire extinguisher use for grade 5. Ellicott is participating in NFL Play 60/Fitness For Kids; last year snow shoes were purchased through the proceeds benefitted. Veterans Day assembly 2016, working with Roger Woodworth and the One Stop Center. Please send in pictures of Veterans and participate in the ceremony at Ellicott. Red Ribbon Week is approaching, working with Mr. Flickenger, assembly for grades 3,4,5 on 10/26. Students will participate in different dress up activities

throughout the week. Lockdown drill next week, younger classes were visited by Mr. Pietrantone regarding this event.

Teacher's Report:



Kindergarten

- Thank you to the PTO for our Mr. Morton visits! Thank you also for contributing towards the cost our fabulous field trip to Pumpkinville! The children had a great time getting to go on a wagon ride to the pumpkin patch to pick out their very own pumpkin!

First Grade

- Thanks for the walk a thon. Another great year.
- ELA - the teachers were out for a week of staff development training. We are finishing up folktales and moving on to Fairy tales.
- Math - we have decomposing numbers up to 10. All children should be able to give partners when added together will equal a sum from 1-10.
- Science - We are working on describing items. The children are learning to use "property words" to help describe a specific item. Some teachers in the grade level will be piloting new science themes this year and have been attending training for those, as well.
- Social Studies - we are finishing up our unit about rules and laws.
- We will be going on our first field trip on Halloween to sing fall songs to the residents of senior care facilities.

Second Grade

- 2nd Grade enjoyed the Walk -a ton! Thank you PTO!
- In October, 2nd graders are looking forward to learning about "Fire Safety" and going to the Smoke House on the 13th. We are also finalizing plans for a field trip this month to the O.P Police Station.

Third Grade

- Third grade is continuing to work on basic multiplication principles and how equal groups can be put together and taken apart using multiplication and division. Reading word problems slowly and carefully is an important skill to learn.
- In ELA, we will be moving into a non-fiction unit and learning about how to use this type of literature. The unit will include studying and learning about various animals.
- We have begun learning about landforms in social studies.
- Thank you for having the Walk-a-thon to support our classroom activities and fieldtrips! We had so much fun!

Fourth Grade

- Teachers have been completing running records on our students, and Reader's Workshop is in full swing. Now, our fourth graders will be reading "just right" books at their independent levels each day. The students and teachers are excited to dive into some great literature!
- Also, the fourth grade team has decided to throw our Halloween parties on Friday, October 28th. Costumes should be worn on Monday October 31st. The teachers are planning to make it a SUPER time down C-Wing!

Fifth Grade

- 5th grade is excitedly looking at additional field trips for this year. We're currently working on a trip to the Erie County Courthouse, and are investigating a new, hands-on science workshop at the Buffalo Museum of Science. We're well underway with our DARE program, and Officer Mazur has been working closely with our students.

Library News

- This past month all grade levels have been working on finding good fit books. 1st grade has been learning about and reading folk and fairy tales. 2nd grade is making library signs for the book shelves to help the younger kids find books (the older kids find it helpful too).

- To see what books we're reading in library class and what we have been working on check out the library blog at <http://ellicottlibrary.tumblr.com/> or the library twitter at: <https://twitter.com/ellicottlibrary>

Physical Education

- Thank you to parents of our 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders for supporting our intermediate grades' fitness program: NFL Play 60 (during the month of October and later on with Fitness For Kids)! The students have been excited to chart their minutes of physical activity each day during October. Please remind them to help their child/student get that healthy 60 minutes of vigorous, body shaking activity each day!!! Appreciatively, Mrs.Trampert and the PE staff

Membership/Directory: Working on directory. Membership closes tomorrow. First draft should be ready soon.

Walk for Ellicott:

Walk for Ellicott was a great success! Many parents and guardians came out to volunteer and walk with their children. We raised over \$13, 000. Highest overall individual earner was Tyler D. in Mrs. Bermingham's class. A gift card to Target was awarded.

The following classes won per grade with the highest participation rate.

K - Mrs. Frankie - 87.5%
1st - Mrs. Senn - 84%
2nd - Mr. Cohoon - 83%
3rd - Ms. Hopcus - 90%
4th - Mrs. Ermolovich - 87.5%
5th grade - Mrs. Rossi - 81%

Each class on a frozen treat!

Michelle and I would also like to thank the staff and teachers that donated individually to this event! We are so grateful for those donations.

Movie Night: Lego Movie will be shown, popcorn, water, and juice, all free of charge. Preview book fair.

PJ Day: 11/22, proceeds to benefit CF Foundation

BET:

The people at the meeting were Paul Pietrantone (administrator and facilitator of the meeting this month), Bob Farwell (community, administrator - retired), Mike Cohoon (teacher), Mrs. Bermingham (teacher), another teacher- 2nd grade, I am sorry I don't remember her name, the Occupational therapist and Nancy Weber (school related personnel), and myself.

The meeting was an introduction to the committee that was formed as part of the Shared Decision Making plan put forth from the district. The purpose of the committee is a collaborative effort to improve education at the school level. Every school is to have an organized collaboration between school personnel, parents, teachers, and administrators. The guidelines for our committee are to address the concerns brought to the committee via the input form. **The form can be found in the main office or on-line through BET link on the school website.** The committee is to behave with open communication, confidence and trust to facilitate the productivity. Decisions are to be by consensus. Mr. Pietrantone stated that he may like to try consensus polling to ease the process of decision making. I can give details if needed. It was also stated that each meeting will have 3 roles - facilitator, timekeeper, and recorder. Nancy Weber will do the schedule to assign the roles.

The next meeting is on Tuesday, October 25, 2016.

Square 1 Art: Remember Square 1 Art for holiday gift ideas; an exhibit table will be at Movie Night...stop by and see the options available for Square 1 Art. Artwork is due 10/21.

Central Council – See central council notes via OPSCD website.

Meeting Adjourned