

**Ellicott PTO March 1, 2016**  
**PTO Meeting Minutes**  
**Submitted by Erin Schneckenberger - Secretary**

**Board Members present:**

Krissie Bonin, Vice-President  
Kathy Wiktor, parent volunteer coordinator  
Karen Laudico, Treasurer  
Erin Schneckenberger, Secretary  
Absent: Tracy Brege, President

**Proceedings:**

Meeting called to order by Vice-President Krissie Bonin

**Presidents Report:**

Krissie Bonin thanked everyone involved in this year's successful chocolate sale. March 17<sup>th</sup>, chocolate to be delivered.

**Principals Report:**

Thank you to the parent volunteers for the Operetta. The 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students participated in a Skype conversation with an author for National Read-A-Loud day. Ellicott participated in a Dental Hygiene presentation by a representative from UB. Ellicott has 6 students participating on the All County Music Festival the Saturday at 4pm. Report cards available for viewing on the portal 3/11. State assessments have changed from previous years. There will be no time limits and a decrease in questions. 3/18 is a school conference day. The capital project is likely to begin the summer of 2016.

**Treasurers Report:**

Request copy of updated report. GeoMotion was purchased, PTO contribution \$850.00. BoxTops \$1965.80, Niagara Chocolate net \$19743.50.

## **Teacher's Report-**

### **Kindergarten**

- February was a busy month in kindergarten! Mr. Morton brought his prairie dogs, we had our Valentine's Day Craft Party, the children participated in Hundredth Day Centers, and Tiffany Vanderwerff, from the Buffalo Zoo, came to Ellicott and shared a wonderful presentation about Polar Bears.

- Our themes included Groundhog Day, Presidents' Day, and Valentine's Day. We also finished up our reading unit on stories.

- Next month, we are looking forward to our St. Patrick's Day Craft Party and Mr. Morton's next visit. We will also be learning about 3-D Shapes, Dental Health, and will begin our unit on Seasons and Weather.

### **First Grade**

\*Thank you for paying for the MILK MAGICIAN Rob Allen and his wife Carol to visit our school.

\*We LOVE the book fair. Thanks for bringing Mr. Silver to Ellicott again!

\*In math, we are working on adding and subtracting within word problems.

\*In ELA, we are reading wonderful FABLES and learning important LESSONS. We sure love the domains and themes that we are teaching now!

\*In science and health, we have covered dental health.

\*In social studies, we are learning about our school and the community around us.

**2nd Grade** had "Explore & More" come in to review the "States of Matter" with our students by demonstrating with lots of fun experiments. Thank you to the PTO for funding this enrichment activity for our students!

We will be attending an assembly on "Dental Health" on Tuesday, March 1st. Thank you to Mrs. Lawless for organizing that for us!

We will be celebrating Dr. Seuss' birthday on March 2nd with "Read Across America Day" and a 2nd grade read-athon.

Also in reading, we will soon begin our read-aloud, "Charlotte's Web".

**Third grade** learned about addition and subtraction in math, and our classes are starting the unit on area next. We continue to encourage the students to practice and become fluent with their multiplication facts. In science, we completed our unit on Buoyancy and will be starting Rocks and Minerals soon. In Social Studies, we are learning about the United States and our government. We also started our unit on fairy tales and fables in ELA. Students are learning how to determine the lesson of the story and explain it with sufficient details. We are also discussing character traits, actions and motivations.

**4th Grade** will be wrapping up our fraction unit and will be moving on to geometry. In ELA we are enjoying novel studies with our students. Throughout these novels, students will analyze the main characters, identify problems and solutions, discuss the settings, describe the moral, and answer

corresponding comprehension questions. We have moved through our digestion and energy mini-units in Science. The students will focus on their Land and Water unit next. In Social Studies we are wrapping up Colonial America and will then begin discussing the American Revolution. We are also preparing for the Author Visit by creating Fraction Books, which ties in to our current math unit. Finally, 4th Grade will have the opportunity to enjoy our Maple Sugaring Fieldtrip in March, which reinforces concepts learned in Social Studies regarding the Iroquois.

**5<sup>th</sup> Grade** -We'll be selling pizza and pop at the Spring Fling. Darien Lake is scheduled for June 16th, and we are hoping that lots of 5th grade parents can join us.

**January and February in Computer Lab:** Many of the sites I mention can be found at my website: [www.mrsstott.com](http://www.mrsstott.com).

### **Kindergarten:**

We began a new program called Island Adventure. This program has fun activities that review letter sounds and builds a strong site vocabulary. We'll revisit this often throughout the rest of the year. We also began using MathSeeds on the internet to practice our math skills. We used [www.Minimouse.us](http://www.Minimouse.us) to practice our mouse skills. We then used Pixie 4 to create a poster of "100 things for our 100<sup>th</sup> day". We used the iPads to practice our handwriting skills with "Letter School" and our math skills with "Splash Math"

### **First Grade:**

We went on [www.NetsmartzKids.org](http://www.NetsmartzKids.org) to learn about "Stranger Danger". We began using MathSeeds online to practice our math skills. We used Pixie4 to create Valentines for Veterans. We also used "First Grade Learning Games" on the iPads to practice both Math skills and Language skills. We began a unit on Dinosaurs. We used a program called "Learn About Dinosaurs". We read information and answered questions about dinosaurs and we also played matching games and listened to songs that taught us about dinosaurs.

### **Second Grade:**

We began the New Year by writing our resolutions. We used "Word" to type a letter to our families explaining a bad habit we will try to stop and a good habit we will work harder on this year. We are using [www.PebbleGo.com](http://www.PebbleGo.com) to do research on various subjects. We are writing a log of the information we find. We are practicing writing the information in our own words instead of copying it from the internet. We used Pixie4 to create Valentines for Veterans. We also continue to work on our Communities project using Pixie4.

### **Third Grade:**

We began the New Year by writing our resolutions with "Word". We practiced our home row typing as we wrote letters to our family. We learned how to use the computer to help us with spell check, but we know we can't rely on that for every word. We also used [www.Tagxedo.com](http://www.Tagxedo.com) to create word clouds for our Valentines for Veterans project. We began coding this month! We used [www.Tynker.com](http://www.Tynker.com) to learn the basics of writing code. Check it out at home! We are now starting a

graph project. We are collecting data to graph and will create a bar graph and a pictograph.

#### **Fourth grade:**

We began the New Year by writing our resolutions with “Word”. We practiced our home row typing as we wrote letters to our family. We learned how to use the computer to help us with spell check. We also used [www.Tagxedo.com](http://www.Tagxedo.com) to create word clouds for our Valentines for Veterans project. We began coding this month! We used [www.Tynker.com](http://www.Tynker.com) to learn the basics of writing code. Check it out at home! We also began a cool new math game. We used [www.ProdigyGame.com](http://www.ProdigyGame.com) to create a wizard avatar. In the game we have to answer Common Core math questions in order to battle/catch animals. Teachers and parents can track their students’ math progress online. The students really seem to like it.

#### **Fifth Grade:**

We discussed what we knew about Martin Luther King Jr. We talked about his contributions to human rights. We came up with our own ‘selfless’ dreams. We used Google Slides to create a slide showcasing our dreams. Several slides were chosen to be shown on our “Digital Signage” in the foyer and main office. They all did a great job and came up with admirable dreams. We also used [www.Tagxedo.com](http://www.Tagxedo.com) to create word clouds for our Valentines for Veterans project. We began coding this month! We used [www.Tynker.com](http://www.Tynker.com) to learn the basics of writing code. Check it out at home!

**Science Night** - Planning is in progress. There will be new experiments and ideas. Event will be held on 4/28/16.

**Book Fair** - No totals in yet, students seemed to enjoy the event. Potentially moving the event to the fall versus the spring.

**Soup Labels** - labels for education discontinued, ends July 31, 2016. In the discussion phase of what to purchase with funds.

**BET** - Review of school culture survey, parent input form address regarding parking lot and dismissal

procedure, sign was purchased, video footage was reviewed by Mr. Pietrantone.

**Author Visit** - April 26/27, 2016, 2 days of grade level presentations, author Jerry Pattolita.

**Square 1 Art** - look for forms near mother's day.

**Spring Fest -**

March 11<sup>th</sup>, 6-8pm. This is a large event, please consider volunteering. Children's activities and entertainers, food, pizza sale by the 5<sup>th</sup> grade, silent auction, basket raffle. Kids \$3 through March 9<sup>th</sup>, \$5 at the door. Accompanying adults free, kids under 2 free. No drop offs please.

**Central Council** - Business 1<sup>st</sup>, OPSCD ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> for graduation rate.

**Chocolate Sale** - March 17<sup>th</sup> pick-up.

**Author Visit** - Jerry Pallotta will be our visiting author. No writing workshops, grade level presentations. Flyer will come home for book purchases.

**Meeting Adjourned**

Motion to Adjourn - Ren Chorser  
2<sup>nd</sup> - Maura Watson