

Hamilton Elementary PTA Meeting 09.09.25

Update from President/ Nina Lavelanet-Lewnau:

- Welcome! We are in a transition with a new Principal and a new board.
- Please let us know if you would like any adjustments in how we are sharing information and presenting these PTA meetings.
- Three big asks tonight:
 - 1) Donate to jog-a-thon
 - 2) Sign up to be on a committee crew
 - 3) Join staff appreciation crew
- Agenda tonight is mostly level setting on what's going with this school year.
- Profiles of the new board were shared. We also have this information on our PTA Facebook account:
 - President: Nina Lavelanet- Lewnau
 - Vice President: Ashley Alexander
 - Co-Treasurer: Jennifer Carl
 - Co-Treasurer: Kelly Mantey
 - Secretary: Erin Tobin
- The Board is here to unlock resources to make the school a brighter year for our staff and our students.
- Ways you can stay in the loop as a member of the PTA:
 - Read our monthly newsletter which will be inside Ms.McNally's Hamilton Happenings.
 - Come to our PTA meetings.
 - Follow us on Facebook.
- The PTA is working to get an Instagram account and details will be shared about ways to follow/engage when that is up and running.
- Why do PTA meetings matter:
 - It's one hour of getting impact, gain a better understanding of what's coming up next, and leave with some action to take with you.
 - An opportunity to build community! Connect with other families and staff.
- Family Survey Highlights
 - Thank you to everyone who completed the family survey last Spring 2025.
 - Top rated items:
 - Family fun nights
 - Teacher/ classroom support
- Staff appreciation
- Primary communication preference is email.
- Biggest barrier to volunteer is a lack of time.
- Meeting preference was hybrid/ zoom.
- Actions we are taking:
 - Keeping the family nights.
 - Adding a PTA newsletter and cross posting to Facebook.
 - For volunteering, we are trying to add micro-roles (15-45 minutes) and remote tasks.
 - Meetings we are piloting the Google Meet to offer a remote option. (Which was offered for tonight's meeting)

PTA Fall Schedule at a Glance:

- September:
 - 9/5 Movie Night @ 7pm

- 9/9 PTA Meeting @ 7pm
- 9/26 Jogathon (afternoon)
- October:
 - 10/7 PTA Meeting @ 7pm
 - 10/17 Truck-or-treat @ 6:30pm
 - We increased the PTA budget for funded candy and also ask if you plan to attend to donate a bag of candy. A collection box will be placed in the vestibule of the main office.
 - 10/31 Classroom Halloween Parties/ Parade in the AM (½ day)
- November:
 - 11/13 PTA Meeting @ 7pm
 - Asynchronous Letter Writing (Date and time TBD)

Jogathon:

- This is our main fundraiser for the year for the PTA.
- The event will be on 9/26 in the afternoon. We may use the black top loop this year around the baseball field instead of the car loop.
- Assembly for the students was last Friday 9/5.
- Prize distribution timing is TBD.
- Where the money goes:
 - Student enrichment
 - Community and family events
 - Staff recognition & classroom support
 - School/ faculty updates and major projects (example of banners around the school)
 - Administration & principal support

Thank You Family Volunteers:

- Reem Komives
- Angie Herbon
- Lauren Carey Hoard
- Kristen Ansel
- Amera Fattah
- Ashley Cirilli
- Angela To
- Brian Alexander
- Chris Lewnau
- Atika Achhava
- Project Lead & NHS Students
- Nicole Reinkensmeyer

Where we need help most right now:

- Trunk-or-treat needs a chair
- Support our Staff Appreciation chair with a monthly thank you moments

Principal/ Ms. McNally Kasey updates:

- Why she chose to work in a school: Wasn't a super strong student herself so she wanted to become a teacher. Then when she was a teacher and in the classroom, she learned about barriers that could be removed, so that's why she's here in administration as Principal.
- Wants to hear from us on what folks would like these principal updates to look like.

- We are in the process of working on routines and building community in the classrooms.
 - Students are writing already, they may have been asked to write an informational about them.
 - Same with reading - We are getting right into it and have started 1-1 assessments in the room. Your student may come home and say they had a substitute teachers. We are figuring out what to teach. It's so much more diagnostic than you realize.
- Playgrounds:
 - Did have playgrounds installed in her school last year so she's familiar with this and the contractor.
 - Basketball courts and 4 square open
 - There have been full games of tag, football, and soccer. Even though our current play space doesn't look great, we are seeing success out there with our kids. They are resilient.
- That is what's going on inside and outside the building. If anyone has questions or ideas, just send Reba an email.

Faculty Update with Kasey:

- Kasey is our PTA liaison to go back and forth between teachers and parents.
- Updates:
 - Amera gave the teachers a beautiful lunch last Tuesday - thank you!
 - We are starting to do assessments in the classroom, gives us an opportunity to see into their lives and personalize the instruction.
 - Kasey is going to begin sharing the role with Megan Melin, in the second part of the year, she will be back in November.