PTO Meeting: Sept 27, 2021 7:00pm

Principals Report- Mr. Kling

* Welcome everyone! We opened doors to 496 students on 9/8. All seem to be adjusting well. Teachers are very happy to set up classrooms and re-establish a learning environment. There are new challenges that we are learning to navigate... bus transportation is a challenge and 95% bus impacts with at least one bus not able to run the route. Car pools have been working out- thank you for coming together to get kids to and from school. There was a meeting today with county about busses- doesn’t look like it’s a quick fix (new drivers, tests, etc). Governor Hogan put out an order about bus transportation.
* Field trips will be impacted because of busses. We are able to continue with field trips- but they will be impacted, possibly delayed. Drown proofing, Arlington Echo, and Kindergarten trips will not be effected- they will continue.
* Staffing has been a challenge across the county. WFE does have a full staff, TSA’s are effected (lunch, recess monitors, etc). Learning curve with being a contact tracer- as we learn about positive cases- doing our best and issuing quarantine requests as needed.
* Please do screening of your children in the morning. If one or more symptoms- please keep your child home! (ex: sore throat- the contact tracing starts in the school and they will be sent home). If there is a child to go to health room with covid like symptom, health room can do a rapid test for covid. Negative tests will eliminate need for quarantine.. the quarantine is 10 calendar days from start of symptoms. If your child has to go out for quarantine- we do have virtual options for 2 hours a day- to help with active school participation. The child will be marked present- learning can continue, on a modified degree.
* Family events need to be put on hold (ex: race for education)... There are new directives. Halloween parade will not be open to families. We have to align with the school systems and not allow the extra visitors. Book fair might be virtual. In person will be available for students during the day.
* Communication will include Sunday updates- a week at a glance via email, text, and school website. That will continue. If there is anything changes or information needs to go out- please do by Wednesday to make it into Sunday night email.
* Condolences to the Benson Family in memory of Annie Benson. Today, we delivered food and will continue every Monday and Thursday through October. Mr. Kling will work with PTO to honor Annie Benson. Wants the family to have input- it’s too soon and will be over time. Benson family was so appreciative of the food today for meal train.
* Would like to implement a holiday event- with families- promote reading, welcome the winter months- hopefully we can have. Information to come out in the future.
* Perfect attendance will not be recognized this year- across the county. If your child is out on quarantine and participate in virtual, your child will be marked as present. Teachers will work with the student to have missed work made up.

\*\*\*\*\*\*Grace, patience, and flexibility- words to live by this year!!! \*\*\*\*\*

Teachers Report: Mrs. Turner

Mrs. Turner is the new teacher liaison on the PTO. She is a 2nd grade teacher at WFE and has a son in the school. Thanking the PTO for back to school breakfast. They all enjoyed!

Treasurers Report- Jenny Brandt.

* 2 different funds that we use-
  + General Operations Fund (membership, box tops, amazon, fundraisers, etc) each teacher gets $100 allowance to each teacher for their room. Have to pay liability insurance, paying for agendas, 5th grade field trips, 5th grade promotions. As of today, there is approx.. $16,000 in this fund
  + Special projects fund- something that helps entire school (race for ed, math-athon, bigger fundraisers go into this budget. Expenses include things like smart boards, chrome books, hoping to do a lot of things for the school- Ukuleles for music, lanyards and backpacks, air purifiers. As of today, there is approx.. $42,000 in this fund.
* We don’t know what the future holds- we have to be flexible right now with not knowing what will be going on. Memberships, 108 memberships- brought in about $1500. We have fewer students this year. If you haven’t paid, please make sure you pay- goes to a lot of things for the year. Donations are lower this year. We have spent about $2800 out of special purpose fund.

(Mrs. Turner suggested in Sunday email to put out the link again for membership/ request for donations)

\*\*please pay your dues\*\*

* Spirit wear is open until Sunday. Shirts are experiencing supply chain issues, so sizing may be limited. We don’t have the YS in the hoodies. Hopefully by spring for next sale- it will be fixed.
* Every year we have to do an audit- we need 3 parents to review the books- please let Jenny know if interested- takes a few hours- needs to be done in the next month.

PTO President- Charlotte Byrd.

* Please register for PTO.
* We had picture day last week- went very well. If you are volunteering, you need commercial background check. It is required by the county. Link is aacps.org/chaperone. There is also the video you must watch about sexual harassment- goes to Donna in the front office. Video is once, background check is every 2 years. You may need fingerprinting done for a field trip.
* Lunch/ recess gigs: this is no longer a volunteer position. We would like to hire recess monitors 2-2.5 hours a day, $14 hour. Teachers need consistent help. Mr. Kling doesn’t want a revolving door for help, to keep things consistent/ hard to contact trace. Teachers need predictable times to eat and have breaks. Mr. Kling is looking for commitment for 5 days if possible.
* Update on planned events- PTO meetings are 4th Monday of the month, unless there are changes.
* Tomorrow night is very spirit night at Red, Hot, and Blue (dine in or carry out) Ice cream truck, 15% back to WFE. Please support the school!
* Pajama day will be scheduled. Nothing on calendar yet for the specific days.
* Halloween- Parade will not be available in person- classroom parties will go on. Teachers will be sending out forms for room parents. Parents will be notified by next week. We will be able to have room parent support the party.
* Turkey grams will be coming up. Charlotte will be sending out emails to interested parents/ volunteers to communicate to form committees. We are limited to what we can do. We appreciate the parents and your patience as we figure it out.
* Race for Ed. to be postponed until the spring.
* Thank you all for attending- hope to see you virtually, next month!

Attendees- Mr. Kling, Charlotte Byrd, Jenny Brandt, Amanda Kelly, Abbie Finamore, Jenna Miller, Alexandra Bennof, Jaime Hilliard, Allison Turner, Erik Wallace, Carrie Emery, Jessica V, Shelley Belvedere, Nikki Brochetti, Jaime Superczynski, Andrew Cypher, Carissa Dixon, David Earle, Jennifer Van Riper, John Newlin, Mattie Scott, Rigel Gjonemo, Jason Hyman, Ryane Necessary

\*\* next meeting is Monday, October 25th\*\*