

Arnold Elementary PTA
September 11, 2019
Minutes

Parents would like to know specific lunch times for each grade:

K- 10:50-11:15
1- 10:55-11:20
2- 11:30-11:55
3- 11:35-12:00
4- 12:10-12:35
5- 12:15-12:40

6:03 meeting called to order by Jill Pias, PTA President

Introduction of PTA President, Jill Pias, VP Jen Hetherington, Secretary Alyssa Iddings and Treasurer Jess Skretch

We are piloting the call-in option for PTA Meetings

Presidents business- Welcoming new families and current families to the first meeting. We are happy to have so many people attend.

Vice President business- Membership clarification; when you sent your email address in, you have allowed the PTA to contact you, but now we also need you to go onto the membership toolkit and register yourself and your child to allow access to the directory. There is a 3rd step to become an official PTA member, which is another link. All is listed on the PTA website. Please take a moment to do this.

Jess Skretch, Budget- See budget attachment- our goal is to not make money at the end of the year and use everything that we bring in for our programs. We have increased certain line items this year due to the increases in enrollment.

Mrs. Kauffman- Assemblies- PTA pays for some school wide assemblies-
*Need for a PTA representative to spearhead this.

Question of how many classes we have right now: 24 classes currently

Questions- When do people that are a part of the PTA find out budget updates? We will talk about it every meeting and once it's approved, it will be posted. This and the January meeting will be the most detailed treasurer report. January can be realigned if we need to eliminate things or move money around.

President announced to vote

Katie Hedges- motion to approve
Alyssa Iddings- second
2019/2020 Budget was approved.

Committee Reports-

Enrichment- program was delayed due to new county regulations for increased safety for our students. All programs must be non-profit and any parent volunteers must be fingerprinted by the DOE. There is a nominal fee and once done, lasts until your last child graduates high school. PTA will pay a stipend to those teachers: Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Kennedy will be our teachers in charge. Mrs. Phillips will be an alternate. This is paid out of the enrichment fund.

The fields, as we know, are under construction and cannot be used, therefore we were not able to include any programs that would need use of the fields. The programs we will be offering are:

chess club
clay bakers
scrapbooking
chess
artworks

Enrollment process- different than previously done:

2 part enrollment- online form to register your child and rank choices based on level of interest
Enrichment team will look through this information and align interests
If there is over-enrollment there will be a lottery system to keep it fair and then you will be notified if your child made it in and there will be an online payment option.

GOTR- Meet Mondays and Wednesdays. They follow their calendar and the enrollment is closed now- It was posted on the FB page and talked about at sneak-a-peak. It's a program run for girls similar to a couch- 5k that is all about motivation and positivity. At the end they all run together with greater Chesapeake chapter in a 5k

Question- Do we still need to fill out the chaperone form if we are background checked- yes

Walk-a-thon- Liz Cawthorne- Oct 3rd.*Volunteers needed to help plan and for that day getting children to stay on loop. You don't need fingerprinting to come into school. Need to get some people help and brainstorm on a committee.

*If you are interested in planning and helping out, please contact Liz Cawthorne:
mcawthorne@gmail

*Several committees need co-chairs so that one person leaves, there will be another in place to help out. Contact the PTA to find out more information.

Fall Fest- Oct 19th. more information to come; each class sponsors a booth and that is coordinated through your room parent. Room parents are being identified now and will be responsible for picking booths and sending out a sign-up for the hours of Fall Fest.

Holiday Breakfast- Toni Adams- Dec 7th

*would love a committee to help plan, set up help needed night before and coming day off set up

Holiday Shop- Katie Hedges- Dec 7th- run at the same time as the breakfast

*Katie needs help shopping for this; email or paperwork through office to ask people join.

International Night- April 17th Jennifer Hickey, Jessica Zinder, Dana McQuillan- 5th year of this community event for families and children to celebrate diversity. Volunteers represent a country and teach about the country. There are food, dancers, all about celebration.

*We need someone to step up and take this forward so they can continue it on. It would be great to have 3 people sign up because each person has a different role moving forward and makes it a more manageable event.

Guest Artist/ Guest reader- GA as a PTA committee is eliminated; GR will be worked out individually with teachers on a case-by-case basis.

EEE program- Heather Pfaff came to speak to us and delve into what this program means for our school. It's a project based program and the children's 5th hour of cultural arts. This isn't a graded class, but a rubric will be completed to insure children are learning based on the 4 C's:

collaboration
creativity
critical thinking
curriculum

Volunteers and parents- EEE welcomes volunteers into the program and it's suggested to be brought in for different aspects.

Mrs. Kauffman- Artist in residence; steel drums, etc. poetry exotic zoo drawings. This program has funding for these things. No longer funded by PTA, but included in EEE funding. Artist in residence is a program that is an artist that gets paid to come in and do their expertise. 4-6 weeks depending and how much we are willing to pay.

Artist in residence will be during regular education time.

Discussion evolved about room parents needed for cultural arts teachers.

We welcome Parents coming in- working with teachers for volunteers; specials volunteers:

*need for Ms. Basile to have a room parent- book fair coming back in February and would like to host a reading night. Needs help coordinating and facilitating these events. Please contact PTA if interested.

*Copy moms- another way to be involved; teachers could use your help coming into the school and making copies, or sending home things to be cut out or to laminate. These are all examples

GA discussion continued that perhaps we can adopt another option where parents can come at recess and pull kids (who wish to participate) to work on an art project similar to what was done by the International Night committee the week prior to the event where kids did art projects which were displayed at the festival. A venue to continue the guest artist program.

Meditation Garden: Jessica Zinder and Jamie Horton- an opportunity to design a beautiful space.

*Need for gardeners and you don't need to be a master gardener- Jessica will take anyone who can help and she will teach you what you need to know.

Weekly message- Mrs. Kauffman will continue an email with all of the necessary information.

Morning announcements will soon be televised; they are working on the tech to get that up and running.

Lunch question- enrollment has increased and still have a large line for with school lunches. Children aren't getting enough time eat. This is because school has just started the lunch lines are long- they are in the middle of going to an electronic scanner process to help make the line go faster so they have enough time to eat. This is a work in progress and only the first week of school, so they are in the midst of working out the kinks.

Breakfast in the morning- everyone is welcome to have breakfast in the morning and if they wish, to walk directly to the cafeteria to eat and then continue to class.

Staff news: Mrs. Gilmore, 4th grade, got promoted to a resource teacher position; her replacement is Mrs. Herrine.

Halloween discussion about the halloween costume parade: there are concerns about safety and holding parade outside. Mrs. Kauffman noted that it will be moved inside for K-2. She is considering students in grade 3-5 to have extended parties instead of costume parade. More information will be shared later.

Parents are welcome to come in for class parties- What will policy be moving forward? It will be left up to homeroom teachers and parents to decide how many people can come in.

Suggestions on security measures- knowing in advance who is coming in so then check in is easier.

Recess Question: sharing - 2 grades at a time and they rotate and flip 20 min- lunch is 25. Just K has 2 recesses because they are younger and need "brain breaks". The small areas to share are only temporary until the fields are ready to be incorporated into recess time. Please be patient during this time.

Monkey bars- there was a question by a first grade parent that her children were told they couldn't use the monkey bars by teachers. All children are allowed to use the monkey bars as long as they are being safe.

The Yearbook link on the Life Touch site is not valid yet- Alice Bowman is our yearbook chair- SRMS one is out and wanted to purchase at the same time, so just need to get it up and running.

Communication and information- School website, PTA website and FB page; parents will know that information is either, "coming soon- more information will be coming. Stay tuned for more information. etc. other than no information.

A discussion began about the evolution of the Snowflake Dance and the "Mother/Son" events to not have such strict gender parameters. The committee had already discussed doing an electronic link for sign up instead of paper invitations as to not exclude anyone who may wish to attend either event. This will be an ongoing discussion in order to not exclude anyone. Thank you to the PTA member who brought this important topic into the conversation.

Again, parents are encouraged to always reach out to the main office with questions. Mrs. Kauffman is always available by telephone or email and many questions can also be answered by our wonderful secretaries. Everyone is welcome to discuss things off agenda at the Principal's coffee prior to the PTA meeting.

Motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:20pm