

BIRCH LANE PTA

Executive/ General Board Meeting Minutes

Date: January 8, 2019

Kristine Magnifico, Presiding President

Quorum/Present

- Meeting called to order at 6:45 pm with Pledge

Attendance: *On a separate sheet*

Pledge

President's Report: Kristine Magnifico

Thank you:

Gayle Famiglietti and Chris Zlatniski - Blood Drive (41 pints were donated)

Reflections - Jen Curran; 3 students from Birch Lane are moving onto the States

Box Tops - Theresa McKeever

Holiday Fair - Crissy Mullooly, Sue McEvoy, and Kira Mallia and everyone who helped the kids shop

Staff Luncheon - Amy MacLeod and Jodi Ricardo

Vice President's Report: Crissy Mullooly

- No report

2nd Vice President: Linda Venuto

- No report

Correspondence: Katie Beleckas

- No report

Recording secretary: Tara Fay

- No report

Grade Level Reports: *Teacher Representatives Miss Signorile and Mrs. Marin*

Miss Signorile sends her regrets; report read presented by Mr. Aspetti

Kindergarten:

Talking about the months of the year and New Year resolutions

Science: learning about weather

Students have enjoyed going to Enrichment

Students did a video conference about "critters in the cold" and learned about different adaptations of cold weather animals

Math: comparing length, weight and measurements,

Readers Workshop: learning about fiction and characters, setting, and plot

Writer's workshop: learning about list and label books

1st Grade

Students have been working on their personal narratives

Reading: learning to identify story elements, character traits, and ask questions about what they're reading

Science: learning about penguins

Social Studies: continuing the Family unit and learning about ways to be kind

2nd Grade:

Reading: completed the unit on fiction and now beginning the unit on non-fiction

Math: addition and subtraction of two and three-digit numbers with regrouping

Science: learning about the earth's surface

The students will learn about Chinese New Year in February and will participate in various activities to celebrate

Mrs. Marin:

3rd Grade:

Social Studies: just finished exploring different countries, holidays and customs and will be beginning their study of Japan shortly

Science: learning about fossils

Reading: studying non-fiction texts and features and are beginning to gather research to write their own nonfiction writing pieces

Math: continuing to learn and reinforce multiplication facts and apply the distributive property

4th Grade:

Happy New Year!

Math: multiplication and division

Readers and Writer's workshop: fully immersed in the genre of non-fiction

The students enjoyed December enrichment

Looking forward to Submerge Storytelling this week and next

5th Grade

Looking forward to Submerge Storytelling

Currently reading about famous people for their biography research

Math: learning about fractions

Social Studies: learning about explorers of the Western Hemisphere

Science: learning about ecosystems

Girls on the Run: *presented by Doreen Dunn, the Director for Long Island*

GOTR is an Empowerment program for girls in grades 3-5 that follows a curriculum integrating running games and building confidence for the girls to complete an end of season 5K at Hofstra 10-week season (20 lessons, meets twice a week)

Some themes include empathy, self-talk matters, pressing pause, and stopping to take a breather

Two volunteer coaches are needed and would be trained through GOTR

Please reach out if you have any questions or would like more information about becoming a coach

Treasurer Report – Amy MacLeod

- As of November 13th 2018, there was a balance of \$9969.67 in the checking account.
- As of today, January 8th, 2019, there's a balance of \$11,561 in the account
- Fall Fundraiser made \$1500

Council Report - Kristine Magnifico

Thank you to all who participated in the Curriculum Survey

Eileen Tuminello met with the PTA Council of the Curriculum Committee

Board of Ed recognized Thomas Lippolt and Scott Rathjen, two Massapequa HS students who helped a family during a fire. Details are posted on the MSD webpage.

Mr. Aspetti was a guest principal and discussed all the things going on at Birch Lane.

Dr. Fisano talked about enhancements to 12th grade senior social studies program and presented data on most recent graduation class of 2018 and college credits earned. Thanked JR/SR PTSA for the presentation on the dangers of vaping. Visit MTAC Massapequa Takes Action Coalition website. MHS students wish to get into elementary schools to educate 5th graders on the dangers of social media. Logistics are being worked on.

SEPTA Report- Amanda Varelakis

Next meetings is Wednesday 1/16 at 7pm at the McKenna Senior Center

Upcoming event is on February 8th (Family Fun Night, the theme is Winter Wonderland)

Still selling reusable Massapequa tote bags for \$5

District calendars are also on sale for \$5

Birch Lane Night at the Long Island Ducks Game - Lindsay Cicillini

Tickets (\$12) will be on sale next month

Game is June 13th

5th grade chorus will sing on the field

STEAM Night and Mini Book Fair - Crissy Mullooly and Kristine Magnifico

Tickets on sale now

Event is January 22nd from 6-8pm

A Birch Lane dad, who is an engineer, put together five STEAM stations for the kids

Mini book fair and book drive during STEAM night; for every 5 books you donate your child will get a raffle ticket which will be good for money to be spent at the book fair in March

PARP

Starts 1/22; assembly will be on 1/23 with Hip Pickles

Pasta Night

February 27th at Berner

Family style with students serving food at the tables

This year we will have a magician instead of Mad Science

Tickets will be going on sale within the next two weeks

PTA Spring Fundraiser

March 28th venue TBD

Casual venue with a live band and DJ

More details to come

We're looking for volunteers to help with the spring Fundraiser, please contact us for more information

Reports from Administration: Mr. Aspetti

- Happy New Year and we hope that you all enjoyed the holiday season!

- Thank you to all the families that sent in their holiday cards

- Thank You to the PTA for: Fall Fundraiser, Holiday Shopping, and the Holiday Luncheon

- Submerge Storytelling is beginning this week in 3rd grade. The kids love Mr. Levine, the founder/creator of Submerge Storytelling (Arts in Ed program). He sets up "Trevor's Room" and the students spend time acting as CIA agents using character traits, inferencing, etc. to draw conclusions about the character Trevor. For students in grades 3 and 5.

- PARP will be taking off in a couple of weeks; every year we do a Principal's PARP Challenge where we challenge the students to read more than the year before...last year they read over 206,000 minutes in 3 weeks!

- STEAM/mini book fair coming up and is a great night

- Students in grades 3-5 wrote letters of encouragement to students in Paradise, CA where the wildfires took place
- "Positivi-tees Thursdays": kids can wear shirts with positive messages on them, a flyer will go home with details
- Upcoming Field Trips - 5th grade in February to see a show, 4th grade will do Project Adventure on April 18th
- Chinese New Year - 2nd grade will make paper dragons with parents and then parade around the school; MHS students will come in to teach the kids Mandarin on February 13th
- 100th day of school coming up in February; the kindergarten students come to school dressed as 100 years old

Question Asked:

Will Kindergarten Orientation be following the same procedure as in the past? Or will there be an opportunity for incoming kindergarten students to see their assigned classroom and/or teacher prior to the first day of school?

Answer: Yes, Kindergarten Orientation will follow the same procedure as in years past. We have the kindergarten play date in August for incoming kindergarteners to get to meet one another on the playground.

If you have any questions/concerns about your child's transitioning please call us.

Upcoming Events:

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| • January 3 rd | Board of Ed Meeting at 8pm |
| • January 16 th | SEPTA Meeting at 7pm |
| • January 21 st | Martin Luther King Jr. Day- Schools Closed |
| • January 22 nd | PARP Begins |
| • January 22 nd | STEAM Night and Mini Book Fair |
| • January 23 rd | PARP Kick Off Assembly- Hip Pickles |
| • February 7 th | Board of Ed Meeting and Budget Presentation at 8pm |
| • February 8 th | PTA Meeting at 9:45am in the GP room |
| • February 8 th | PARP Ends |
| • February 11 th | Reflections Ceremony at 9:45am GP Room |
| • February 18 th - February 22 nd | Winter Recess |
| • February 27 th | Pasta Night 6pm-8pm at Berner Middle School |

Meeting Ended at 7:45 pm