

BIRCH LANE PTA

Executive/ General Board Meeting Minutes

Date: November 13, 2018

Kristine Magnifico, Presiding President

Quorum/Present

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

Attendance: *See attached sheet*

Pledge

President's Report: Kristine Magnifico

Thank you:

School pictures - Crissy Mullooly, Kathleen McCabe, Katie Beleckas, Kim Fitzgerald, Linda Venuto, Gina Scarola, and Tracy Lowrey

Reflections - Jen Curran and Linda Venuto. The deadline for submissions has been extended to submit your child's artwork on Tuesday, 11/20 from 6-7pm; an email will go home via the class parents with the entry form, information, etc. All students who participate will be recognized and there will be a ceremony at the end.

Box Tops – Theresa McKeever

Spirit Wear - Katie Beleckas; everyone should have received their orders. Back orders went home today with the exception of two orders. Any questions, please contact me.

Fall Fundraiser - Jennifer Rose and Stephanie Gentile. Fall Fundraiser was last Wednesday 11/6, and it was a great night. Looks like we made about \$1600-1700. Thank you to all who participated!

Council Report - we are in need of a new council representative if anyone is interested please let us know

BOE Report - Eileen Tuminello

Membership - Jennifer Rose

Picture Day- Crissy Mullooly and Kathleen McCabe. Tomorrow is picture retake day, make sure you bring the proofs back but keep the class photo home. We will also be doing the 5th-grade club pictures tomorrow morning.

Arts in Ed - Danielle Fisher

SEPTA Report - Amanda Varelakis

Holiday Fair – Crissy Mullooly; if anyone wants to sign up to volunteer, please do so by Friday, November 16th on the Birch Lane PTA website

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

Miss Signorile:

Kindergarten:

Kindergarteners have been very busy

Recently had the Singing School Bus Driver assembly

Math – finishing up Unit 1 counting numbers 1-10 and next unit will be on measurement

Science – finished up learning how the sun warms the earth and will be moving onto weather

All of the classes are finishing up readers/writers workshop unit that launched each topic and their next unit will be on fiction

Writing – working on lists and label books

Learned about Election Day and Veterans Day

Lots of fun activities for Thanksgiving coming up
Working in centers and guided reading groups

1st Grade:

Math - finishing up Unit 2 addition/subtraction within 10
Science - learning about light and experiments to see if certain materials can pass through objects
Enrichment concentrates on creative and hands on experiments
Writing – working on personal narratives
Very busy with Fast Math on Chrome Books and guided reading groups
Looking forward to the holiday fair and PTA assembly
Reading – learning the elements of fiction folk tales (The Three Little Pigs)

2nd Grade:

Loved the kindness assembly brought in by the PTA and had fun while learning ways to be kind
Math – mid-unit assessment on place value and number bonds with numbers up to 1000; learning how to count on with 1s, 10s, and 100s
Reading - finished units learning about fiction, characters, setting, plot, and use of illustrations to gain deeper understanding
Very busy with word work and looking for patterns with digraphs and blends
Writing - working on personal narratives which will be published when completed
Social Studies - learning about maps and compass rose
Science - finishing up a unit on matter and in the second week of enrichment: learning about the scientific process and made a cloud using ice, warm water and aerosols

Mrs. Marin:

3rd Grade:

Reading - identifying story elements of fiction text
Math - measurement using metric system to estimate and measure liquid volume
Science – learning about forces and motion
Social Studies - learning where Massapequa is located in the world

4th Grade:

Thanks to all the volunteers at the Halloween parties
Enrichment – just finished a collaborative group challenge making solar cookers using only certain materials
Learning the necessary tools needed to become competent, independent readers and writers
Social Studies – learning Native American culture
Honored our brave veterans by conducting interviews for a class project
Happy Thanksgiving to everyone!

5th Grade:

This week the 5th grade is headed to Berner for The Little Mermaid performance
Next week is the Little Doctors program which introduces students to the importance of donating blood
5th graders will be paired with kindergarten students to be “tech buddies” to help them use the Chrome Books properly

Vice President’s Report: Crissy Mullooly

- No report

2nd Vice President: Linda Venuto

- No report

Correspondence: Katie Beleckas

- No correspondence

Recording secretary: Tara Fay

- No report

Treasurer's report: Amy MacLeod

- As of October 12, 2018, there was a balance of \$9099.28 in the checking account
- As of today, November 13, 2018, there's a balance of \$9969.67 in the account

Income:

Spirit Wear cash and carry \$624.00

Membership \$134.00

We do have a check coming for more Spirit Wear and next month have the Fall Fundraiser profits to log.

SEPTA Report - Amanda Varelakis

- Halloween dance was on October 19th
- Movie night was last Thursday night (The Grinch)
- Next meeting is tomorrow at 7pm at the McKenna Senior Center. Guest speaker is Alissa Morris from Parent to Parent. She will discuss how to organize special education paperwork/documents.
- There will not be a meeting in December
- Next meeting is January 16th with guest speakers Savrena Riddle (Elementary Special Education Supervisor) and Kristen Catalano (CPSE Committee Chairperson) and Michelle Provenzano (CSE Committee Chair Person). They will be talking about the transition from Early Intervention into CPSE and then to CSE as well as parent advocacy.
- Next fundraiser is Family Fun Night on February 8th, with a "Winter Wonderland" theme
- Membership is always available. If you're interested in becoming a member it's \$10 for the year and all SEPTA event admissions are free for members.
- The reusable Massapequa bags fundraiser is still going on; contact me for a form if you're interested

Reports from Administration – *Presented by Mrs. Larkin*

Thank you:

- Fall Fundraiser was a lot of fun, thank you to Mrs. Magnifico, Mrs. Rose and Mrs. Gentile
- Picture Day: Thank you to Mrs. Mullooly, Mrs. McCabe, Mrs. Beleckas, and Mrs. Lowery
- Wanted to thank Arts in Education for the Blue Project, an antibullying program that was presented to all grades. It was an incredible experience for all of the children this year. It was an experience I think they will remember forever.
- The Singing Bus Driver with the kindergarteners was really great, the kids really enjoyed it.
- We also wanted to say thank you to everyone for the Drop and Go system at drop off. It's been going so well and we feel everyone is a lot safer on Nassau Street. Any questions please just let us know.
- Halloween was a lot of fun!
- AIDS awareness week is coming up. Lessons will be going on in all classrooms the week of 11/26. There will be a take home activity going home on 11/29 with a due date of 12/7. Once they're returned we'll display them around the building. All activities going on are age-level appropriate.
- PTA Blood Drive is coming up on December 10th. Fifth graders will be participating in the Little Doctors program. Mrs. Dianne Robinson from New York Blood Center asked me to share a message that as of this morning they were backordered by 100 pints of blood. They're hoping to raise at least 60 pints of blood from Birch Lane. Last year we donated 64 pints of blood.

- Parent teacher conferences are coming up. Letters will be going home; any conflicts please reach out to the classroom teachers.
- We're doing a rapid dismissal drill at 3:05pm on Wednesday, November 21st. A letter will be going home.

A question was asked about the upcoming Holiday Fair and signing up to volunteer. Mrs. Larkin explained that this year they're asking for volunteers (you can volunteer for an entire day if you're available). If you're only available to volunteer during your child's scheduled class time, you'll be helping the other children in the classroom shop as well as your own child. The form asks specific questions about availability. We will do our best to give everyone a chance, but there are other opportunities throughout the year to volunteer. The online form submission is this Friday, 11/16.

A question was asked about individual pictures at Picture Day. A parent asked if the photographers fix the children's hair and the response was that the photographers are not to re-style the children's hair.

PTA Holiday Dinner:

December 12th 6:30pm at Cara Mia in Seaford; invitations will be going home soon
\$35 per person

Upcoming Events:

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| • November 14 th | Picture Retake day |
| • November 14 th | SEPTA meeting |
| • November 15 th | Board of Ed meeting at 8 pm |
| • November 22 nd & 23 rd | School closed for Thanksgiving |
| • November 26 th -29 th | Holiday Fair |
| • December 6 th | Board of Ed meeting at 8pm |
| • December 10 th | Blood Drive |
| • December 12 th | PTA Holiday Dinner- 6:30pm |
| • December 18 th | Teacher Luncheon - 11am |
| • December 24-January 1 st | Holiday Recess |
| • January 3 rd | Board of Ed meeting at 8pm |
| • January 8 th | PTA general meeting 6:45pm |
| • January 17 th | Board of Ed meeting at 8pm |
| • January 22 nd | Steam Night and Mini Book Fair 6-8pm |

Meeting Ended at 7:25pm