



February 2024

Mt. Lebanon City Council of PTAs News



PTA Council Meeting

The role of a Council PTA is to bring together the individual Mt. Lebanon school district PTAs. Council PTA offers support and leadership to the individual units. Council is the umbrella organization over the other 10 independent PTAs in Mt. Lebanon. We bring one voice to all the PTAs in Mt. Lebanon. Click [HERE](#) for more information about PTA Council.

[Click HERE to view the 2023-2024 PTA Council Budget.](#)

[Click HERE to view the 2023-2024 Standing Rules.](#)

The next PTA Council Meeting is scheduled for March 6, 2024 at 9:00 AM at Foster Elementary School.



Guest Speaker: Mary Klaber - International Parent Group

The number of students needing ESL services in Mt. Lebanon has increased substantially over the past few years. A few concerned parents have been working in cooperation with the Mt. Lebanon Public Library to form an International Parents group to help families transition into our schools and neighborhood. The group currently meets each month and each meeting is very well attended.

The International Parents Group would like the PTAs and Mt. Lebanon School District to consider providing international families with a separate school orientation (potentially 2x year depending on enrollment) with information that includes how schools differ in the United States.

Visit our Mt. Lebanon City Council of PTAs website to view information about our officers, committees, meetings and budget!

Information about upcoming events and programs in our Mt. Lebanon Community can be found on the COMMUNITY FLYER page, listed on the left hand side of the webpage.

[PTA Council Webpage](#)



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News from our Community Partners



Mt. Lebanon Fire Department

The school program is wrapping up in the MTLSD elementary schools over the next few weeks. We will be moving into the private schools and preschools until the 4th grade fire safety trailer visits, and the semester classes in the middle and high schools are ongoing.

This is the time of year when heating, especially involving space heaters, can cause problems. Space heaters need three feet of space around them. 25,000 fires start each year because of space heaters being too close to combustible materials in homes. 88% of home fire fatalities in the United States occur because of space heaters. If you use these types of heaters, give them the space they need, plug them directly into a power outlet, and make sure you have a working smoke alarm in the room. Space heaters should be turned off when no one is in the room or asleep.

This time of year, we see an increase in Carbon Monoxide incidents in homes. Please make sure your carbon monoxide detector works, is less than seven years old, and is somewhere that will wake you up in the middle of the night. If you want more information about smoke or CO alarms, you can go to the fire department website.

We are continuing smoke alarm installations and fireplace inspections in residents' homes. You can go to www.mtlebanon.org/fire or call 412-343-3402 to schedule an appointment or find out more information.



Mt. Lebanon Public Library

There are new WINTER reading clubs available for children and adults at the library! Stop by to learn more about the great prizes you can win by participating!

K-8 Chess Tournament - February 24

International parents Group - March 3

We just launched a new program for preschools to encourage reading - 1000 Books Before Kindergarten. Visit the Children's Library for more information!

Visit the library website for more information!

Watch for information about our annual Peep Diorama Contest coming in March!



Mt. Lebanon Police
To protect and serve

Mt. Lebanon Police Department

In January, the Community Outreach Unit completed over 30 lessons within the schools, mainly focusing on the Middle Schools. We are also continuing to work with the Elementary School Principals to develop a program to bring K9 Bear into the schools.

The new High School SRO, Officer Jeff Bileck, has been identified and is now over at the high school. Officer Henley will be training Officer Bileck throughout the remainder of the school year and will be assisting in teaching the Elementary and Middle School classes.

SAFETY TIP: We have received a large number of complaints regarding the Go Zones, specifically at Hoover Elementary and Jefferson Elementary/Middle Schools. The complaints consist of double parking, illegal U-turns, improper passing, and traveling the wrong way. This is obviously an issue that needs to be addressed with the parents. Any assistance in delivering this message through the school and PTA channels is appreciated. Expect to see more aggressive enforcement to correct this dangerous driving behavior that puts the students in danger.



Mt. Lebanon Foundation for Education

MLFE is a group of community members whose purpose is to award grants to teachers for innovative programming.

Over past 10 years we have awarded \$67 thousand in grants. Congratulations to the Fall 2023 Teacher Grant recipients:

- Grant #1 - Catherine Jordaan & Chrissa Sullivan: Comparing the benefits of hydroponic systems with traditional organic gardening
- Grant #2 - Jodi McKeever: The Friendly Loom: Weaving WES
- Grant #3 Chris Lutz: Foster PBIS Committee School Video Production
- Grant #4 Chelsea Geyer: ABA Project Linus

The next deadline for grant proposals is April 1.

We are starting the Spring fundraising drive and the new [MLFE Store](#) is up and running! Fundraising includes t-shirts, sweatshirts, stadium blankets, note cards with designs from our art teachers and tribute gifts. Tribute gifts are a great way to honor a retiring faculty member. Payment is easier now. Thank you to Kelley insurance for their sponsorship!



Outreach

RAAPS- Rapid Assessment for Adolescent Preventative Services is a 21- question adolescent risk behavior tool contributing to morbidity, mortality and social problems. Parent consent forms have been sent to both Middle Schools and will

begin Tuesday February 27th through March 8th . There are 73 students registered to date. High School screenings will begin April 15th-19th. There are 60 students registered to date. This is a double opt-in screener, both parent and child must consent. If you want your child screened, please contact your child's school counselor.

QPR Gatekeeper Training-Just as people trained in CPR and the Heimlich Maneuver help save thousands of lives each year, people trained in QPR learn how to recognize the warning signs of a suicide crisis and how to question, persuade, and refer someone to help. If you'd like to schedule a training, please reach out to Maggie Zangara at mzangara@outreachteen.org or 412-763-3715.

Mental Health Meetups at MTL Library are going to be back in session starting March 4th at 4-5pm. Meetups are for students in grades 6-8 who are interested in improving their self-care and sense of self. Registration is required through the library. This is a free event and snacks are provided!

We have new counselors available to see individuals/family/parents! If you are looking for services, please contact 412-561-5405. You can also put in a request online under Contact-Intake Inquiry Form.

Outreach is offering a social skills group! The age range is currently for 11-13 year olds. The one-hour group will run for five weeks with a scheduled sixth week makeup session at our Outreach office. We currently have a waitlist for this cohort. To register for future sessions, please complete a group intake form on our website at outreachteen.org.

Project Towards No Drug Abuse (TND) is Outreach's new evidence-based Drug and Alcohol Education and Prevention program. Our Certified Drug and Alcohol Counselor is offering a 3-week group to teach high school students ways to stop or reduce the use of drugs, learn about the consequences of use, and gain positive behavioral and emotional coping strategies. There is also a parent component to learn how to support your teen. To register for future sessions, please complete a group intake form on our website. Future dates are March: 2,9,16 (9-1), April: 6, 13,20, May 4, 11, 18 and June 8, 15, 22.

Connections Gala – Wonderland, April 26th at the Pittsburgh Renaissance. Tickets will be going on sale in March. We are celebrating 50 years of service to our community's youth and families and their mental health and well-being. If you would like to be a sponsor or to donate an item or two for our Silent Auction or our raffle baskets, please contact Tracy London, tlondon@outreachteen.org, and she will send you a donation form. Also available on our website.

**Thank you for the PTA's ongoing donation of lottery tickets!
They are a very popular item!**



Mt. Lebanon Municipality

The new trash and recycling contract started Jan1. Please note that recycling is every other week whole town recycles on the same week. Check our website about trash interruptions as we are no longer sending Lebo Alerts for changes in the trash schedule. Although curbside glass recycling is back we recommend that you continue to take it to collection containers by Kohl's. Taxes are still supporting that bin and a higher percentage of glass that goes into those bins is recycled.

There is a new fee for trash services - \$290 per household. It will be billed like storm water fees. Taxes will go down now 4.19 mils down from 4.5mils

The Tree City USA celebration will be held to commemorate Arbor Day at Foster Elementary School this year.

The Residents Academy has 30 people who have registered. Thank you to Dr. Davis and the school district for continuing to support this program- we are looking forward to our behind the scenes look at how the school district operates in a few weeks.

The Commission recently approved the 10 year Comprehensive plan for the township.

Do you know someone who volunteers for the Mt. Lebanon community that you'd like to see recognized for their efforts? Nominations for the Community Service Award are due Feb 2.

Mt. Lebanon City Council of PTAs

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1st Vice President - Jean Thomas

2nd Vice President - Priya Sukumaran

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