

LINK PTA MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY MAY 1ST

PRESENTATION BY JULIE UPTON, FFMS A-WING ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Teacher's Report:

Kindergarten:

The kindergarten classes are buzzing with activity. We have all been enjoying our lessons from Mrs. Trento- the enrichment teacher. She has been teaching us all about bees and pollination. The children have been little engineers- building their own bee baths, as well as identifying the different parts of a flower! In reading, the children are continuing to increase their reading stamina. The children are using lots of reading strategies and tools to read even more challenging books! The children are so proud of their independent reading and are enjoying bringing their book baggies home and showing off their reading skills to their families! In writing, the children are practicing writing sentences- beginning with capital letters, using spaces between words, ending their sentences with periods and exclamation marks, making sure their sentences make sense, and using sound power to write more and more words! In math, the children are decomposing and composing numbers! The children have learned to use a number bond to discuss whole numbers and their parts! Next, the students will be studying teen numbers using double ten-frame boards and other manipulatives. In content, we have begun our study on living things- the children will be planting seeds and watching their plants grow and change, as well as watching a caterpillar transform into a butterfly! So many wonderful things are happening in kindergarten. The children are surely getting ready for first grade!

1st grade is so happy spring has arrived! In word study, the children have been introduced to the last of the first grade snap words. They will continue to review and practice these words throughout the rest of the year. The children are also learning about the way vowel teams work. In reading, the children are going on adventures and meeting characters along the way. We are really focusing on keeping track of story parts and knowing how characters think and feel. Writing

has also been wonderful! The students have been voicing their opinions on things like toys and places in our community all while including reasons for their beliefs. In math we are continuing to learn how to use place value to help add and subtract larger numbers. In content we are learning about how people make decisions about their money to get what they want and need. We are also excited to begin enrichment with Mrs. Trento. It is going to be a great spring!

2nd Grade: Students have grown so much in every way- academically, socially and emotionally. We are super excited that Spring is here and we can get fresh air and sunshine and play outside!

We are all looking forward to our 2nd Grade Field Trip to the Maritime Aquarium on May 21st!

In reading, we are in our "Stepping into the World of the Story" unit. We are continuing to read longer words and books, read at just the right pace to be a more fluent reader, noticing punctuation, sounding like a character, and more! Students will learn key strategies for envisioning stories with details to "step into the world of their stories" and become active readers. Kids will use their imagination and thinking skills. The kids will develop knowledge of genre through this unit.

We are currently engaged in our realistic fiction writing unit. We are having a lot of fun creating fictional characters set in our real world. The kids are writing a series of stories using the same characters. We are going through the writing process, as well and making sure we have the necessary capital letters and correct punctuation.

In phonics, we will be beginning our word collectors as phonics professors and loving it! This unit focuses on making kids more curious about words and what they mean. Our phonics professors will learn a lot about compound words. We continue learning about nouns, verbs and adjectives.

Second graders are having a lot of fun practicing manuscript handwriting and beginning cursive/script and will continue this work in 3rd grade!

Math -As mathematicians, we learned about clocks and how to tell time. We are continuing to add and subtract within 1,000 using various strategies and it's very important to show our work.

PYP - We just concluded our science unit, "Earth Changes Can Happen Quickly or Slowly." The children have been engaged in various experiments and activities relating to our unit and theme. They love being scientists and observing, building and being creative! We are currently learning about rural, suburban and urban communities and how they are similar and different.

3rd Grade:

The third graders have been so excited to get outside and play! Hopefully, the weather will continue to cooperate and we can get outside as much as possible!

In Science, we have been studying China in Social Studies! The children have loved learning about their holidays and culture, important landmarks and geographical locations, their government and history. They especially loved learning about what life is like for Chinese students. It really helped them learn more about our Chinese friends that we communicate with each month for our One World Global Connections project.

In math, we have been working on telling time and measurement, as well as reviewing previously taught concepts in preparation for the NYS Math test coming up.

In Reading and Writing, we have started our Research Clubs Unit, which we are very excited about! Each group chose an animal to research. They are working in cooperative groups to take the information that they learn while reading nonfiction texts and then work together to plan and write a book about that animal. Each student focuses on a particular subtopic, like habitats, life cycles or defenses, to create this shared informational book in Google Slides. We can't wait to share them with you when they're done!

4th Grade:

We continue to thank you for all of your support this year! Have a great week!

We are so proud of our fourth grade students for working hard and completing their ELA state exam. They have worked hard all year and were able to apply their strategies and skills to complete the two days of online testing. Fourth graders have been learning so much about math with learning how to read angles and to use a protractor! They will show off the skills they have learned during their state math test which is on May 6th & 7th. We are in full swing with our Unit 3 science with waves and information. 4th graders are learning about waves, how energy transfers and how to communicate using morse code. Fourth Graders are thinking like engineers and really enjoying the science investigations. We have just started our new reading and writing units of study with Historical Fiction and writing realistic fiction. We are looking forward to our 4th grade class trips coming up on May 17th to the Cropsey Farm and on May 20th to Museum Village.

5th Grade: In ELA, we are beginning a novel study with *Esperanza Rising*, by Pam Munoz Ryan. The students will also begin a unit on reading and writing graphic novels. **For Math, our classes will take our computer-based state assessment next week on May 8th and May 9th.** We're so proud of our students for being responsible and bringing their chromebooks to class fully-charged. Thank you to all the parents who assisted with this as well. In addition, we are finishing up our unit on addition and multiplication with Area and Volume.

In Science, we are wrapping up our unit on Earth's Systems, while continuing with testprep for the **NYS Science Assessment on Tuesday, May 14th.**

Economics and Government will be our next units in Social Studies.

We are concluding our D.A.R.E. sessions soon. This week, students will be assigned their D.A.R.E. essays. **These will be completed at home and due next week, Tuesday, May 7th.** Our D.A.R.E Graduation will take place on 05/22. Please check your emails for more information.

Our students will visit Felix Festa Middle School on Wednesday, May 15th.

Students will eat lunch there. They may use their account, or it is suggested they bring \$7-\$10 for lunch purchase.

Some other important 5th Grade Dates to Note:

Wednesday, May 22nd - D.A.R.E Graduation (Please check your emails for more information)

Thursday, May 30th - 5th Grade trip to Philadelphia

Friday, June 7th - Grades 3-5 Field Day

Tuesday, June 18th - 5th Grade Moving Up Ceremony at Clarkstown South

Wishing all of our PTA a very Happy Spring and all of the Moms and Grandmothers a very Happy Mother's Day!

Library: During the spring, all library classes do research. Kindergarten learns how Worms are good for the earth and grade 1 learns about Outer Space. Grade 2 uses PebbleGo to study wolves and other animals of their choice. Grade 3 uses various websites to research Kenya's geography, culture and animals. Grade 4 partners choose an inspiring "Kid" Who is Changing the World and grade 5 partners choose a "Pioneer or World Changer" to create and present a Google Slideshow about.

Presentation by Mrs. Julie Upton FFMS Assistant Principal A-wing (6th Grade):

Please click the link to see the full presentation: [PTA presentation](#)

- **PTA volunteerism** is down - please volunteer when you can...any amount of effort and time would be so helpful! Parent participation and involvement is crucial!

Boulders reading program: certificates went home - open the QR code to get your tickets:

- 114 students participated
- All Teachers received a prize pack
- 2,285 minutes read by link school
- Great reading incentive

International Night:

- What an amazing night!
- Performances and shows were spectacular
- PTA had some tasty treats in the back for families to enjoy
- Families loved the museum walk to see all of the children's projects!

Field Day:

- 3-5 Friday, June 7th from 8:30-10:30 am
- K-2 Thursday, June 6th from 8:30-10:30 am
- Field day shirt forms were sent home Friday - students know their color

Nominating slate:

- President Jackie Pepe
- VP Ashley Richman
- Treasury: Kristyn Rastelli
- Recording Secretary & 5th Grade Chair: Krista Reynolds
- Corresponding Secretary: Linda Martire
- Cultural Arts: Lindsay Plesko
- Fundraising: Jessica Vecchiano & **OPEN**
- Programming: Lauren Rogoff
- Membership: Jennifer Blaustein

Fundraising:

- April Yankee game did well
- Paint and Sip was super fun
- Mother's Day Plant Sale 5/10
- Restaurant fundraiser this month - more to come
- June: Philly Pretzel Factory for Fathers Day event
- Please support fundraising event - without your support we can't

Treasurer: A lot of fundraisers did well and we were able to do a lot of things for the children and school.

- **Facilities and enhancement:** New picnic tables and a new Link Elementary sign was purchased for the front of the school with the Wizards fundraising money from last year!

- **Teacher appreciation:** PTA ordered t-shirts for all teachers in the building and ordered lunch for everyone. There will be a raffle-chance to win for teachers who are paid PTA members! Teachers will have a chance to win a gift card to a store of their choice. Previously, PTA used Gift Crowd to have parents chip in for holiday gifts for teachers and staff and gift crowd gives the PTA money back so we are using that money to support the teachers that support the PTA. **Plant Bucks:** form is attached and that will also be used for teacher appreciation.
- **Cultural Arts:** Winding down the year...up next: May 17th grades K-2 will have a visit with a Master storyteller then in June Hollyrock Game Show will visit grades K-2 then 3-5!!
- **PTA Council Report:**
PTA's are allowed to have food trucks at events. There are strict guidelines, permits and procedures and fees that have to be followed. Every time PTA gets a food truck, including an ice cream truck, PTA has to pay an administrative fee, whenever PTA has an event at school of more than 100 students.