

## PTO Meeting minutes

Thursday February 15, 2018 at 7pm

11 attendees, 2 teachers, 1 principal

### Welcome

#### Call to Order / introductions

#### January minutes approved

### Principal's Report:

- Grip- A- Strip – The tack strip along the hallways used to hang artwork was removed when the school was repainted this year. Mr. Beltrante has found a product called “grip-a-strip” that would replace the current thumb tack cork strips. The thumb tacks fall onto the ground and don't hold up as well. They did save the old cork strips and if PTO purchased the proposed Grip- A-Strip the old cork strip would be used as a second row for artwork (mainly for the evening of the arts night) and the new one would be the primary place for hanging work. The cost would be approximately \$2200-2500. Mr. Beltrante will work out the actual cost, meanwhile the board will announce the need for a vote at the next meeting and a vote will be had to determine if this is an item we will purchase for the school.
- Calendar –
  - Feb 16 – No School
  - Feb 19 – No School
  - Feb 22 – School Store
  - Mar 2 – End of marking period
  - Mar 8 – School Store
  - Mar 9 – Headstrong event
  - Mar 12 – Kindergarten Reg. 6-8p
  - Mar 13 – Kindergarten Reg 9a-3pm
  - Mar 14 – PTO meeting 7pm

### Teacher's Report: Miss. Nicholson, and Mrs. Giano – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teachers

**Kindergarten** – The kindergarten students continue to work on letters, sounds and sight words. They are awesome at blending and segmenting phonemes. The students will soon begin to add and subtract numbers and use 10-frames. They are also learning about the environment and will plant seeds soon. They are looking forward to Valentine's Day and the class party.

**First Grade** – First graders are working on becoming fluent readers. Please continue to read nightly with your child. We are actively exploring our new science unit on solids and liquids. The first graders are becoming scientists as they identify the various properties of these states of matter. Ask your first grader to sing our Matter song! In math we have begun our new Topic on Comparing and Ordering numbers to 100. We are looking forward to our Valentine 's Day party.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Grade** – The second graders have been working hard on learning new comprehension skills and strategies. We're also learning about synonyms, antonyms, and compound words. In math we've moved

on to place value up to 1000 and we're learning to add and subtract three digit numbers with regrouping. In social studies we just finished a unit on landforms and geography. We're excited to start our second science unit- Changes.

**Grade 3** – Students are working hard, and their hard work is certainly paying off as they make great strides in their 3<sup>rd</sup> grade curriculum. Students are learning how to unlock the meaning of complex texts by reading and annotating rich and authentic text passages in a variety of genres. Students are interpreting data through multiple forms of graphs in math class. In science class, our junior geologists are rocking out as they learn about the properties of rocks and minerals. Native American projects will soon be on display in our lobby; and as always, thanks for all your support at home.

**Grade 4** – The fourth grade continues to work hard! The students started the Animal Studies unit in science and are super excited to learn about and take care of the unique critters. They are doing a wonderful job. In social studies, the students are learning map skills and will soon start learning about the NE region of the United States. They continue to plug away in LA and math. The boys and girls are super excited that the Eagles won!

**Grade 5**- In social studies, students take on the role of underwater archaeologists to examine objects from an explorer's sunken ship and categorize them as navigation tools, motives for exploration, or new products from the Americas. In ELA, students identified a time they discovered something new about themselves, such as an artistic or athletic ability or an appreciation for a new kind of food or music. They have been discussing the experience that led to each discovery. We are finishing our unit on figurative language this month. Students have learned all about similes, metaphors, personification, idioms, oxymorons, onomatopoeia and alliterations. They certainly are busy bees! We continue to use google classroom to communicate with our students and share resources.

**Library** – Our students are hard at work on research projects. Fifth grade recently finished “explorer” projects, while fourth graders responded to a book by learning more about the The Great Depression and Dust Bowl. Third graders will be sharing their findings on endangered animals and how people are helping save these animals. Second graders completed a STEM challenge, as they attempted to build houses for a bear family (using only the materials given). Would their houses hold up to rain and wind? Now they are beginning a dinosaur research project. First graders are beginning to research animal habitats to create an animal project. Kindergarteners are learning about fables as they enjoyed “The Little Red Hen” and “The Tortoise and the Hare.” Cindy Petty and I continue to collaborate on STEM makerspace activities as we challenge our fifth graders to work together in teams to build, create and problem solve.

**Gifted Support** – Our 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders are working diligently getting ready for the STEM Design Challenge competition held in March. They have had some really unique ideas to bring to the table. Enhancing our writing skills has been the focus of our 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> graders. Vivid verbs and descriptive words are being used to write some really great paragraphs. Additionally, both groups are reading novels with their group and seem to be enjoying the collaborative conversations that follow each session. They are working so hard and doing a great job!

**Art** – It is exciting to see geometry and art combine in the clay tiles that are being designed by our 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Inspired by radial symmetry found in both nature and in the architectural designs of the modern and ancient worlds, these creations are really beginning to take shape! Additionally 2<sup>nd</sup> grade is also

building “architectural” forms using clay. Pinching and coil clay techniques are applied as we investigate the amazing designs of an insect, the caddisfly, whose small home is a source of inspiration for the contemporary artist, Hubert Duprat. Artist of the month will resume in February. Winners of the Women’s Club Community Art Contest are currently being displayed at the Newtown Square Library. Congratulations to all our winners and Honorable Mentions!

**Music** – We are certainly busy in music class! Fifth grade has been playing Recorder Baseball and will soon begin Ukulele lessons inspired by Bella Dianni. Prior to Ukulele, Emily Wechter will be teaching a class about the popular musical Hamilton. Our fifth graders are true Leaders! Fourth grade has been learning recorder independently since December. There is now a Google Classroom option available. Information will be coming home soon. Fourth graders are busy creating their play for the Evening of the Arts. The theme is then and now in celebration of Worrall’s 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Third graders have taken their recorder and music home and are checking in before school and during recess. It is amazing that so many are ready for independent learning. Please know that it is perfectly okay if your child does not have independence YET. It is coming! I assure you. We have started working on songs for our Centenarian Luncheon gig so the Google Classroom option is coming to third grade as well. First and second graders are learning about the 1950s through song in preparation for their show in May. This is not an easy task and I am proud to share that they are showing great grit and determination. Kindergarten is preparing songs for their show and is musically solving the mystery of the Dragon who is stealing pencils from upstairs classrooms. It is a pleasure to be the Worrall Music Teacher.

**EL**-Three cheers for our English Learners! They have been working their way through the state ACCESS 2.0 test with grit! This is a very challenging test that is required of all EL students. It tests their knowledge in four domains: listening, reading, writing and speaking the English Language. It’s often compared to the PSSAs. Other exciting news: our Marple Newtown Ambassador Program is up and running! I have partnered with the fifth grade teachers to select 5<sup>th</sup> grade students who act as ambassadors to our English Leaders. Our goal is for ELs to receive extra support through repetition of skills while promoting student leadership skills from our 5<sup>th</sup> graders. “MNAs” practicing rhyming, build vocabulary words, read, chat, and teach friendship skills as well. We can all be proud of the important contribution our MNAs make to the growth of our international students!!

#### **President’s Report –**

- Next school year the VP and Treasurer position will be open. We open the floor for anyone to volunteer/be nominated. Next month we will review the nominations. Any interest please let Christine DiSantis know. There will be a global connect/Worrall weekly/PTO site update to let everyone know of the positions.
- Worrall Fitness Club – Will start March 1st and run for 4 Thursdays. We need volunteers to make this event successful. Information has gone home and will continue to go home. Please consider helping.

### Treasurer Report:

- A budget report was passed out. We are now earning money this year with our fundraisers to date. Pizza bingo and Marple Skate night were outlined in the report with their earnings for each event. Thank you to all those who helped to make those nights a success!

### Committee Reports:

- **Bag Bingo** – Christine DiSantis is looking for volunteers to help on this committee. The next meeting is March 22<sup>nd</sup>. It will be held at St. Aloysius in Bryn Mawr. We need sponsors. The two Gold Sponsors at \$500 each have been established. Thank you to Chateau Blu and Paganos for their support. 8 Silver sponsors\*\* are still needed. If anyone would like to reach out to businesses, knows of a business, or generally wants to help in this area it would be appreciated. Each silver sponsor sponsors a round of bingo. Other donations received were from MSA who donated a week of camp and Camp Arrowhead who donated 4 weeks! Class wide reps are also needed so grade gifts baskets can be made to contribute. Homeroom captains will be notified. (\*\*See correction at end)
- **Headstrong** – Kate Fusaro and Christine DiSantis presented on this. Not much information is known other than we are participating and the date has been set for March 9<sup>th</sup>. Like last year, a facepainter, balloon artist, moonbounce and DJ have been booked. A link will be coming home with a signup genius looking for volunteers for the event. We are unsure if we will be selling merchandise during lunches. Lots more information to come.
- **5<sup>th</sup> grade activities** – Fundraising has been fantastic. They will be able to cover the cost of each student 100%. Any leftover money from scrip sales will go back to the PTO. Thanks for everyone's help in making all the fundraisers a success.
- **Scrip** – From 7/1-12/31 \$3000 was earned for the PTO. March Madness is coming up. Information will be sent home. Basically for those that don't know, each floor competes against the other. The classroom from each floor with the highest in Scrip sales wins a Basketball game against the staff. They also as a school earn "points" for madness week. Each week they earn 5000 dollars in sales wins them a "crazy" day – i.e. a crazy sock day, hat day, Hawaiian day etc.
- **Worrall Weekly** – a side question was asked about how close are we to being able to send the Worrall weekly/Wednesday papers electronically weekly. Mr. Beltrante said that it is not able to be sent as a global connect because the bandwidth is too large. PTO will try to have all the documents uploaded to the website and Facebook and a global connect with the link will be sent out and we will see how this works.
- **Big Brother Big Sister clothing drive** – it is sad to say, but BBBS no longer picks up donations. There are other companies that will give you money for your donations, but enough time has not been had to look into them. BBBS was such a nice organization to work with. Time will be spent looking into other organizations and we will see if a FALL collection is possible.

Adjourn

**Next PTO meeting is March 14, 2018 at 7pm- hope to see you there.**

\*\* Correction: 8 Gold sponsors are still needed. Each gold sponsors a round of bingo (\$250 donation).