

PTA Meeting

January 14th, 2026 at 7:00pm



Welcome - Kaci Snyder/Rebecca Kuhlmann Taylor

- Welcome back and Happy New Year!

Principal Update - Christine Ahrens

- Happy New Year!
- Thank you for the work with class parties and collection of money for gift cards for staff.
- Shout out Kirsten for all the work with parties!
- Top Timberwolves - December: Staying Focused, December Ms. Piani's 4th, both dual second grade classrooms won for Staying Focused. January: Being a kind friend - announced in Feb. and a class will earn that as well.
- MAP Literacy testing this week, next week MAP Math. Students should come to school well rested so they can focus on the test.
- We have completed 86 school days this year.
- Has been focused on being quiet and respectful in the hallways - this has gone really well. Has gotten compliments on behavior in the hallways.
- A big part of Churchill is when you are here and leave to Hadley you are a kind and good friend to all. Focusing on achievements outside of academics while highlighting academics as well.

District 41 Board Member - Chris Martelli

- The board is reading "What School Could Be" - talks about innovation and how important it is for students to understand critical thinking and collaborative work.
 - Author traveled across all 50 states and interviewed educators, law makers, etc.
 - Visited schools that were working on more than high stakes testing
- Feb 9 - Meeting to engage the community in conversation regarding the book.
- Asked about corner safety - people came to board meetings and spoke at public comment about this topic. Dr. McHugh has been in touch with people to try to address the issue.
- Brought up concern regarding paying for district spaces - charged 3x what was paid last year and there is some frustration about reasoning. Could custodial staffing needs be considered in the budget for them so that the cost is not passed down to the PTA? Will look into it.

Churchill Teacher Representatives - Dee Dee Aldrich & Kristen Travers

- Thank you for the gift card program - very much appreciated.
- Thank you for being a wonderful and caring community and supporting our staff.
- Carol Vangorp is grateful for support helping to Raise the Literacy Temperature - especially the volunteers - has helped 59 students.
- Thank you for the support on field trips.

Executive Board Reports

President – Kaci Snyder

- PTA Council has started an award called “Greatness in D41” - Churchill’s is in February and the Board has picked their winner.
- 2025 Glen Ellyn Chamber of Commerce Awards are open for nominations. Mrs. Lozano won last year.
- Got our Platinum membership award from last year.
- Make sure you send announcements to Lucy for posting on the website as soon as you are able.

President-Elect - Rebecca Kuhlmann Taylor

- International Night Update - Friday April 10, 6-8pm.
 - Will be in both gyms again this year.
 - Families and staff volunteer to host a table about their culture of origin.
 - Everyone who comes gets to tour the world and get their passports stamped.
 - 6 countries confirmed so far after putting out the word to hosts who had a table last year.
 - Kids who are participating will be given
- Nominating Committee
 - Respond regarding officer or chair participation for next year
 - Forming the committee who recruits and finds new people
 - 6 people on the committee - three grades represented (1,2 & 3), really looking for Kindergarten parents and 4th grade parents who may want to help.

1st VP: Programming - Jennifer Sostak

- Still working on doing some assemblies - trying to see if we can get an author. May need to get creative.
- Doing after school enrichment - some are established and there are some other groups that are trying to get in and do programming.
- Haven’t had a ton of updates from Camp out with a Good Book - that will be in May
- Field Day - Half of their programs set up in terms of who is going to come - excited for the outdoor spaces.
- High Interest Day - 27 programs we’re trying to secure, 19 are for sure. March 13th. Still working on finding an assembly for the afternoon that day.

2nd VP: Ways & Means – Caryn Neumann

- Fundraising with Lyttle Auditorium - can buy a print of local businesses.
 - If you select Churchill PTA when you order we get \$6
- DoRight Donuts coming back Valentines day weekend - check the newsletter for more information.

3rd VP: Communications – Carrie Mariot & Jackie MacMillan

- Get things to them by Thursday for Monday's newsletter
- Thank you to everyone who sends things in!

4th VP: Language & Cultural Diversity – Emnie Staley

- If you need anything translated and you don't get a response via email feel free to text her!

Treasurer – Lindsey Hu

- Current Cash Position - \$64,411.35 as of December 31st. We are just above where we were at last year this time.
- Income, we've made \$56k compared to budget of \$77k for the year
- Expenses \$29k compared to budget of \$81k
- Fall fest - Budgeted \$1,000 loss, came in at about that.
- Drama - Budgeted a loss of \$2,200, came in at about \$1,476
- Churchill Cares - Budgeted a loss of \$1000, came in at about \$170
- Please allow at least a week notice for cash box requests
- Pricing for events and budget questions - please reach out to the Churchill PTA Treasurer.

Secretary – Nina Ponce - Approve November meeting minutes & Membership

- Currently sitting at 192 members
- DirectorySpot has been updated for the new semester with updated student and family lists.
- Jennifer motioned to approve November meeting minutes. Carrie seconded. Unanimously approved November meeting minutes.

Committee Chair Reports

Volunteer Coordinator - Paula Fernández

- Thank you to all of our Volunteers for jumping in and doing so with kindness and grace.
- A reminder was sent to all volunteers with requirements and new rules. Committee chair toolkit is in that email as well.
- Reach out if you have any questions.
- Sorry for the issue with the Valentines day parties - times were wrong but have since been fixed and Paula can help with any cancellations or adjustments.

Churchill Cares - Kate Marsh, Carrie Mariot, Jeanesse Miller, Joyce Meza, Stephanie Horn & Kirsten

Dineen

- Thank you to the community!
- Holiday Sharing was in the middle of Dec. - serviced 250 families in D41 across all 6 schools.
- Families think very highly of the program and it matters a lot to them.

Cooks Night Off - Andrew Faulman

- Portillos went well - maybe advertise a little more next time. Portillos can also advertise for us. May try again in the Spring. Maybe do lunch hours so teachers can order next time.

- We have another CNO in two weeks - Lou Malnati's
- Made in Italy was the best so far - wants to support more local restaurants.

Fifth Grade Gives Back - Abby Woenker

- Movie night was a success
- Kids are going to work with PADS to collect items to make bags with the plan to deliver them before Spring Break.
- Starting to get ready for Spring events.

Family Fun Offsite Event - Amy Mueller - Thursday, January 15th 5:30-7:30pm at Get Air

- Tickets can be bought at the door - 87 kids signed up so far.

Dance & Date Night - Charity McClure, Allison Schroeder, Beth Muren & Meghan Parker - Friday, February 6th

- Dance is Let it Glow Sneaker Ball
- Feb. 6th
- 85 Kids, 84 adults RSVPs so far - behind last year's number
- Going to push the marketing and get the word out.
- Will have pizza and dessert, buttered noodles and salads.
- Want to target the incoming Churchill kindergarteners.
- Doing Red Carpet Photos and will also take candid photos. All of the photos are free to all of the families

Classroom Parties - Kirsten Dineen

- 3 classrooms with no volunteers so far. Also quite a few with just 1.
- Free resources for everyone to use, just reserve it ahead of time.

Science Olympiad - Mrs. Allen & Ms. Kramer - Saturday, February 21st

- Competition is at Gower West on Feb. 21st.
- PTA provides a team t-shirt which we are working on.

Girls on the Run - Kelly Theilbar

- Starting 4th year in the Spring.
- Just getting started now - no official date for the final 5k but season typical starts beginning of march and goes until mid may.
- 3rd-5th graders are invited to join.
- 2 practices a week - working on which days they will be. Meeting with coaches and hoping to have everyone back.
- Enrollment was big last year - close to 35 girls to start.
- Always looking for more coaches (staff and parents) just to make sure we have eyes on the kids and the interactions that are going on.

Family Roller Skating Event - Chilin Tran - Saturday, March 7th 3-5pm at Coachlite

- Free to go and rent skates.

Nominating Committee - Rebecca Kuhlman Taylor

- Nominations for the committee -
 - Kim Riewerts
 - Nina Ponce
 - Kealy Moore
 - Rebecca Kuhlmann Taylor (as chair since in President Elect role)
 - Anne Young
 - Lucy Pask
- Kate motioned to approve Emnie seconded. Nominating committee slate approved.

Parent Social - Angie Navarro

- Get your tickets for the parent social
- 21+ event
- Might have vouchers from Busy Bee Babysitting to help with babysitting for kids
- Sold about 51 tickets - goal 130.
- Silent and live auction - can participate even if you don't attend - starts Feb. 13th.
- Looking for donations from parent community for Wagon.
- Hoping to host an event for Galentines at Koze in early February.
- Trying to get people to allow them to borrow fake Christmas trees and stringed patio lights.
- Did a raffle for kindergarten families to get involved. - Winner: Amanda Decker

New/Old Business and Discussion Items

- Other upcoming events - Mark your calendars! All events posted on the PTA website.
 - International Night 4/10, Talent Show 4/24, Fifth Grade Mixer 5/1, Teacher Appreciation Week 5/4-8, Camp Out with a Good Book 5/15, Kane County Cougar Game 5/31, Fifth Grade Picnic 6/4

Questions/Concerns & Wrap Up

- Next meeting date Wednesday, March 11th at 7pm

Attendees

Remote Attendees:

- Kelly Thielbar
- Beth Muren
- Lucy Pask
- Angela Navarro

In Person:

- Christine Ahrens
- Lindsay Hu
- Paula Fernandez

- Andrew Faulman
- Rebecca Kuhlmann Taylor
- Jennifer Sostak
- Carrie Mariot
- Kate Marsh
- Nina Ponce
- Kaci Snyder
- Chris Martelli
- Kristen Travers
- Emnie Staley
- Abby Woenker

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