

PTA Meeting

September 17, 2025 at 7:00pm



Welcome - Kaci Snyder

- Welcome to the first PTA meeting of the year!
- Kaci facilitated introductions.

Principal Update - Christine Ahrens

- Excited to be here! Kicked off the year strongly.
- Question regarding how the full day kindergarten is affecting Churchill - haven't noticed problems.
- Asking Churchill families to use our parking lot for drop off and same for Kindergarten.
- Very little movement in the hallway between buildings except for a couple of classes.
- Helpful having the center for specials teachers- no one sprinkling in so full classes can stay together.
- Thank you from the community for no cell phone policy.
- Come to Christine if you have any concerns - would rather hear from you than through social media.

District 41 Board Member - Jason Loebach

- Parents really spearheaded the no cell phone policy.
- After last year things are going smoothly - good transition with the principal in place and the kindergarten center open.
- A lot of changes have happened but staff is resilient and willing to go with the flow and work on the issues that need to be resolved.
- Turf and new playground are a hit.
- Board representation at PTA meetings rotates but someone should be here.
- Questions submitted by community: concern about signage on turf - are we not allowed to use the turf?
 - Answer from Christine - Churchill families can use it on the weekends but the district does not want it becoming something that the park district or other groups use for organized activities and sports.
- Question regarding traffic at Kenilworth - at least two accidents and a car taking out a sign has been witnessed. Stacey is being instructed to stand in the middle of the intersection to stop traffic. Jason stated that specific conversations have happened regarding this intersection at PTA Council and plans were put in place. Jason was unaware of current concerns and will follow up with what those plans are and who can be contacted regarding this - will follow up with Kaci.

- Can he also ask regarding Geneva and Bloomingdale traffic survey? Is there consideration of a crossing guard?
- Do families coming from that direction need to be reminded to utilize the buses because of the unsafe intersection? Or communication regarding a safer route to take to get to school?

Churchill Teacher Representatives - Dee Dee Aldrich & Kristen Travers

- Lots of comments about the amazing breakfast at the start of the year and is much appreciated!
- Everyone is looking forward to working with the PTA.
- Question from Kirsten - We are continuing with purchasing supplies but would love the feedback from teachers on what they would like to see at class parties. We want to make sure teachers with no parents committed to helping can still have fun things to do. These would be things that are used and then returned but we would love a wish list if possible.
- Question from Rebecca regarding tech policy and how it's going - haven't noticed a lot of students trying to sneak in tech. Had a kid ask about a watch being in school mode, was told to put it away and he did with no problem. Teachers like that it's a blanket policy - makes enforcement easier.

President – Kaci Snyder

- Great start to the year.
- Christine has been a great partner!

President-Elect - Rebecca Kuhlmann Taylor

- Glad to be here!

1st VP: Programming - Jennifer Sostak

- Young Rembrandts starting up.
- Bricks for Kids wants to switch to Mondays but we are waiting for the insurance form - start date in mid October.
- DuPage Children's museum would start October 20th with programs.
- Two different coding schools have reached out. Lombard wants to come out for a one hour class to gauge interest.
- We do get some money from Lombard coding school (small percentage).
- Pass through costs - families pay the organization directly - no cost to us to have them come in.

2nd VP: Ways & Means – Caryn Neumann

- Run-a-thon coming up next week.
- Parent social Feb. 21st
 - We will start selling tickets at Fall Fest.
- Good Roots fundraiser - offered to do a shopping incentive for anyone who mentions Churchill Nov 5-9.

- Looking to do something with Shoot Photography - hoping for Lilacia park where you will work with a photographer for family pictures - will donate \$20 back for each session.
- When you sign up for membership you can sign up for Givebacks Shopping incentive.
 - Donates 5% back if you upload your card info and shop like normal.
- Boxtops - download the app and scan or email receipt and money will go back to Churchill.

3rd VP: Communications – Carrie Mariot & Jackie MacMillan

- Weekly newsletter on Mondays with midweek Wednesdays during busy season or special events.
- Please get anything to be included in the newsletter or on Facebook to the communications team by Thursday.
- Danielle will be posting on Facebook for us.
- Newsletter not getting to all parents - some new parents not getting it and some old parents no longer receiving it even without unsubscribing - may need to add the email sending it to the "safe sender" list in your email.

4th VP: Language & Cultural Diversity – Emnie Staley - diversity@churchillpta.org

- Advocate for EL, Dual and FLES students.
- Trying to connect with the new language director and school liaison - Emnie will be present at BPAC meetings.
- ESL parents not in dual language program - are they receiving their newsletters in Spanish or another language?
 - If its through school messenger (SMORE) it can be translated through Google
 - Good feedback on the translation piece.
 - Question is regarding classroom teachers as those updates are not sent through SMORE - will get more information.
- Encourage parental involvement from all language and cultural groups.
 - BPAC event coming up October 2nd - going to have PTA information available to those families.
- SMORE - Make sure programming is accessible to all families.
- If translation services are needed for a document, reach out to Emnie by Thursday for it to be ready on Sunday.
- Celebrate all language and cultural groups.
 - April 10 - Cultural Night.

Treasurer – Lindsey Hu - Review and Approve Budget & Audit

- Last year: budgeted a loss of \$3,728, came in at a net loss of \$2,414.
- Current cash position, prior year expenditures, and budget used as benchmark for new budget.
- Budgeting a total income of \$76,502, expenses estimated to be \$81,130.
- Auditors made suggestions of how we can close up the gap and are hopeful that we can raise money in order to do so.

- \$47,924 current cash position. We try to keep \$20,000 in savings so we are doing okay right now.
- Sending a link to the full budget.
- Audit
 - Annual audit performed on September 15th.
 - Discrepancy of \$70.57 between bank and quickbooks - nothing to do about it now, just noted.
- Insurance has been renewed.
- Taxes and non-profit annual report have been filed.
- Reminder for tax exemption - please use our tax exempt card for all purchases for events.
- Switched from Venmo to Zelle for in person digital payments.
- Motion to adopt toe budget for this year. Kirsten motioned to approve the audit, Jennifer seconded. Unanimously approved, budget passed.

Secretary – Nina Ponce - Approve May Meeting Minutes & Membership (Platinum Level Achievement for last year)

- The early membership efforts have been successful with 157 members thus far! 13 of these memberships are from faculty.
- Need 180 members to maintain Platinum Level status.
- We have the class lists and teacher lists ready to upload. My plan is to have everything live on 9/26.
- Will send out one final email blast tomorrow to current users reminding them to renew before they lose access.
- Lucy motioned to approve May meeting minutes. Abby seconded. Unanimously approved May & June meeting minutes.

Committee Chair Reports

Volunteer Coordinator - Paula Fernández

- Still looking for committee chair for talent show and apprentice for International Night.
- Review volunteer toolkit if you are a chair - can be found under “resources” on the website.
- Interested in volunteering, reach out and Paula will point you in the right direction.
- For security purposes during the school day - make sure you have your id and plan to leave it in the main office for time in the building and collect it on the way out.
- For Run-a-Thon if you are not entering the building you do not have to do this - names will be provided to the school ahead of time.

Book Fair & Ice Cream Social - Abby Woenker, Jasmin Rivera, Sarah Dickinson & Megan Guffey

- We have \$2300 in scholastic dollars that will go to Mrs. Aldrich for ordering whatever is needed which is great!
- Very well attended event - 550 tickets from ice cream socials that were used.

- Maybe move the event to the gym to help with overcrowding?
- Should we tie curriculum night to the book fair to increase attendance and involvement in the PTA?

Run-A-Thon - Thursday, September 25 at Churchill - Kaci Snyder & Stacy Short

- Run-a-thon is next Thursday.
- Raised just over \$18,000 with a goal of \$30,000.
- 40% of the kids registered - still pushing registration and doing raffle drawings.
- Christine has been great at sending emails to parents.
- Trying to do incentives as they get them this year instead of waiting until October - hoping this will up the excitement.
- Still need volunteers - not even half full yet so please donate water or show up to help.
- All good to go, just want to keep the donations coming.

Churchill Drama - Disney Dare to Dream - November 8 & 9 - Kate Marsh & Lisa Hallen

- Show has started called Dare to Dream - written by Disney. Disney variety show.
- Cast is set - great start this week.
- Quick turnaround this year - early November when the show happens.
- Please buy tickets and attend!
- If anyone has a background in theater to do spotlights, photography, set painting please reach out!

Chess Wolves - Dan Olson & Lucy Pask

- 10 sign ups including some kids brand new to chess.
- Going great!
- Play full games and mini games for chess - teaching skills that will help with chess game overall.

Webstore & Website - Kate Marsh, Jeanelle Olson and Lucy Pask

- Use the website to make your life easier - well visited and well used.
- Updated according to communications that go out - Lucy also reaches out as events come up.
- We now have a pop up that highlights important events or needs.
- Mission to keep it simple so that it is used and useful.
- District links at the bottom of every page.
- If there's something you want on there just let Lucy know.
- Webstore/Revtrak
 - Event based items will go through Wicks
 - Other items will go through Revtrak
 - Give several days' notice for events you need to use these things for.

Fall Fest - Friday, October 24 - Amy Mueller

- Fall fest will be 5:30-7:30.
- Food trucks will include Javis, Pizza, Boba, Cotton Candy, DoRight Donuts.

- DJ is booked, bounce houses secured.
- Forest Preserve Owl guy will also be coming!

Cooks Night Off - Andrew Faulman - Reported by Caryn

- Cooks night out - Andy Fullman the new chair for that event.
 - Working on one each month partnering with restaurants and getting donations back when you mention Churchill.
 - Next one at Made in Italy and A&G Subs - in person or online with code CHILL.
- Doing a sale with DoRight Donuts - very successful last year
 - 20% of proceeds for selling at Fall Fest.
 - Fundraiser will go out prior to Fall Fest.
- If you have ideas let Andy know!

FGGB - Abby Woenker - churchillfggb@gmail.com

- Signups are done - around 50 kids.
- Working on ordering t-shirts through Rob.
- Planning to help with games at the fall fest.

Churchill Cares - Kate Marsh & Carrie Mariot

- Work with social workers to meet needs that come up for students.
- Provide outerwear - coat, gloves, and a hat.
- Holiday sharing program - in November - provide gifts as a community during the holiday season.

PTA Council - Carrie Mariot

- PTA Council meets once a month with the Superintendent.
- Jeff's main focus is relationships so please reach out to him with concerns.
 - Send him an email - he would rather hear anything directly from you instead of through the grapevine, even if it's something that is causing strong emotions.
- Hears that there are concerns about Chromebook usage so he will be looking at that.
- DuPage county is aware of traffic issues and they handle those issues so direct any concerns there.
- District communication will include information regarding our PTA efforts (Dine out, run a thon, etc.).

Classroom Parties - Kirsten Dineen - All Dates set & inventory available

- Any suggestions for supplies please let her know!
- The open date for sign up will be October 1st - 8pm.
- Prize donations can be dropped off at Kirsten's house.

New/Old Business and Discussion Items

Custodian Appreciation Day - Thursday, October 2

- Kaci will be getting them a gift and kids will be making cards.

Parent Teacher Conferences

- 11/3 (PTA serves dinner), 11/5, 11/11 & 11/13 (PTA serves dessert)

Questions/Concerns & Wrap

- Next meeting date is Wednesday, November 19 at 7 p.m. to accommodate Parent/Teacher conference.

Adjourned at 8:17pm

Attendees

Remote Attendees:

- Jackie MacMillan
- Marie Belcaster
- Anna Duffy
- Lisa Hallen

In Person:

- Jennifer Sostak
- Kirsten Dineen
- Jackie Stetson
- Caryn Neumann
- Abby Woenker
- Carrie Mariot
- Umer Siddiqui
- Rebecca Kuhlmann Taylor
- Christine Ahrens
- Lindsay Hu
- Kristin Travers
- Paula Fernandez
- Lucy Pask
- Joyce Meza
- Jason Loebach
- Emnie Staley
- Jasmine Rivera
- Kaci Snyder