

**PTA Meeting**

**November 19, 2025 at 7:00pm**

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**Welcome - Kaci Snyder**

- Thanks everyone for coming!

**Principal Update - Christine Ahrens**

- Thank you for volunteers for Run-A-Thon!
  - Loved the raffles and organized announcements, culminating in being pied in the face.
  - Incorporating more incentives for next year.
- Fall fest was lots of fun, thank you to everyone who volunteered and our 5th grade gives back for running games.
- Top Timberwolves - First Thursday of each month, one from each classroom. September recognized prepared and on time, October recognized engaged and enthusiastic, November is recognizing gratitude, December will recognize kids who are staying focused.
- Veterans day said pledge and sang the National Anthem in the field. Students wrote letters to those who have served. Thank you to everyone who made it all possible!
- Thank you for food during conferences - Portillos was a big hit with the teachers.
  - Thank you for help with BBQ in partnership with GECRC
  - Thank you for desserts on the last day.
- Thank you for help with field trips, a lot of students are very excited about them. Every grade has identified and scheduled their trips.
- This week Christine has had to reach out to families of students who have searched for things that are not school appropriate - curse words or mental health phrasing. If mental health concerns are flagged they are connected with student support staff.
  - Search is screenshot and then sent to parents - starts with a warning and if it continues they lose Chromebook privileges.
- Map testing coming up as well as ACCESS testing for ESL identified students.
- Staff shout outs - trying to spread positivity and recognize staff. Created a nice culture here, teachers felt it was just what they needed - also started shouting out each other. Gotten a lot of kind words from parents both long and short.
- Thank you for the hard work of the PTA and how PTA meetings are run. Thank you for being active and involved and we love having you at school.

**Guest Speaker - Dee Neukirch - Director of Language Programs**

- Here to provide Language program updates - there are some great updates to all programs, not just dual language. - Dee will provide the slides for viewing.
- Has 20 years of experience all in Spanish and ELL - has a large network of people to reach out to regarding best practice, curriculum, etc.
- Glen Ellyn is unique for the number of language learning opportunities available to students.

- FLES & World Language
  - All FLES teachers have their own classrooms - this has been great for teachers in regards to accessing curriculum, tech, supplies, and they feel as though they can engage their students in learning so much better.
  - Dee has toured all FLES rooms and now has moved on to touring World Language classrooms.
  - World Language teachers are an impressive group of people. Students are developing a high level of language that is unique to the area.
- Seal of Biliteracy
  - Went from 66 students passing to 145 students passing.
  - This test is very difficult.
  - Certification of being bilingual - allows you to bypass the Illinois biliteracy test when becoming bilingual teachers.
- Dual Curriculum Enhancements
  - Dual is using a new literacy curriculum that follows the gen ed literacy
  - Dual students are getting 50/50 spanish and english literacy tied to a researched based curriculum
    - Historically was 70/30 with teachers developing content
  - Two new administrators with significant experience in a combination of dual, ESL, bilingual and language acquisition. Dee and Christine are in constant communication regarding programming
  - We now have a fully dedicated Dual Instructional Coach targeting collaboration, support, and program enhancements.
- ESL Instruction
  - ESL staff are piloting newcomers (new to US with three year period) groups that tailor to those in both Mono and Dual - not just Spanish speaking.
  - All admin team members are seeing targeting towards support for ESL students.
  - Hadley ESL team is implementing a new curriculum which is more tailored to the literacy and language support needs of middle school learners. - Using a program from NatGeo that levels learning to a specific students language acquisition level
  - Glenbard West articulation meetings occurred with Hadley staff - really strong commitment to supporting ESL students in their scheduling in high school
- Continuum of Language Learning
  - D41 has placed a significant level of importance on the diverse language programs. We have significant resources, great staff, awesome students and families.
  - Diverse language programs support all students, not just one group of learners. We are going above and beyond other neighboring districts
  - New administrative team is highly experienced and knowledgeable about language acquisition at the various levels of learning. They are also highly collaborative and committed to continued success and growth of all programs.
- Question regarding Seal of Biliteracy Data - is there a way to break the data down more to divide out FLES students versus dual language students?

- Hoping for further collaboration to be able to get that kind of information from D87.

#### **Churchill Teacher Representatives - Dee Dee Aldrich & Kristen Travers - Presented by Carol Van Gorp**

- Adding some new things - Raising the Literacy Temperature at Churchill
- Want to motivate the kids - Student of the week, posters with what teachers and students of the week are reading - trying to heighten visibility.
- Timberwolves talk top titles - selecting a student from every grade to do a book review. The student is pulled and interviewed, and then they are working with broadcast club to help the whole school see the book review.
- Kids who are reading at home - it helps their mental health, emotional health, they make more money long term, test better, etc.
- Want help with raising the awareness and conversation around reading at home.
- Starting 11/21 - Drop everything and read
  - Kicks off 40 day reading adventure log. - Parents need to write the date of every day they've read.
- Reading around the world - tracking minutes around the world - transferring minutes to miles.
- Reported that PTA would love to have mystery readers back - it was reported to all teachers and all grade levels.
- Videos are going out that include teachers reading books that students and families can watch.
- Looking for 8 volunteers for two hours a month during the school day - help support teachers with giving students missing tests and other makeup work for students who are absent. - Look for SignUp genius to sign up for slots.

#### **President – Kaci Snyder**

- Working with Christine on field trips - all are planned and lots of different experiences
- Budget - District charged us for 3 custodians for the play - historically we've been under charged (only for 1) but that will no longer be happening. Be sure to check with the district when planning the budget for your event so you know what to expect.

#### **President-Elect - Rebecca Kuhlmann Taylor**

- No updates!

#### **1<sup>st</sup> VP: Programming - Jennifer Sostak**

- Fall Fest Recap - This event has become a lot to plan, difficult for a single person - trying to create a new committee
  - Getting volunteers outside of the school day is really tricky - Do we scale back or change the available activities based on volunteers?
- FGGB -
  - Did a lot of help with Fall Fest
  - Movie night planning in full swing - December 5th - Wild Robot
  - Candy donation drive for Ronald McDonald House until Friday 11/21
- Drama - Dare to Dream

- Kids did an amazing job
- Performed 3 shows - 722 tickets sold
- Thank you to everyone who made this production possible!

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> VP: Ways & Means – Caryn Neumann**

- Run-a-Thon was a huge success - thank you so much Christine for the support.
- Did a shopping incentive with Good Roots - 10% kick back
- Shoot photography - \$20 per session if people buy something from the gallery, additional \$20 if you buy the whole gallery.
- Lidel Auditorium - pen and ink artist doing 80 business in Glen Ellyn - we will make \$6 for every print sold.
- Parent Social - Feb 21st - Apres school at Timberwolf Ski Lodge - Going to be at American Legion
  - 21 and older event - lots of opportunity to mingle
  - Looking for donations and connections to local businesses.
  - Buy tickets now!
  - Live auction and silent auctions

#### **3<sup>rd</sup> VP: Communications – Carrie Mariot & Jackie MacMillan**

- Thank you for sending posts by Thursday for Monday newsletters

#### **4<sup>th</sup> VP: Language & Cultural Diversity – Emnie Staley**

- Going to connect with family liaison to see how we can engage more spanish speaking families

#### **Treasurer – Lindsey Hu**

- Cash position as of 10/30
  - \$70302.51, \$50,302.51 after \$20,000 in reserves
  - The auditor made recommendations to put \$20,000 in an account that makes more money in interest. - Going to investigate more and see what the options are.
- We have brought in \$39K of our \$77K budget this year
  - Sitting in good shape to hit our budget.
- Used \$18K of the projected \$81K in expenses
- Exceeded income in Member Services
- Run-A-Thon came in under budget for expenses and over budget for income
- Remember to use the tax exempt certificate for purchases - we have accounts with Amazon and Walmart
- We now have Zelle instead of Venmo
- Questions for budget for events reach out to Lindsey
- Report filed for audit

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

- We made Platinum status officially as of October 3rd!

- Currently sitting at 190 members
- Looking to get an updated class list next week to update Directory Spot
- Rebecca motioned to approve September meeting minutes. Lucy seconded. Unanimously approved September meeting minutes.

### **Committee Chair Reports**

#### **Volunteer Coordinator - Paula Fernández**

- Volunteers do not need to be direct family members - can be grandparents and extended family.
- Sending committee chair people the newest information and review of information regarding volunteers to follow all protocols that way it is at the top of inboxes in January.

#### **Fall Fest Recap - Friday, October 24 - Amy Mueller**

- Great responses from parents

#### **Chess Wolves - Dan Olson & Lucy Pask**

- Fall season concluded
- 14 paid students, about 12 each night
- March and April will do another 6-8 sessions
- Took 5 kids to their first tournament at Naperville North - kids loved it and keep asking when the next tournament is
- Looking in February - Elite Chess opened a location in Wheaton - they do fundraisers with Wheaton Area schools where they come in, do a lesson on how to play chess and a quick tournament. Have had a lot of success with fundraising these types of events.
  - Maybe do one of these fundraisers to maybe be able to bring more students to the next big tournament.
- Thank you to Lucy for the help with the team!

#### **Website - Lucy Pask**

- Wants to show some people how to log in to be able to edit the calendar.
- If you'd like to learn reach out to Lucy and she will train you - would be super helpful!
- There is a pop-up feature so reach out if you'd like to utilize that reach out and Lucy can get it set up quickly.

#### **Cooks Night Off - Andrew Faulman**

- We've done well so far. Gotten a little over \$1000 with the events hosted so far.
- Locked in for Portillos in December - will do 20% back
- Local places tend to do better than chains in terms of kick back.
- Dave and Busters do 50% back for their gift cards with no time limits.

#### **After School Enrichment - Jackie MacMillan**

- Sent out Young Rembrandts flyer for January

### **Churchill Cares - Kate Marsh & Carrie Mariot**

- Holiday sharing is coming up - chance to support those in need in the community - will come out in the PTA newsletter
- All donations due December 10 for distribution December 13
- Support by buying gifts or contributing money towards gift cards and groceries.
- Also working on winter outerwear drive. Each school takes a week in the winter and picks up coats based on requests from the social workers
  - If you know of students who are in need, notify the social workers.

### **PTA Council - Carrie Mariot**

- Busing update - changing bus companies.
- Book club at next community meeting - pick up the book at the bookstore or the library (What School Could Be). Discussion will be Feb 9th.
- Getting a new secretary and their first big job is a D41 calendar for Cooks Night Out so that we can support other school PTAs and receive support from other schools.
- Working on supporting the Kindergarten Center - right now PTA Council has been overseeing the budget.

### **Classroom Parties - Kirsten Dineen**

- First round went well.
- Next one has good volunteers signed up.

### **New/Old Business and Discussion Items**

- Check calendar on the website for future event dates in the spring
- The next meeting date is Wednesday, January 14th at 7 p.m.

#### **Attendees**

#### **Remote Attendees:**

- Emmie Staley
- Dan Olson
- Joyce Meza
- Meghan Cox-Pedota

#### **In Person:**

- Christine Ahrens
- Lindsay Hu
- Andrew Faulman
- Jackie Stetson
- Carrie Mariot
- Dee Neukirch
- Lucy Pask

- Paula Fernandez
- Rebecca Kuhlmann Taylor
- Dee Dee Aldrich
- Jennifer Sostak
- Caryn Neumann
- Nina Ponce
- Kaci Snyder
- Carol Van Gorp

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