

PTA Meeting
March 11, 2026 at 7:00pm



Welcome & Sign In - Kaci Snyder

- Welcome and thanks for coming!

Principal Update - Christine Ahrens

- Thank you to Jennifer and the committee for putting together High Interest Day. Staff & students are very excited!
- Looking forward to the Cool to be Kind Assembly on Friday afternoon. Students did some pre-work in their classrooms to get ready for this fun assembly. Thank you to Becky for organizing this and PTA for sponsoring.
- IRA testing next week. Please have kids come to school rested and ready! Tests will be taken in the morning. If you can avoid pulling students for appointments during that time, that would be appreciated.
- Thank you to those who filled out the 5 Essentials Survey; we reached 37% participation. We look forward to celebrating with a "Movie Under the Stars" event on Friday, April 17th on the Churchill field. Super casual. Bring blankets and chairs. Popcorn will be served.
- Kane County Cougar Reading Program has begun and goes through April 27th. The game is May 31st at 1pm.
- If PTA would like Christine to share hard copy posters or flyers, please include Spanish translation. PTA confirmed Smore is used for newsletters to ensure automated translation, and PTA policy for backpack mail and other flyers is to include Spanish translation; we will reiterate this to PTA volunteers.

District 41 Board Member - Amy Becker

- This is Amy's first year on the board
- The committee read "What School Could Be" and had discussions recently
- Technology upgrade without additional fees
- RKT asked: survey about snow day vs. elearning, how are these decisions made?
 - Amy does not know for sure and recommends emailing Dr. Bruno and McHill; Decision to come in front of the board
 - KM: Her understanding from PTA council discussions is that there are implications for either having or not having snow days. Snow days will mean a day will be added at the end of the year.
 - If e-learning policy remains in place (and no change to snow days) but chromebook policy changes to keep them at school, then kids will take them home when we anticipate snow, in case e-learning will be needed.

Churchill Teacher Representatives - Dee Dee Aldrich & Kristen Travers

- Indoor recess games are greatly appreciated.
- Science Olympiad is appreciative of PTA support.
- 2 reading events:
 - Camp Out with a Good Book is May 15th 5-7pm at Churchill
 - Mrs Van Gorp appreciates all the support she has gotten already on this.
 - This spring students will be given a “Read to Someone Else” log instead of logging minutes or books read. We hope to encourage reading to family, friends, loved ones you don’t see very often, a pet or even a stuffed animal.
- Upcoming author visit from John Schu. He will be at Churchill all day on April 20th. He will run two assemblies and engage with students throughout the entire day. Thank you to the PTA for supporting this special experience.
 - Dee Dee & Christine have been working with John to give one of his favorite books (not one of his) to all Churchill students at the end of the year. Churchill will be given the opportunity to purchase these at the same price that is offered to the Bookstore of Glen Ellyn, which is amazing.
- Some teachers have asked the PTA and administration to consider moving up the class party times in the future to ease the parking lot issues at dismissal. Will discuss this for next year’s parties.

Executive Board Reports

President – Kaci Snyder

- PTA recognized our social workers for School Social Worker Appreciation Week last week. We gifted them some sensory fidgets for office use and sweet treats. Social workers shared their appreciation. More staff appreciation to come in the next two months.
- The PTA Council’s Greatness in D41 Award was presented to Churchill’s Claudia Hernández at the end of February. Congratulations to Mrs Hernández!
- Thank you to everyone who donated to support our efforts in collecting indoor recess games for classrooms. Teachers really appreciated it!

President-Elect - Rebecca Kuhlmann Taylor

- Roller skating event this past Saturday. Over 160 people attended and had a great time!
 - Coachlite is in the process of remodeling, so some areas were new. Thank you to Chilin Tran for organizing this great event.
- International night is Friday, April 10th.
 - Video from last year’s event is to come in next week’s newsletter.
 - 28 countries signed up to host tables - Always fun to see new teachers/staff joining in and hosting a country table.
 - General volunteers (not tables) sign-up will be shared. Help needed in set-up, clean-up and flag procession mainly. High schoolers are welcome to volunteer as well. Rebecca will sign off on any volunteer hours needed for the NHS or whatever organization.

- Performers this year include a Mexican children's dance group, taekwondo demonstration and Ted Estes will be back to play the bag pipes to lead the student flag procession.
- The Nominating Committee will have a table at International Night to continue recruiting for open committee roles for next year.

1st VP: Programming - Jennifer Sostak

- High Interest Day is on Friday, March 13th during the school day. We still need volunteers!
 - Thank you to Christine and Churchill staff for all their help and being so willing to jump in and help support sessions.
 - Budget \$2300, currently estimating \$2380 but likely going to be under budget
- Churchill Girls Run Club (formerly Girls on the Run) began this week.
 - More running focused, more 5th grade involvement, more lessons
- Field Day will be May 27th. Similar setup to last year. Have some outside groups confirmed, but still hoping to confirm a few more.

2nd VP: Ways & Means – Caryn Neumann

- Parent Social fundraiser broke a record of over \$29k
 - Over \$3000 was school related items - thank you to administration and teachers for all their support!
 - Mark your calendars for 2/6/27 - the date for Parent Social next year at the same venue.
- Shoot photography brought in over \$500, Do-rite-Donut \$196
- Looking to set up a Barn Owl fundraiser for spring.

3rd VP: Communications – Carrie Mariot & Jackie MacMillan

- Please try to submit your information for the newsletter by the Thursday before.
- Looking for a co-chair next year to learn the ropes. It only takes about an hour a week.

4th VP: Language & Cultural Diversity – Emnie Staley

- Please send translation needs to her by Thursday. If you don't hear back from her within a couple days, please text Emnie to make sure she saw your email.

Treasurer – Lindsey Hu - Financial Update

- https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1bCQlrQK_INOSLOCOGMbiEP2VAaR_6JpV/edit?usp=sharing&oid=105741768250257476415&rtpof=true&sd=true

Secretary – Nina Ponce - Approve November meeting minutes & Membership

- Currently sitting at 193 members, 25 faculty, 171 parents/guardians.
- Caryn motioned to approve January meeting minutes. Lucy seconded. Unanimously approved January meeting minutes.

Committee Chair Reports

Volunteer Coordinator - Paula Fernández

- N/A

High Interest Day - Jennifer Sostak - Friday, March 13th

- See above under VP of Programming.

Churchill Cares - Kate Marsh & Carrie Mariot

- Thank you to the PTA for the substantial budget so they can meet a lot of requests made by the school social workers. We have been able to support many families with various needs.
- Thank you to the D41 Foundation for always partnering in larger requests.

International Night - Rebecca Kuhlmann Taylor & Lucy Pask - Friday, April 10th

- See above under President Elect.

PTA Council - Carrie Mariot

- The Greatness in 41 Award has been a success and something we hope to continue.
- In the month of April there will be a chromebook detox; all elementary kids will be leaving their chromebooks at the school and not taking them home at night; a trial run to see how this will work. A charging station will be installed in each classroom over spring break so chromebooks can be charged at school.
- Also part of the April trial run:
 - No chromebooks at indoor recess during this time for all 4 elementary schools
 - No chromebooks at lunch at Hadley

Cooks Night Off - Andrew Faulman

- TBD March: waiting for confirmation from a local restaurant who offered large kick back
- Potentially Ice Cream for May

Fifth Grade Gives Back - Abby Woenker

- Snack donations for DuPage PADS philanthropy accepted through March 12 in the main office
- May 1st: Fifth Grade Mixer
 - Backpack drive: asking Christine if bins ok in school to collect

Classroom Parties - Kirsten Dineen

- Thank you Kirsten for your awesome work this year. Valentine's parties went smoothly. Thank you to all our party volunteers this year.
- The Class Party Coordinator position is open for next year, so please reach out if you are interested.

After School Enrichment - Jackie MacMillan

- Spring session of Young Rembrandts begins in April. Information can be found in our newsletter and on our website. Backpack flyers also went home with students this past week.

Girls Run Club - Kelly Theilbar

- See above under VP of Programming

Chess Wolves - Dan Olson & Lucy Pask

- Dan is looking for a co-chair next year.
- Fundraiser through Elite Chess was successful and fun. 12 kids attended and \$125 was raised.
- Several students participated in the All Wheaton Charity Chess Tournament and brought home trophies.

Yearbook - Kealy Moore & Crystal Trower - Cover contest ends 3/31

- Cover contest due 3/31. Check out our newsletter for more information.

Talent Show - Abby Coran & Kacy Snyder - School of Stars - Friday, April 24th

- School of Stars is the theme this year. The show will be held at Hadley Junior High on Friday, April 24th, with the dress rehearsal the night before.
- Registration due Tuesday, April 7th. All registration is done through google forms available on our website (www.churchillpta.org) and in our weekly newsletter.
- Auditions will be held at Churchill on Wednesday, April 8th and Thursday, April 9th. Please sign up for an audition spot if you are interested in performing this year. Any type of talent is welcome!
- Abby will need a co-chair next year.

Camp Out with A Good Book - Maggie Camporese & Katie Conzalez - May 15th

- NA

Field Day - Susie White & Purvi Shah

- NA

Website - Lucy Pask

- Please reach out if you need something updated on the website or if you catch an error.
- Other \$ collection options were explored for Fifth Grade Mixer tickets but staying with Revtrak
 - Backpack donations to be directed to 3rd party sites such as wishlist on Amazon

Nominating Committee - Rebecca Kuhlmann Taylor

- See above under President Elect

New/Old Business and Discussion Items

- Save the Date for These Events - All posted on PTA website

- **High Interest Day 3/13, International Night 4/10, Movie Under the Stars 4/17, Talent Show 4/24, Fifth Grade Mixer 5/1, Camp Out with a Good Book 5/15, Field Day 5/27, Kane County Cougar Game 5/31, Fifth Grade Picnic 6/4**

Questions/Concerns & Wrap Up

- Next meeting - Wednesday, May 13th at 7 p.m.

Attendees:

Remote Attendees:

- Abby Woenker
- Amy Becker

In Person:

- Rebecca Taylor
- Kaci Snyder
- Jennifer Sostak
- Lindsey Hu
- Christine Ahrens
- Caryn Neumann
- Carrie Mariot
- Kate Marsh
- Andy Faulman
- Dee Dee Aldrich
- Lucy Pask