

PTA Meeting

January 8, 2025 at 7:00pm

Corrections and approval by PTA membership will be done at the March 2025 meeting



Welcome & Sign-In - Caryn Neumann

- Thank you for attending and happy new year!

Principal Update - Amanda Kanter

- Welcome back after winter break!
- The students took winter MAP testing following discussions around goal setting and learning more about what MAP testing means. The leadership team felt like this paid off as the students pushed themselves and tried their best.
- Regarding the School Improvement Plan, the data shows the team is well on the way to meeting their goals.
- Before break, there was a whole school BINGO event as well as the winter sing and winter parties.
- The Student of the Month and Churchill Challenge this month is centered around hallways and bathrooms so students can focus and make good choices while taking care of the building.
- The Glen Ellyn Historical Society visited the 5th graders to share facts and stories about the history of Churchill.
- The 5th graders have been helping out with morning announcements. This is a great way to build confidence and leadership.
- Mr. Shermak and Mrs. Kanter hosted grade level meetings to set expectations for the rest of the year.
- The leadership team is firming up field trip dates and locations.

District 41 Superintendent - Dr. Jeff McHugh

- Dr. McHugh is on a “roadshow” looking to visit PTA meetings across D41 in January and February. He is not here to provide a speech or state of the District - this is a listening exercise to learn more from the community.
- He encourages everyone to visit the District website for all of the latest information, announcements, recorded videos and Board meeting summaries.
- The discussion centered around the pains and inconvenience Churchill is feeling due to the construction of the new Kindergarten Center. The proposal and request is for the District to fund an event or some level of compensation to the families as a result of the inconveniences experienced, particularly the recess issues.

- A suggestion was made to bring some of the construction team in for an assembly or if possible, having students safely see some of the construction progress happening. The PTA is willing to provide volunteers for such events.
- A request was made to provide some additional District-wide acknowledgement of the sacrifices and impact of the construction on the Churchill community. There are not only recess issues but also the relocation or adjustments of school events.
- Families should continue bringing issues and ideas of ways the District can partner with Churchill to Mrs. Kanter.
- The new recess area and playground opened at the end of November. Students have been using the new playground as weather permits.

District 41 Board Member - Jessica Buttmer

- Jess has lived in Glen Ellyn for 20 years and has students at Lincoln, Hadley and Glenbard West. This is her 6th year on the School Board and it is an honor to serve the community.
- The last Board meeting was 12/16. There was a celebration honoring student musicians and the D41 Kids Foundation donated \$15k to continue parent coaching for mental health services. There was also an audit presentation where the Board received the highest rating. Results of the Human X survey were shared which covers culture and climate and is used to inform building improvements.
- The highlight of the meeting was the proposed 2025-2026 school calendar was posted, noting the later start date to accommodate the opening of the new Kindergarten Center.
- The Board is about halfway through the Strategic Plan and after a review and feedback from the community the summary is the plan needs to be simplified and dial in on key metrics.
- The Board voted on and approved Sarah Rodriguez as the new Kindergarten Center Principal.
- Book study of the *Anxious Generation* is complete. The next book is *Brave New Words*, a book around the impact of AI on education.

Churchill Teacher Representatives - Dee Dee Aldrich & Kristin Travers

- A big thank you to the PTA for coordinating the winter gift card program for teachers and staff. The gift cards are appreciated.
- The LEGO kits, funded by the PTA, will be used for a winter reading program focused on BUILDING students' reading stamina. Students will be incentivized to complete reading challenges that will unlock steps to complete their class LEGO build.

Guest Speaker: Mr. Juan Suarez, Director of Language Programs

- Mr. Suarez shared a one page handout to be used as a resource explaining how the program is leveraging the new literacy resources and curriculum (HMH).
- The model pairs literacy and language instruction. The goal is to help students find connections between the two languages (English and Spanish).
- They use the term 'productive struggle' and want students to experience this while learning a new language. The students should expect there to be challenges, particularly in their

non-dominant language. As the students move closer to becoming bilingual, their performance in both languages will balance over time.

- 5th graders moving into 6th grade have the option to opt in or opt out of the program.
- Mr. Suarez is looking into data to see how dual language skills such as the vocabulary used to teach math could be transferable when (advanced) testing is conducted in English.

Executive Board Reports

President – Caryn Neumann

- A reminder to visit the Churchill PTA website for updates and the latest news.
<https://www.churchillpta.org/>.
- The PTA is submitting nominations for awards to the Illinois PTA. These include Outstanding Administrator of the Year, Outstanding Teacher of the Year, and Outstanding Volunteer of the Year.
- This is not PTA related, but the Glen Ellyn Chamber of Commerce is accepting submissions through 2/11 for Community Awards and one is for the D41 Educator of the Year. We encourage everyone to vote and one email is counted as a vote... can be submitted here
<https://business.glenellynchamber.com/form/view/35194>.
- The process for the Glenbard West scholarship as well as the D41 Council scholarship is underway. These two scholarships will be awarded to Glenbard West graduating seniors.

President-Elect - Kaci Snyder

- The Nominating Committee is being assembled. A first grade parent is needed. The goal of the committee is to fill the Executive Board and other open positions for next year.
- The Family Fun Event is being held at Altitude Trampoline Park on 1/9. There are 150 signups. The PTA is covering half of the fees for the event.
- There will also be a free roller skating event on 3/9.

1st Co-VP's: Programming - Aline Cox & Stephanie La Camera

- See updates in Committee Chair reports below.

2nd VP: Ways & Means – Anne Young

- The PTA is partnering with DO RITE Donuts (samples were provided at the meeting!) 25% of sales will go to the PTA. There will be a QR code to place orders and pickup will be on or around 2/14. More details to come.
- The Parent Social is coming up on 2/22! This is the PTA's second largest fundraiser. The planning committee is gathering items/experiences for the live and silent auction during the event. Please consider donating items/gift cards/experiences. You do not need to be present to win items in the silent auction. The event is 21+ and the theme this year is BLACK & WHITE. Stay tuned for more details and the live website to purchase tickets and view/bid on items.
- There will be upcoming Cooks Night Off events. Partnering with Righteous Kitchen in February and Nacho Rita in March.

3rd Co-VP's: Communications – Carrie Mariot & Jackie MacMillan

- Note that any announcements to be included in the weekly newsletter need to be submitted by the Thursday before the Monday newsletter.

4th VP: Language & Cultural Diversity – Emnie Staley

- No updates at this time

Treasurer – Michelle Trush

- Current cash on hand in bank accounts: \$61,642
- Need to keep \$20,000 in reserves
- Remaining cash: \$41,642
- Profit & Loss:
 - Revenue: \$47k compared to budget of \$77k (revenue still expected for Parent Social Trivia Night, FGGB and Family Fun Night.
 - Expense: \$35k compared to budget of \$81k (upcoming expenses for field trips, High Interest Day and Special Events.
- When making purchases, please remember to use the tax-exempt certificate. Accounts at Amazon, Party City and Walmart can also be used.
- The PTA has a Venmo account that can be leveraged for accepting payments.

Secretary – Beth Tiltges - *Approve November Meeting Minutes*

- There are currently 177 PTA members. 154 members are parents or guardians and 23 are staff members. The PTA needs 189 members to reach platinum status with the Illinois PTA.
- DirectorySpot is now available for PTA members.
- Kaci Snyder motioned to approve the November meeting minutes, Michelle Trush seconded the motion. The November meeting minutes have been approved.

Committee Chair Reports

Volunteer Coordinator - Rebecca Kuhlmann Taylor

- No updates at this time

Churchill Cares - Kate Marsh & Carrie Mariot

- Thank you to our community for another successful Holiday Sharing Program. The program ran smoothly and all goals were met.

Fifth Grade Gives Back - Jessica Powell

- Movie night was a success, bringing in a profit of \$401.
- FGGB decorated the school for Veterans Day.
- There was a philanthropy event on 11/26, the group packed over 23,000 meals.
- Upcoming events include Bernie's book drive and the Fifth Grade Mixer on 5/2.

Family Fun Offsite Event - Amy Mueller

- The Family Fun Offsite Event is planned for Thursday, 1/9 from 5:30-7:30 at Altitude Trampoline Park in Lombard.
- \$10/person and will include pizza, soda, jumping and socks.

Dance & Date Night - Charity McClure, Jessica Fish, Beth Muren, Allison Shroeder, Meghan Parker

- All Churchill school dance is on 2/7 from 6-8pm. The theme this year is Sneaker Ball! Come dressed in your favorite attire and favorite sneakers.
- Event will be free for attendees due to the generosity of the Churchill PTA. Attendees must RSVP via Wix. Link to be sent out soon.
- This is not a drop off event. Students are encouraged to attend with any special adult - parent, grandparent, aunt/uncle, etc.
- There will be a DJ, confetti cannon, photographer, Barone's, dessert table, arts and crafts, and a take home favor for attendees.
- New this year - there will be a 'paparazzi' photographer taking candid photos on the red carpet in addition to sit down portraits.
- Volunteer sign up will be going out in the next newsletter. Many volunteers will be needed as the committee is anticipating a large number of guests.

Classroom Parties - Kirsten Dineen

- Valentines class parties are coming up on 2/14. More information will be included in the weekly newsletter.
- The inventory for class parties was used quite well for the Halloween and Winter parties. Take advantage of the resources!

Science Olympiad - Mrs. Allen & Ms. Kramer

- The competition is 2/22 in Vernon Hills.

After School Enrichment - Nicole Zedrow

- Young Rembrandts starts on 1/9 and is full with 30 students.
- Bricks 4 Kidz LEGO Stem didn't have enough students enrolled to start so it's re-open for enrollment and with a new start date of 1/21 for 7 weeks. It will be on Tuesdays from 3:30-4:30. If there are not enough students to fill the class by 1/17, the class will be canceled and those signed up will be notified by 1/20.
- Kane County Cougars Reading Challenge - the game is scheduled for Friday, 5/30 at 6:30pm. The program will run from March 2-April 28. Forms will go home with students the week of February 24 and will have instructions. When students complete their logs, families will get instructions on how to redeem their free game ticket (also includes a hot dog & soft drink) and how to order additional tickets online.

Girls on The Run - Kelly Theilbar & Tammy Sobecki

- Practices will begin around March 3rd. Kelly Theilbar will be meeting with Mrs. Kanter soon but based on the strong interest so far, more parent volunteers will be needed to make this successful. Contact Kelly or Programming VP's if interested. This is for grades 3-5 and held at Churchill after school.

Chess Wolves - Dan Olson & Lucy Pask

- The 8 week session starts on 3/3. Sign up now on the PTA website. Updates will be provided in the PTA newsletter.

Family Roller Skating Event - Chilin Tran

- This free event is sponsored by the PTA. The event will be at Coachlite in Roselle from 4:30-6:30pm on 3/9.

High Interest Day

- 22 classes are confirmed at this time. Volunteer recruitment will begin shortly. Many sessions need volunteers to run them and not just help out. PTA will provide lunch for presenters and volunteers. PTA planned an assembly in the afternoon called "Scott Green Magic" and it incorporates reading.

PTA Website Update - Lucy Pask

- Everyone has been great about sending website requests to Lucy at website@churchillpta.org.
- Please send any new page requests to Lucy.

Wait Until 8th/Glenbard Parent Series (GPS) - Rebecca Taylor

- Please join GPS and the Wait Until 8th committee at a 2 part workshop with Liz Repking, the founder of Cyber Safety Counseling. The sessions will be focused on managing technology in a healthy way. The sessions are held in the Glenbard West library on 1/14 and 1/28 at 7pm.

New/Old Business and Discussion Items

2025 Save The Dates

Additional events listed below - all events posted on the PTA website.

- Dance and Date Night - 2/7
- Parent Social - 2/22
- Family Roller Skating - 3/9
- High Interest Day - 3/14
- International Night - 4/11
- Talent Show - 4/17
- Fifth Grade Mixer - 5/2
- Teacher Appreciation Week - 5/5
- Camp Out with a Good Book - 5/16
- Fifth Grade Picnic - 5/30
- Kane County Cougars Game - 5/30

Questions/Concerns & Wrap

- Next meeting date is Wednesday, March 12th at 7 p.m. **NEW DATE than previously listed!**

Adjourned at 8:27pm

Remote Attendees:

- Charity McClure
- Emnie Staley
- Joyce Meza

In Person:

- Kate Marsh
- Kaci Snyder
- Jeanesse Miller
- Beth Tiltges
- Aline Cox
- Anne Young
- Michelle Trush
- Amanda Kanter
- Dr. Jeff McHugh
- Carrie Mariot
- Juan Suarez
- Dee Dee Aldrich
- Rebecca Taylor
- Jasmine Rivera
- Caryn Neumann
- Jessica Buttimer
- Lucy Pask