

## Washington School PTO Minutes

December 13, 2011

The meeting started at 9:24am and was closed at 10:25am.

There were 15 people in attendance.

The Flag Salute was led by Mr. Blake. Introduction of the Board Members was made.

Secretary's Report: (Robyn Fazio) No correspondences at this time. The November 2011 minutes were approved.

Treasurer: (Suzanne Anderson for Trish Juliano) The financial statement for November 2011 was presented and approved.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE- Jen Cole is heading the Nominating committee; all positions are available for next year's PTO Board except for one Economy Shop position. Please see Jen or anyone else on the present Board if you are interested or have questions

about any position. Also, we are looking for volunteers to be on the Nominating Committee itself.

**Faculty Rep:** (Marci O'Brien)

- During the month of December, the students will be creating snowy winter landscapes in art class. They will learn about the foreground, middle ground and background in each scene. They will paint birch trees, evergreen trees and winter trees. Glitter will be added to create a festive feel to the work. Look for these beautiful landscapes to hang on our hallways.
- Kindergarten students continue to grow as readers, writers, and mathematicians. Guided reading groups have formed based on the children's reading readiness. In writing workshop, the children published their first three-page personal narrative stories. The children enjoyed working through the writing process, especially revising and editing. During word study, the children continue to sort beginning sounds and are learning how to blend sounds to read. In math, the children continue to work on the concept of number as well as graphing, sorting, and naming shapes.

The Kindergarten classes wish all the Washington Scholl families a Happy Holiday Season.

- The First Graders enjoyed gathering together the day before Thanksgiving and having a feast with all of their friends. Each class made a delicious treat and the entire first grade shared what they were thankful for. The students continue to learn subtraction in math and have begun addition speed drills in class. The students continue to work on writing small moments during writing workshop time. The goal is to pick a small moment and take a snapshot of one particular time during that moment. The children are to spread that snapshot across a few pages and illustrate the story. The entire first grade is very eager for the upcoming holidays and look forward to any celebrations that will happen in class the week before break.
- The Second Graders are studying characters in the books they read. They are identifying character traits and finding examples from their book to support their thinking. In Math, students have been studying money. They have learned how to count sets of coins, make the same amount of money in different ways as well as making change. In Science we have been studying the properties of liquids and what happens when liquids mix together.

- The Third Grade has begun their measurement module in the Foss science curriculum. They made meter tapes, practiced measuring predetermined items, as well as objects around the room. The third grade also celebrated their personal narrative writing pieces. In math, the students are excited to begin learning and applying multiplication strategies. We also want to thank Ms. Brown for doing such a wonderful job with her class while taking over for Mrs. Freda. She will be leaving us on Friday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>. We are excited to welcome back Mrs. Freda!
- The Fourth Grade continues to grow in their language arts skill. Each day students can write longer and understand more thoroughly their written text. They have enjoyed switching for Social Studies and Science. It was with great anticipation that they received the first report card of the school year!
- It's a busy and exciting month of music at Washington. The kindergarten students are becoming wonderful musicians as they sing, dance, and play percussion instruments. The first and second grade students are learning to read musical notes. The third graders are playing their class songs beautifully as they continue to work hard on their recorders. The fourth graders are finishing up their Composer Podcast.

The podcasts will be uploaded on our school website once they are completed. The fifth graders are really excited about preparing for their 5<sup>th</sup> grade play, Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory. The fourth and fifth grade chorus will be performing in their Winter Concert on Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup>. It's going to be a great day to spread some cheer to our wonderful Washington families.

- The Fifth Grade has just wrapped up a non-fiction unit where we used new strategies to discover the author's purpose. We will be starting to explore characters and character traits as well as building strategies to infer a character's feeling. In writing, they have just wrapped up their feature article unit. Students learned all about the characteristics of a feature article and how to implement them within their own. They were able to use the technological resources in school to make our pieces look just like real news articles. Fifth graders are moving through time in social studies focusing on North America explorers from Europe and learning why there was a rush to search new lands. The students did an excellent job researching different explorers and presented their findings with other fifth grade students. Science classes have just finished a unit on life science plants and are moving onto physical science. They will be investigating

light by doing experiments with reflection and refraction. In math, students are working on long division with one and two divisors and learning new strategies for mental math and problem solving. This week is our fourth and fifth grade chorus concert, and we cannot wait to see the students perform!

### Principal's Report: (Mr. Blake)

- The 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade Choral Concert will be December 15<sup>th</sup> at 10am for the students and 2pm for the parents.
- Report Cards
  - Will be issued only 3 times per year.
  - We are using a Standards Based Curriculum so the report card reflects how the student is doing compared to the national and state standard and not to their peer group in class. We are using the national standard for Math & Language Arts and the state standard for all other subjects.
- Every month we will be having 1 “outside” drill and 1 “inside” drill. Outside drills are for when there are problems in the school and include evacuation, relocation, and fire drills. Inside drills are for when there is a problem outside of the

school or classroom and include lockdown and active shooter drills. Students only know drills as “outside” or “inside” drills.

- A note from Mrs. Antonucci and Mrs. Caprano: Thanks to all of those who donated to the “Komen Race to the Cure”, the fight against breast cancer. Washington School raised more than \$2300. If anyone has a last minute check or donation, we have not deposited all the money yet- you can still send it in. The students are going to enjoy a fun activity as a thank you to them for giving up their recess to participate!

### **President’s Report:** (Suzanne Anderson)

- Thank You’s to:
  - The class parents of 1W and 1S for providing hospitality for today’s meeting.
  - Andrea Bellantone, Annie DellaPietra and Joanne Houldsworth for coordinating the Book Fair.
  - Jessy Swatek, Marygrace Viggiano, Laura Esterow and Alisa Orlando for running our Holiday Store.
  - Thanks to all parents who volunteered to work both events.

- Natalie Kossack, Erin Vitale, Dianne Bograd and Michele Shore for running our Shopping Night. We appreciate all the hard work that was put into making this event so much fun.
- Carrie Thompson, 5<sup>th</sup> grade Reps and 5<sup>th</sup> grade girls for hosting Spa Day.
- Dianne Morelli, Christine Trezza and the 5<sup>th</sup> grade Reps for coordinating Subway Lunch.
- All committee chairs who have volunteered this year-we are very appreciative of all you time and efforts.
- WEF Spring Fling will be on Saturday, March 24<sup>th</sup> at Indian Trail Club with DJ, band The Benjamins and the always favorite silent and live auctions. Fundraising target will be announced next month; stay tune.
- Special Lunch- Pizza lunch order forms for the second half of the year will be distributed after the Holiday break.

**1<sup>st</sup> VP:** (Susan Sobkowicz) There is a new addition to the afterschool activities; Little Chefs Cooking Academy by Aimee Basa, a mother from Coolidge School. An e-blast will be going out with all the information.

2<sup>nd</sup> VP's: (Joan Clemente & Kelly Puglisi) We would like to congratulate Natalie Kossack, Erin Vitale, Dianne Bograd and Michele Shore on Vendors Night. They did a wonderful job and had a variety of fabulous vendors to shop from. We would also like to remind everyone that Parents Night Out is coming up on January 27<sup>th</sup>. The invitations went home in last week's Friday folder. It is \$60 per person at the Sheraton Crossroads. Remember to sign up... it should be a great night.

FAMILY BINGO- We are in need of any donations to help make prize baskets.

WINTER WEDNESDAYS- Will take place the 6 Wednesdays after break. We are in need of volunteers to help out.

THEME DAY/ART APPRECIATION- is on March 15<sup>th</sup>. We are working with Project Impact. We will be in need of 3 to 4 parents to help out with each workshop.

### Upcoming Events

December 15 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> grade Choral Concert, 2pm

December 17 Washington Kids Night Out

December 22 Warm and Fuzzy Day

December 23 Minimum Day

Dec. 24-Jan. 1 Schools Closed. Happy Holidays!

January 2 School reopens

January 2 Author Visit, Melissa J. Collesano

January 4 School Spirit Day

**Next PTO Meeting: Tuesday, January 10, 2012 at 2:15pm,  
in the Multipurpose Room**