

Washington School PTO Minutes

November 15, 2011

The meeting started at 7:22pm and was closed at 8:42pm. There were 20 people in attendance.

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

Secretary's Report: (Robyn Fazio) Correspondences from the Teachers were read. The October 2011 minutes were approved.

Treasurer: (Trish Juliano)

- The Financial statements for September 2011 & October 2011 were presented and approved.
- Moneys made from fund raisers are as follows: Coupon books- \$2337, Notecards- \$655.88, Harvest Festival- \$3450.59, and Minimum Day- \$320.

Principal's Report: (Mr. Blake)

- We have advanced in the Glee Competition; we are now finalists! The judges will be making the final decisions and we will find out by December 15th if we are eligible for a cash prize. Thank you's to Mrs. Kim, Mrs. O'Brien, Mrs. Caprano, Miss Miller, and Mrs. Rubenacker.
- The quilts from last year's Art Appreciation are now hung up for all to enjoy.
- Conferences are rescheduled for next week.
- We have used all 3 snow days allotted to us this school year; no decisions have been made on how they will rectify this if we need to use more.

A Testing & Assessment Workshop was presented by Mr. Blake; slides from presentation are posted on the Washington School website.

Faculty Rep: (Mr. Blake read a statement for Mrs. O'Brien)

- Kindergarten- is off to a great start this month. The children continue to grow as readers and writers. In reading workshop, the children added small copies of shared reading books to their reading baskets. They are practicing reading sight words in print and using the picture to help solve tricky words. In writing workshop, the children continue to write three-page personal narratives and are adding speech bubbles to their pictures. During word study, the children are sorting by beginning sounds. Calendar Math continues to allow us to focus on patterning, counting, and number recognition. This month the children are learning about the traditions on Thanksgiving. They will reenact the first Thanksgiving by dressing as Pilgrims and Native Americans and sharing in a feast. The Kindergarten classes look forward to having the parents in on visitation day so the parents can see the children in action!
- It's been a busy month of music in Washington School. In October, Washington School entered a Glee Give-A-Note Contest where we finished in 17th place for our region with 8574 votes. Thank you everyone for voting. The videos are now in the Final Judging Phase and the results will be announced on December 15th.
 - Kindergarten classes are continuing to use their singing voices and playing percussion instruments.
 - In celebration of our school theme this year, "Reading Rocks," the first and second graders are using percussion instruments to orchestrate books such as Where the Wild Things Are. It's a great way to bring music and literature together.
 - The third graders are working very hard on their recorders. The students are currently learning to play their class songs and improving every week.
 - The fourth graders are researching on famous composers around the world and presenting them in a podcast. Soon we will have a collection of over 75 composers uploaded to our school website.
 - Last week, the 5th grade show was announced. The Washington School 5th graders will present *Willy Wonka and the chocolate Factory* in June as their year-end show. The students are all excited about it and they are already coming up with wonderful ideas for the show.

President's Report: (Suzanne Anderson)

- Thank You's to:
 - The class parents of 1H and 1Mc for providing hospitality for tonight's meeting.
 - Lauren Keith, Dianne Morelli and Laura D'Andrea for organizing Special lunch.
 - Gwen Marquardt for coordinating our website.
 - All committee chairs who have volunteered this year- we are very appreciative of all your time and efforts.
- Special lunch- a trial period of biodegradable packaging can be scheduled for January. A premium of \$.20 more per lunch will be charged. Please let us know of any thoughts you may have on this and an e-mail will be sent out to everyone to also get their thoughts. Something to think about when making a decision is that the Styrofoam packaging has been found to keep the food warmer.

1st VP: (Susan Sobkowicz) A mistake has been found in the directories that we received today. Expect to receive your directories by the end of the week. Thank you for your patience.

2nd VP's: (Kelly Puglisi & Joan Clemente) Washington wear has been delivered and you should be receiving your orders next week.

Co-chairs of Economy Shop: (Jen Van Cleef & Rhonda Battifarano) Volunteers are always needed to help out at the Economy Shop; especially on Fridays.

WEF- Robert Bayer came and spoke about what WEF is trying to accomplish and how we can help out.

THEME DAY/ART APPRECIATION- will be combined this year on March 15th and be called Day of the Arts. The students will have an assembly in the morning and then 4-5 hands-on workshops throughout the day. Exhibits will be made afterwards throughout the school with the art the students made that day. We are looking for volunteers to come and help the day of.

SHOPPING NIGHT- is December 1st from 6-9pm; admission is free. There will be 30 vendors this year. There will also be a Coffee Lounge and we will be selling raffle tickets for some prizes. Volunteers needed to help sell tickets and help in the Coffee Lounge.

HOLIDAY STORE- will be December 6th & 7th. The price range for items will be \$5 and below. We are looking for volunteers to help out during those two days.

PARENTS NIGHT OUT- is January 27th, 7pm at the Sheraton Crossroads in Mahwah. \$60 per person.

ETA- December 17th from 7:30-10:30pm. It is a night out for 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders. Pizza, drinks and dessert will be served. The price for the night is \$25. There is space for 45-50 kids, so it is first come, first served.

QUESTIONS ASKED BY MEMBERS:

- Are pets allowed on school property?-There is a state law that mandates dogs and/or pets are NOT allowed on school grounds. Also, there are many children afraid of dogs and others that are allergic.
- When does supervision start in the morning? Supervision starts at 8:30am at the front door and on the playground.
- Are extra treats allowed to be brought in to class on the holidays? NO extra treats are to be brought into class at any time; everything needs to be passed through to Mrs. Antonucci.

Upcoming Events

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| November 16 | Why Cook Wednesday pick up |
| November 17 | Classroom visitation Day |
| November 21 & 23 | Minimum days & Parent/Teacher conf. |
| November 22 | School Closed & Parent/Teacher conf. |
| November 24 & 25 | School Closed- Happy Thanksgiving |
| December 1 | Shopping Night 6-9pm |
| December 6 & 7 | Holiday Store |

Next PTO Meeting:

Tuesday, Dec. 13, 2011, 9:15am in the multipurpose room