

Washington School PTO Minutes

October 11, 2011

The meeting started at 9:22am and was closed at 10:24am. There were 28 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 was read. The September 2011 minutes were approved.

Treasurer: (Trish Juliano) Trish was unable to attend this meeting therefore the September and October financial statements will be done at November's meeting.

WISH LIST- There has been a change to the Wish List. Funds originally allocated for cork strips has been put towards a new speaker/amplifier system to be used at school and PTO events.

Principal's Report: (Mr. Blake)

- Last week, Oct. 3rd-Oct.6th, was a “Week of Respect” across the state.
 - Tuesday, the Wyckoff Police Department came to the school and spent time with the students during their lunch periods to remind them that police officers are approachable and our friends.
 - Wednesday, WINCEYCO came for an Anti-Bullying Presentation called “Extreme Truth”.
 - Thursday, myself and the guidance counselor spoke with the students about HIB (Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying Law) and what is expected of the students and their behavior, and how to let someone know if anything is going on.
 - Last year we filled our “Have you filled a bucket today” with 636 slips; this year we are trying for 1000.
 - Each class created an anti-bullying stop sign. They will be laminated and put in their classrooms. Every child in class helped with their sign.

Faculty Rep: (Marci O’Brien)

- If anyone would like to donate gently used clothes to keep in the Nurse’s office, some extra t-shirts and sweat pants with elastic waist, would be greatly appreciated.
- Kindergarten- The children continue to grow as readers and writers. In reading workshop, the children added star books to their reading baskets and are practicing retelling these stories with a story telling

voice. In writing workshop, the children progressed to writing three-page personal narratives. Calendar Math continues to allow us to focus on patterning, counting, and number recognition. This month, the children will have an opportunity to attend a field trip at the Franklin Lakes Lorrimer Sanctuary. During the trip, the children will partake in many activities that reinforce the FOSS Science unit on Trees. The focus this month will also address Fire Safety, Friendship, Columbus Day, and Halloween. Thank you again to all the parents who supported the Kindergarten service project to beautify the grounds of Washington School. The Kindergarten garden is beautiful!

- First Grade- The children are learning about addition in math. They are doing many hands-on activities with manipulatives to help them add. In the area of writing, the students are beginning to finish pattern books. The students will get to edit their own stories, color and publish the piece. They are very eager to share them! In the upcoming weeks the students will begin balance and motion in science and start the unit on Stellasuna bats. All of the first graders are eager for the many activities occurring during the month of October such as the Flash Mob, the week of respect, Christopher Columbus, Halloween and many other fun filled activities.
- Second Grade- The children have been hard at work writing Small Moment pieces in Writer's Workshop. In reading they are focusing on how to think deeper about what they are reading. They are also learning how to use context clues to help figure out the meaning of

more challenging and difficult words. During the “Week of Respect” they will make anti-bullying posters to be hung in the classroom.

- Third Grade- The children have been learning about rocks and minerals during science. They will be taking a trip to the Sterling Mines in November. There they will take on the role of a geologist and will also learn more about New Jersey’s rocks and minerals. In reading workshop the students are learning the elements of a story. They will be focusing on character, setting, events, conflict, and solution. In writing workshop our focus is a personal narrative’s. The students will be choosing a small moment to write a narrative about. All the third graders are looking forward to the Halloween parade later this month.
- Fourth Grade- The children are busy writing and applying the skills and strategies they are learning in reading. It’s fun to connect new words to the Words Their Way lists. Right now some of the students are enjoying learning about the solar system while others are learning about their world. Getting a chance to switch for math is also a new exciting part of the fourth grade experience.
- Fifth Grade- Children are busy in reading and writing workshops. Students have chosen a small moment to write about and will focus on revising, editing and publishing their narratives. At the end of the month the fifth graders will begin Book Buddies with their first grade partners. In Math, the students reviewed the concept of place value. Students were adding and subtracting decimals. Now they are getting ready to multiply with decimals. In Science the students began the first unit of study, Life Science. They have conducted their

first investigation; testing the sugar content of cereals. The students have focused on Food & Nutrition. They have maintained nutrition logs and used interactive websites to learn about food chains. In Social Studies the students began with the study of explorers. They are working on map skills to better understand how adventurous the explorers were. Throughout the month of October the students are focusing on the idea of Respect. The students are working on being the role models of the school.

- Mrs. T is very excited to welcome author Anne Ursa next week. She will be visiting our 4th and 5th grade students to discuss her newest book call Breadcrumbs. This fantasy book is based on the old tale “The Snow Queen”. She will be here October 11th. This is a great way to kick off our building theme of “Reading Rocks”.
- Our intramural program has also started this month. The first sport is soccer and the games are from 3:20-4:00pm. Please remind your children to wear their sneakers on PE days as well as Mid-day fitness.
- Our Flash Mob video has become a finalist for the Glee, Give a Note Competition for Music in our Schools. Voting begins tomorrow, October 12th. Please vote! The schools with the most votes will win.

President's Report: (Suzanne Anderson)

- Thank You's:
 - Mrs. Ramirez's two Kindergarten classes for providing hospitality for today's meeting.

- Lauren Keith, Dianne Morelli and Lauren D'Andrea for organizing Special Lunch.
 - Gwen Marquardt for coordinating our website.
 - The 5th Grade Reps for hosting the Back to School bake sale and a fun Family Movie Night.
 - Alisa, Lauren, Vivian and Maria for Minimum Day Activities.
 - All committee chairs who have volunteered this year- we are very appreciative of all your time and efforts.
- Playground Project- Initial meetings have taken place to assess the layout of the property and our financial forecast and planning is in the early stages. Two Fathers have stepped up to chair the committee; we are still looking for 2 more Fathers/Mothers to help out.
 - Special Lunch- We have received some great feedback on the new lunch program with Simply Gourmet. Some parents have expressed reservations regarding the Styrofoam packaging of the lunches. Please know that Washington PTO chose to go with the Styrofoam containers because the vendor made us aware that is is essentially their only packaging product options available for a premium ranging from \$.15 to \$.25 and would be available to us only as entire community, not case by case. They have also been proven to keep the food warm for longer periods of time. We can take a vote by e-blast to survey the entire population but wanted to let you know here at the meeting as well.
 - Race to Nowhere is tomorrow night, October 12th at Indian Hills at 7pm.
 - WEF 5K and Family Fun Run is this Saturday, October 15th.

- HIB Parent presentation will be at Eisenhower, October 20th at 7:30pm.
- Coordinating Council will be October 25th at 9am at Washington.

5th GRADE REPS- Spa Day will be November 1st. 5th grade girls will paint the nails of the underclassmen and feathers will be available for their hair. This will take place after school.

BUNCO- will take place Thursday, October 13th from 7-10pm. There will be a Mocktail Hour 7-8pm when you can view the prizes, raffles, and rules. The class with the largest turnout will win a pizza party. Remember all proceeds from this fundraiser will go to the Playground Project.

WASHINGTON WEAR- was a huge success. The orders are going in today and should be here before the next Spirit Day.

1st VP: (Susan Sobkowicz)

- The Directory is going to the printer in the next few days; they should be here by the end of October.
- After School Activities have started.

2nd VP's: (Kelly Puglisi and Joan Clemente)

- Thank you Lauren DeKorte and Alisa Orlando for running the Minimum Day Activities.

- Thank you Tracy Cornell, Mary Cerami and Lisa Hagy for all your hard work running the Harvest Festival; you brought in over \$3500.

HARVEST FESTIVAL- Thank you for all your help; we raised a little over \$3500. Thank you to Mr. Blake and Mrs. O'Brien. Anyone who is interested in being a chair person next year, please let us know.

BOOK FAIR- October 26th & 27th. Looking for volunteers for a 12-1:30 slot, for after school and for the evening on the 26th. Mr. Blake will be doing a reading at the evening time.

SUMMER READING- 117 readers completed summer reading and will be receiving their \$5 certificate before the book fair.

SHOPPING NIGHT- will be November 3rd at 7pm; there will 15-20 vendors.

PARENT'S NIGHT OUT- has been changed to January 27, 2012.

Upcoming Events

October 12 Race to Nowhere Screening, Indian Hills HS, 7pm

October 13 Game Night..Bunco!

October 15 WEF 5K and Family Fun Run

October 20 HIB Parent presentation, EMS, 7:30pm

October 25 Coordinating Council, Washington School, 9am

Oct. 26 & 27 Washington School Book Fair
October 31 Halloween Parade, 2pm
November 1 Washington Wizards Spa Day
November 2 School Spirit Day
November 3 Shopping Night

**Next PTO Meeting, Tuesday, November 15, 7:15pm,
Multipurpose Room**