

Birch Lake Elementary PTA Meeting September 21, 2021

Members in Attendance: Jen Lunde, Krista Mickelson, Davin Mickelson, Karissa Torntore, Jenny Walbridge, Melissa Altringer, Taylor Nelson, Liz Andert

Guests in Attendance: Jonathan Luknic, Beth Lilja, Vanessa Vega, Kristi Herman Hill

Meeting Called to Order: 6:31 by Jen

Review of Last Meeting's Minutes: Motion to approve by Melissa, Second by Taylor

Principal's Report:

- All classes are starting to do some assessments
- There is an open position for a Spanish teacher
- There is a new social/emotional curriculum this year, Second Step
 - Grades 1-2 are working on managing distractions
 - Grade 3 is learning that making mistakes is OK
 - Grades 4-5 are working on goal setting
- Birch is set for some renovations happening towards the end of the year
 - The Media Center will be changed dramatically
 - There will be another classroom added for grades 4-5
 - There will about eight parking spots added in the back of the school
 - Adding spaces to the front lots is too difficult with the city's regulations

Teacher's Report:

- Grade K is enjoying their new murals that Mr. Kyle painted in the classrooms
- Grade 1 is practicing routines, getting a good night's sleep
- Grade 2 is planning a field trip to the apple orchard
- Grade 3 is working on routines and assessments
 - Mrs. Keller is filling in for Mr. Nestrud and will fill in for Mrs. Storhaug this fall
- PE students are learning to play fair and be good sports
- (Please refer to the Grade Level Updates for a full report)

Treasurer's Report:

- Proposed budget for school year
 - Classroom support will remain at \$250 per classroom, \$200 per specialist
 - Decrease the grant fund to \$2000
 - Field trip budget increased to \$2500
 - Motion to approve by Taylor, Second by Liz
- Budget-to-Actual
 - Received \$400 from Kowalski's Groceries for Good Causes, \$300 from the church

The PTA purchased a water bottle for every student
Motion to approve by Taylor, Second by Karissa

Past Events:

The Bounce Back to School event was very successful
We received \$624 in donations and earned \$402 by selling snacks
The tattoos and bookmarks were a huge hit
We need more volunteers to watch the obstacle course
Feedback received - a meal should be offered or hire a food truck

Current and Upcoming Events:

The Heggies pizza fundraiser starts on September 29th
Packets will go to teachers on the 29th and are due back on October 13th
Pizza pick-up night will be November 4th from 5-7
The Box Tops Drive will run from October 1 to October 25
Turn in all clipped Box Tops to teachers by October 25th
The first Restaurant Night is October 6th at the Chipotle in Vadnais Heights from 4-8
33% of sales will be donated – must mention “fundraiser” or use a code online
Give to the Max Day, a one-day donation drive, will be November 18th
Bingo for Books – November 19th
Tentative – We’re waiting on the new guidelines for indoor events.
Culver’s Vadnais Heights - Concretes for a Cause runs December 6-12
They’ll donate \$1 for every Concrete purchased that week
Amazon Smile donates a percentage of each sale to the PTA
Select PTA Minnesota Congress 4840 Birch Lake Elementary PTA as your charity
Kowalski’s Groceries for Good Causes, White Bear Lake location
Place your receipt in the box in the front of the store for the Birch PTA charity

New Business:

Meetings will be streamed via Google Meet starting with our October meeting
The PTA now offers Venmo as a method of payment (username @birchpta)
The teachers have been asked to share this with families
Ms. Vega and Ms. Herman Hill wanted to gauge the interest in Spanish immersion
There is Spanish preschool immersion available, but no elementary in WBL

Meeting Closed by Jen at 7:38 PM

2021-2022 PTA Grade-Level Updates

PTA Meeting Grade Level Updates – September 21, 2021 6:30pm

Teachers/Staff Attending: Taylor Nelson ,

Grade Level/Dept.	September 21st News and Updates to be shared with PTA
PreK	
Kindergarten	Kindergarten is in full swing after finishing a whole week of school! We have mastered our morning routine of lining up together and remembering where we go at the end of the day too! We are learning classroom routines, other friends' names and other adults in the building too! Thank you for keeping your child well rested and in school every day. We love K! - Mrs. Elletson & Ms. Wells:) SPECIAL THANK YOU to the PTA for the first of two beautiful murals painted by Mr. Kyle from WB Center for the Arts! We truly appreciate the grant so stop by and see the mural soon if you haven't yet!
1st Grade	We are off to a great start! New for first graders this year is to enter a pin number for lunch. Please help your child to memorize their pin number. We are learning the routine of the school day. This is a big transition being in school everyday. Please encourage your child to get plenty of sleep each night. Thank you for your support at home.
2nd Grade	We are adjusting into routines and enjoying being back with our friends. We have taken our aReading and aMath assessments. We loved "Bounce Back" last Friday. Thank you to our PTA for supporting us! We are looking forward to our field trip to the apple orchard in October!
3rd Grade	3rd grade is getting used to our routines and getting to know each other more. We have been taking some pre-assessments and learning about how we will use that information to grow. We are learning how our brain changes and makes stronger networks the more we practice something. Mr. Nestrud and his wife welcomed their 2nd child, a baby boy named Ellis Michael, and Mrs. Keller has made the seamless transition to teaching his class while he is on leave.
4th Grade	we enjoyed visiting the fire station to honor our community hero's. We also have released three of our four monarchs, which is exciting! We are beginning our unit on the regions of the United States in social studies.
4th and 5th Grade Multi-age	Our mixed age classes have been great and we're off to a busy start! One thing we have been working on is staying organized- especially since we don't have assigned spots anymore. We will be switching students for math next week, so we will be working on that transition as well. It will be a very small taste of middle school for our 5th graders. Thank you for all the support at home- we could not do it without you!
Specialists	Students are excited to be back and having PE! Students are learning the routines in the gymnasium and how to cooperate and work well with each other, playing fair, and learning what being a good sport, friend, and teammate are all about. See what's happening in PE this year by following us on twitter: @WBLPE_BirchLake

SpEd/ Psych/SocW	The new support staff members are getting to know students. Veteran staff have been great mentors and very collaborative. We have begun establishing routines for our shared learners and adjusting supports as needed. We've all found joy in seeing our students reconnecting with their peers in their classrooms!
EL	I have been testing students and working with staff on scheduling. I look forward to starting groups Monday, September 27.
Other- Intervention	We are busy assisting teachers with finishing up grade level assessments. We are planning to start intervention groups next week. It is so good to have all of the kids back in the building each day!