

Birch Lake Elementary PTA Meeting November 16, 2021

Members in Attendance: Mindy Thorson, Krista Mickelson, Davin Mickelson, Jenny Walbridge, Tracy Kelly, Michelle Gratz, Brittney Sletten (Virtual), Kristie Gonzalez (Virtual)

Guests in Attendance: Jonathan Luknic, Scott Hoeg, Katie Gagen, Jessica Ellison

Meeting Called to Order: 6:32 by Mindy

Review of Last Meeting's Minutes: Motion to approve by Tracy, Second by Jenny

Guest Speaker: Katie Gagen, Media Clerk:

The Scholastic Book Fair will be open for online shopping through November 25th
There will be another book fair in the spring where evening shopping will be available
Each classroom was granted \$25
A quarter of the profits are returned to the school in Scholastic Dollars
Wishes to partner with and have more volunteers from the PTA in the future

School Board Report, Jessica Ellison:

The election results have been certified
Jessica and Deb Beloyed will continue their service
Chris Streiff Oji and Kathleen Daniels are newly elected
An ASL course and an AP Studio 3D art course have been approved for the high school

Principal's Report:

Considering an after-school club or on-line Spanish lessons
Inquiring with NHS students for volunteer opportunities; NHS meeting on 12/2
Volunteers needed for the Parent Engagement Plan Committee
Meet with staff – three more meetings this school year (no dates yet)
Class tokens – focuses on student expectations
Weekly Golden Award given each Friday
Earn 25 tokens and get a free lunch
Renovations (See the PPT/Slideshow for images)
Outdoor renovations begin in 1-2 weeks
Indoor renovations will not start until summer break
There will be a new 4th/5th grade classroom added
The Media Center will be renovated and renamed the Learning Commons
Adding a STEM Lab
All plumbing will be replaced

Teacher's Report – Please see the Grade Level Updates for a full report.

Treasurer's Report:

The net profit from the Heggies fundraiser was \$10,453.70 (That's 1,616 pizzas!)

Purchased bingo prizes for the upcoming Bingo for Books take-home 'event'

Motion to approve budget-to-actual by Krista, Second by Tracy

Past Events:

Heggies Pick-Up Night was hectic, but all families have picked up their orders

The Box Top Drive brought in .30.

Upcoming and Ongoing Events:

Give to the Max Day is November 18th

Minnesota tradition of giving

All donations from this fundraiser will go towards new playground equipment

Bingo cards will be distributed next week for a take-home Bingo for Books 'event'

Prizes include Birch Lake pencils and lip balm, as well as books from Scholastic

Starts on Monday, November 22nd and cards are due back November 30th

Culver's Concretes for a Cause runs December 6 – 12

Culver's in Vadnais Heights will donate \$1 from each Concrete Mixer sold that week

The Holiday Store will be December 14-15th in the gym

This is a long-standing Birch tradition where students can buy and wrap gifts for family

Volunteers will be needed – please watch your email for a Sign-Up Genius

Amazon Smile donates a percentage of each order to the PTA

It's an easy change to your default app from Amazon.com to smile.amazon.com

Select PTA Minnesota Congress 4840 Birch Lake Elementary PTA as your charity

Kowalski's White Bear Lake – Groceries for Good Causes program

Drop your receipt in our Birch PTA box at the front of the store

Donations are based on the total number of receipts received, NOT the amount spent

The box with the lowest participation gets dropped in favor of a new charity

Spirit Shirts

We may have just a few shirts in adult sizes left for sale in the Teacher's Lounge

Spirit Magnets

There will be a Stocking Stuffer sale from December 13-17th

New Business:

Grant Request from Julie Skildum to purchase Vocab A-Z for her classroom for \$108

Approved

Mr. Luknic requested \$150-200 for a staff luncheon sponsored by the Sunshine Committee

Approved – Will use the Staff Appreciation budget to reimburse the catering bill

We signed up for a Google Workspace for Nonprofits account for hosting our virtual meetings

There will no longer be a one-hour time limit as there was with Google Meet

There should no longer be an issue with non-Gmail addresses

We discovered our freezer in the teacher's lounge had been unplugged.

Please leave it plugged in!

If the alarm goes off, there is a reset button right on the door to turn it off.

Meeting Closed by Mindy at 7:43

2021-2022 PTA Grade-Level Updates

PTA Meeting Grade Level Updates - November 16, 2021 6:30pm

Teachers/Staff Attending: Hoeg, Gratz

Grade Level/Dept.	November 16 News and Updates to be shared with PTA
Kindergarten	We are working hard on mastering our letters (Uppercase and Lowercase) and sounds! We are also spending time learning how to be thankful for what we have. We are almost up to 50 days of school and that means we are closer and closer to celebrating Day 100!!! We are enjoying working together and sharing and caring for each other.
1st Grade	We enjoyed shopping at the Scholastic book fair. It was exciting to see so many great books going home with kids. Our class reviewed Birch Lake Expectations and has been earning several Bear Paws for excellent behavior in the cafeteria, hallway and media center. Please remember to wear a warm coat, hat and mittens to school. Once it snows outside students will also need to wear boots and snow pants. This is a great time to practice zipping coats and tying shoes at home. Thank you!
4th and 5th Grade	4/5th graders have been working hard on drafting and revising our narrative stories. They are coming along great! We are excited to start writing our stories in actual books and publish them in our media center to share with the school.
Specialists	PE-All 1st-5th Grade students have completed their fitness tests. We are currently learning about what each component of fitness the test does and why we do fitness testing. Each Elementary White Bear Lake student participates in fitness testing in the fall and spring. We used the students' scores from the fall and worked to improve them through a variety of activities and skills in the winter and take the same tests in the spring. We work on goal setting and discuss how to set realistic goals and how to achieve them. Make ups were attempted if a student missed a test. Kindergarten students are currently participating in a lot of kicking activities. They are learning how to properly kick a ball, trap a ball, and using the inside and outside part of your feet. K-2 students are currently participating in some parachute activities while 3-5 students are developing their volleyball skills
Other-Intervention	We are continuing to work on reading and math interventions both in small groups and within the classrooms. As the students settle in, it is fun to watch the excitement for learning grow. It was so nice to meet with so many parents during our online conferences.

Double click the image on the next page to view the embedded PowerPoint presentation.



BIRCH LAKE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

September 2, 2021