

## **Birch Lake Elementary PTA Meeting February 15, 2022**

**Members in Attendance:** Krista Mickelson, Davin Mickelson, Jenny Walbridge, Tracy Kelly, Kristie Gonzalez, Brittney Sletten (virtual), Liz Andert (virtual)

**Guests in Attendance:** Jonathan Luknic, Hunter Mickelson, Scott Hoeg, Kari Solheim (virtual), Annie Hermann (virtual), Jeff Hermann (virtual)

**Meeting Called to Order:** 6:32 by Davin

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

### **Principal's Report:**

- Boundary changes were approved at last night's school board meeting
  - Changes will take effect for the middle school next year
  - Changes will affect the elementary schools the following year
  - We anticipate adding 100 – 150 students after the changes
    - May look to add a kindergarten teacher
    - The split classroom (grades 4/5) will likely continue
- Masks will no longer be required as of February 22<sup>nd</sup>
  - As long as cases are low, masks will not be required
  - Please refer to the email sent 2/14 for more detailed information
- The Family Advisory Committee needs more members!
  - At the first meeting, families and staff met to discuss engagement
  - The second meeting is February 22<sup>nd</sup> from 2:30-3:30 in the Media Center
  - There will be childcare offered as well as an online/virtual option

### **Teacher's Report by Principal Luknic:**

- Grade K is learning about violin and viola; MacPhail loaned them instruments
- Grade 1 is working on personal narratives and is doing a kindness challenge
- Grade 2 wrote each friend a note from the heart
- Grade 3 has been working on multiplication, division, and also poetry
- Grade 4 created a Cardboard Arcade
- Grade 5 wrote informational reports on the state parks
- PE students have been playing Olympic events
- Music students have been working on rhythm
- Intervention students have been working on phonics and on Focus math
- \*Please review the Grade Level Updates for a complete report\*

### **Treasurer's Report:**

- The Panera restaurant night raised \$96.67
- We just received \$400 from Kowalski's WBL Groceries for Good Causes

We bought books for Ms. Nelson (her classroom had won \$150 for Heggies sales)  
Purchased fifty pounds of color powder for the Color Run  
The Box Tops drive ends at the end of the month, Box Tops are due to us by 2/25  
\$3125 was raised for playground equipment – what should we buy?

Ideas:

- Another gaga pit – one with a floor
- Lower monkey bars for the little kids (PreK – Grade 2)
- A merry-go-round (seen at Willow Lane)
- Panel walls with mazes
- A shelter to offer shade with some picnic tables
- Natural elements like logs or stumps

We could roll the money over to next year if we wanted a bigger \$\$ item  
Motion to approve Budget-to-Actual by Krista, Second by Tracy

#### **Past Events:**

Open Gym went well - about twelve kids and five adults attended  
The Panera Fundraiser brought in \$96.67

#### **Upcoming and Ongoing Events:**

Turn in clipped Box Tops to teachers – due in our mailbox by February 25th  
March's Restaurant Night is at Leeann Chin in WBL on Wednesday, March 2 from 11 – 8  
We'll receive 20% of sales for dine in and carry out orders  
Must show the flyer (hard copy or digital copy) for us to receive credit  
Flyers will be sent home and emailed next week

Staff Appreciation Week is upcoming

Last year's Cups of Appreciation were very appreciated

Ideas for this year

- Pizza - we can cater to gluten-free and vegetarian diets
- Catering from one of our fundraising partners like Chipotle
- Grab and Go items like muffins, granola, fruit

With more volunteers, we could deliver or plan something for each day

This event is in MAY not March (the author regrets her mistake!): It's May 2-6

Grandparents Day

No in-person event due to safety/pandemic concerns

Could plan a virtual event to invite grandparents to view classes

Officers needed for the PTA Board for next year

The Secretary position is open

Main 'job' is to take the notes at the monthly meetings

The Board plans and hosts monthly events

ALL volunteers are welcome

Elections should be held by the April or May meeting

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

# 2021-2022 PTA Grade-Level Updates

## PTA Meeting Grade Level Updates - February 15, 2022 6:30pm

Teachers/Staff Attending: Hoeg

Grade Level/Dept.	News and Updates to be shared with PTA
Kindergarten	We are reading and writing! We are also celebrating the gift of friendship this week! MacPhail has provided us with instruments to try out. The violin and viola were instruments we learned about these past couple of weeks! We are also learning about identifying a problem, how we feel and how we can solve it too.
1st Grade	We are finishing our personal narratives. We did a self evaluation and posted a Seesaw video sharing what each student is proud of at school. We have worked on writing kind notes to classmates while recognizing each other's special qualities. Among other things, they are participating in a kindness challenge as they recognize acts of kindness throughout the day.
2nd Grade	Second graders had a great time celebrating their classmates by writing each friend a note from the heart. We put all of their kind notes together in pouches that they sewed. Each student was given their pouches on Valentine's Day. In reading, we have started working on making inferences. In math we are focusing on identifying quadrilaterals, parallelograms, rectangles, and squares. We will begin our research writing unit this next week. Mrs. Skildum's class will begin swimming lessons at the Y next week. Mrs. Shook's class will follow after Spring Break!
3rd Grade	beth had such a nice write-up I'm adding it here: Keller and Nestrud's <b>3rd graders</b> have been busy mastering multiplication as they begin their division unit. They know everything there is to know about the planets and space and are now writing friendly letters/complement cards to their classmates. They also have perfect timing for Valentine's Day as they wrap up their poetry unit!
4th and 5th Grade	Over the past week Mrs. Theissen's 4th graders have been continuing their engineering focus by building a Cardboard Arcade. They designed games, and received feedback from their classmates to improve their designs. Yesterday we invited Mrs. Fick and Mrs. Shook's classes to come try out our games. Fun was had by all!! And we learned a lot along the way. We also enjoyed a publishing party last month for our personal narratives, and now we are moving on to writing an informational report on self selected topics.  Our mixed age classrooms are both working hard on their informational reports. Ms. Nelson's students chose any topic they were interested in, whereas Ms. Robinson's students chose from a list of National State Parks.
Specialists	<b>PE:</b> Students recently finished a jump roping unit and now all students have been participating in Winter Olympic events: bobsledding, curling, light the torch, run for the rings. We are learning about what the olympics are, how to display sportsmanship, fitness levels, and skills. Future units that are coming up are a racquet unit, a Dr. Seuss obstacle course for K-2 students and a basketball unit for 3-5 students. Follow us on twitter to see highlights @WBLPE_BirchLake

	<p><b>Music:</b></p> <p>4th and 5th graders have been building community through drumming! Through performing 6-part African and Latin American drum ensembles, the students have shown growth in coordination, focus, teamwork, matching, listening, and musical form. Soon, students will be working in groups to create their own complementary drum rhythms.</p> <p>3rd graders have been focusing on authentically creating and reading rhythms. Soon, they will begin writing their own creations down! In addition, they have been independently singing songs that use the pitches Mi, Re, Do, So, and La while accompanying themselves on mallet and other percussion instruments. 3rd graders have also been creating portions of dances with a partner to go along with the songs that they are learning.</p> <p>2nd graders have also been focusing on authentically creating and reading rhythms. Soon, they will also be able write their own creations down. 2nd graders have also been singing, reading, and identifying So, Mi, and La while accompanying themselves on mallet and other percussion instruments. Soon, they will be able to write the pitches down that they hear.</p> <p>1st graders have been focusing on reading, identifying, and notating rhythms. They have also begun learning to read and sing the pitches So and Mi while accompanying themselves on mallet and other percussion instruments.</p> <p>Kindergartners have been singing, performing, and playing instruments to songs, poems, dances, and games that support their learning of letters, days of the week, counting, and months of the year. These activities have supported Kindergartners' abilities to keep a steady beat, perform long and short sounds, sing on pitch, move through space, recognize patterns, and take turns.</p>
<b>Other- Intervention</b>	<p>During our reading WIN Time, some of our students are enjoying a research-based literacy program called <i>Leveled Literacy Intervention</i>. LLI is an intense 30-minute guided reading lesson where we work on phonics and word study, plus reading strategies for decoding, vocabulary, fluency, and comprehension. We also write about our reading. During math WIN Time we are continuing to use a research-based math program called <i>FOCUS Math</i> as well as a fun hands-on program called <i>Bridges</i>. We also work closely with our students' classroom teachers in order to keep in sync with the curriculum in the classroom.</p>