

Garden City PTA
Homestead School PTA Meeting
November 14, 2023 at 9:30 am

Call to Order: 9:35 am by Homestead PTA Director, Amy McDonough

Handouts: Meeting agenda; Phonological Awareness Support Monthly Newsletters print outs provided by Ms. Ruby Klein, Speech/Language Pathologist

Introductions

1. PTA Primary School Directors Amy McDonough (Homestead), Meaghan Hurley (Locust), Kristen Whitaker (Hemlock) introduced themselves
2. Principals Dr. Suzanne Viscovich (Homestead), Mrs. Eileen Vota (Locust), Mrs. Melanie Odone (Hemlock) introduced themselves. Dr. Viscovich notified attendees that the schools' Toys for Tots donation drive will be starting soon

PTA Committee Updates

1. Health & Safety, Victoria Diaz
 - a. In October, the committee set up a Teal Pumpkin display at the schools to educate children about food allergies and safe items that could be distributed on Halloween
 - b. The committee will continue to promote their Don't Text and Drive and Don't Pass the Flash programs throughout the year
 - c. In January/February, they are looking into the possibility of bringing in a guest speaker to discuss childrens' self-esteem
 - d. In April the committee will be promoting their annual Bike Safety and Safe Driving campaigns
 - e. May will feature the committee's Sun Safety program
2. Reflections, Hana Noble
 - a. Hana is co-chairing the Reflections committee with Wa Phung this year
 - b. Submissions for the contest closed on October 31st and 150 submissions were made across all the Garden City Public Schools
 - c. Judges are now reviewing the entries and an award ceremony for the school district winners will take place in March
3. Pick a Reading Partner (PARP), Hana Noble
 - a. Hana is co-chairing the PARP committee with Alyssa Vitez this year
 - b. This year's theme is Choose Your Own Adventure
 - c. The committee had a table with books and games at last night's Elementary Math & Literacy Family Night at Stratford
 - d. On Nov. 22nd, a day off of school, the committee will host a movie day at Malverne Movie Theater at 10am that is geared towards Elementary students
 - e. In December, the committee will host their annual virtual reading of The Polar Express
 - f. In January/February, PARP will launch the Garden City Pen Pals program where students can be matched with a pen pal from another GC school
 - g. On Feb. 6th, PARP will host an event with the GC Public Library that will include a Valentine's Day book reading and craft
 - h. In March, there will be a week designated as a week long celebration of reading for the close of the program
 - i. PARP is looking for a committee volunteer from Locust school - if interested email: PARP@gardencitypta.org
4. Legislation

- a. Amy McDonough said that all 3 primary schools are looking for additional volunteers for the Legislation Committee - if interested email: Homestead@gardencitypta.org, Hemlock@gardencitypta.org, or Locust@gardencitypta.org as applicable

Literacy Presentation

1. Presentation "Speech/Language Supports" was given by Ms. Ruby Klein, Primary School Speech/Language Pathologist. Ms. Klein explained that once a week she pushes into the Primary School classrooms for 40 minutes, she also provides support to students who require extra help once per week for 30 minutes, and in addition she is part of the evaluation team for CSE/CPSE. The goal of the presentation was to explain Phonological Awareness to parents and help provide advice and resources for parents to help build these skills at home. Presentation can be found [here](#). Ms. Klein also had tables set up that displayed many of the games and tools suggested in her presentation, and she provided post-it notes to write and submit feedback to her on the presentation and program. You can stay in touch with her by following her on X @mskleinlp or emailing her [@kleinr@gcufsd.net](mailto:kleinr@gcufsd.net)

Closing Remarks

1. Dr. Viscovich and Amy McDonough thanked attendees for coming.

Adjourn

1. Meeting adjourned at 10:09 am

***Agenda Correction**

1. Under Upcoming Dates, Wednesday, November 21st was listed as Early Dismissal. Early Dismissal is **Tuesday**, November 21st.