

## Locust PTA Meeting- October 13, 2023

### Agenda Items:

1. Call to order – Meghan Hurley, Locust PTA Director, welcomed everyone

2. Introductions:

- Principal: Mrs. Vota
- Locust SEPTA Director: Rebecca Gallaro
- Locust PTA Director: Meaghan Hurley
- 1st Grade Representative- Lauren Sbeglia:

3. Curriculum Update from Mrs. Blatt

First Grade:

Math: working on Story problems

Foundations: Diagraphs (two letters combined to make a single sound) “sh”, “th”, “wh”

Readers Workshop: forming good reading habits.

Writing: personal narratives, decorating writing folders

Science: change of seasons

Heggerty: syllables, word work

Kindergarten:

Math: counting concepts 1-10, writing #s

Foundations: letters “l”, “u”, sounds, letter formation

Readers workshop: language

Science: change of seasons

Heggerty: two words forming one

- i. Joint Virtual Primary Literacy and Mathematics Workshop on Friday, October 20 at 10:00 a.m. facilitated by Christina Cardella, Director of Mathematics and STEAM K-12 and Lauren Kaufman, Director of Literacy K-12.

During this workshop, you will get a look into the math curriculum and will be provided with practical strategies to support student reading success at home.

Please refer to the flyer for more information and fill out form to help us plan for the workshop by Wednesday, October 18, 2023

4. Committee Updates

- a. PARP- Alyssa Vitez, Co-Chair GC PTA PARP
  - i. Open position: need a volunteer for Locust Rep  
Email [parp@gardencitypta.org](mailto:parp@gardencitypta.org), [locust@gardencitypta.org](mailto:locust@gardencitypta.org)
  - ii. Theme: “Choose your own Adventure”
  - iii. considering activities such as author read alouds/virtual authors (8 year old author), Literacy Nights for K-5 students at the Middle School., Movie day for elementary, GC Pen-Pals where students are matched with those from across town
- b. Curriculum - Angela Park - Locust Rep 10/3 curriculum meeting notes: discussed the writing curriculum

- c. Spirit Week – Kristian Blum
  - 10/13 Comfy-Cozy Day
  - 10/16 America Day – red white & blue
  - 10/17 Pink Day – Breast cancer awareness
  - 10/18 Unity Day- wear orange
  - 10/19 Jersey Day
  - 10/20 Spirit Day – wear Spirit Day shirt (pom poms being distributed for pep rally) sponsored by PTA
  - 10/21 Homecoming Parade and Game @ HS
  
- d. Locust SEPTA Director: Rebecca Gallaro, Garden City SEPTA Members are parents, teachers, paraprofessionals, administrators and friends. We share a commitment to provide ALL students with the high quality education provided by our district. All members of the community are welcome to join us in supporting this vision. Please become a member & contact Rebecca If you have any questions. [membership@gcsepta.org](mailto:membership@gcsepta.org)
  
- e. 1st Grade Representative- Lauren Sbeglia: ideas for a Parent Handbook and a class parent meeting for more feedback and general ideas
- f. Beautification- Catherine Griffing, Locust school decorated for the fall and wanted to thank those who donated
- g. Reflections - Catherine Griffing, The contest is up and running, submissions are due **by Oct 31st**, students may submit their projects to the box at the front office at Locust School. All rules can be found on the PTA website, including the submission form. The theme is “I’m Hopeful Because...”.
- h. Locust Family Fun - Victoria Diaz, Fall Festival on 10/31,
  - 9am Kindergarten games and crafts
  - 9:45 parade
  - 10am First grade games and crafts
  - Volunteers needed
- i. Health & Safety- Victoria Diaz & Cristina Handal, Ideas for Emotional Well being & Self-esteem and introducing to Primary level with a speaker/age-appropriate show for younger kids. Ideas to Introduce “teal Project” introducing candy alternative for those with food allergies; Oral Hygiene topic in February (District – wide). At the 10/18 PTA meeting there will be an informative **presentation, "The New Epidemic of Teen & Child Gambling: What You Need to Know."** Presenter [Les Bernal](#) is the National Director of Stop Predatory Gambling, a non-profit national advocacy network with a mission to educate and end the negative impacts of gambling operations. There is a virtual option, need to register
- j. Photography: Thank you this year’s committee; Photo Make-Up Day is Friday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> – email will be sent out by Mrs. Vota. If you have not yet received your child’s photos from picture day, please email Irvin Simon directly at [Support@irvinsimon.com](mailto:Support@irvinsimon.com). They will be able to send you a link.

#### 4. Upcoming Events

##### **October 2023**

Mon 10/16 • Spirit Week - America Day  
Tue 10/17 • Spirit Week - Positively Pink Day  
Wed 10/18 • Districtwide Unity Day - Wear Orange  
Thu 10/19 • Spirit Week - Jersey Day  
Fri 10/20 • Spirit Week - Spirit Day  
Sat 10/21 • Homecoming  
Mon 10/23 • Kindergarten Tanglewood Center Trip (Polant/Justino/Cetta)  
Wed 10/25 • Kindergarten Yoga Program  
Tue 10/31 • PTA Reflections Deadline  
Tue 10/31 • Locust Storybook Parade & Festival

##### **November 2023**

Fri 11/3 • Photo Retake Day  
Mon 11/6 • Kindergarten Tanglewood Center Trip (Conlon/Nicolino/McGoldrick/Nendza)  
Mon 11/6 • Primary Schools Parent Teacher Conferences 6:30pm - 8:30pm  
Tue 11/7 • Parent-Teacher Conferences 9am-12pm  
Tue 11/7 • Election Day - NO Classes  
Wed 11/8 SEPTA General Membership Meeting  
Fri 11/10 • School Closed Veteran's Day  
Tue 11/14 Joint Primary PTA @ Homestead 9:30  
Tue 11/21 • Early Dismissal Drill  
Wed 11/22 • Superintendent's Conference Day - NO CLASSES  
Thu 11/23 - Fri 11/24 • Thanksgiving Recess

#### 5. Social Emotional Learning in the Primary Grades - Presented by Mrs. Kady Burke, Locust School Psychologist

Presentation can be found here

[https://mcusercontent.com/a475109de6a033ee8e4464d9f/files/435e38f1-be67-ada5-2be5-fc68d22a68d9/SEL\\_workshop\\_.pptx.pdf](https://mcusercontent.com/a475109de6a033ee8e4464d9f/files/435e38f1-be67-ada5-2be5-fc68d22a68d9/SEL_workshop_.pptx.pdf)

Presentation focused on: • Social Emotional Learning (SEL) defines as the capacity to recognize and manage emotions, solve problems effectively, and establish positive relationships with others • Explain what we do at the primary level. • Identify signs that might warrant greater intervention and explain what that intervention might look like. • Provide suggested strategies that you as parents can use at home. Please contact Mrs. Burke or Mrs. Martinez (School Social worker) if you have any specific questions regarding your child.

#### 6. Closing Remarks – Meaghan thanked all who attended and presented.