

Lincroft Elementary School

PTA Meeting: November 12, 2020

Held via Google Meet

CALL TO ORDER

Melissa Russo - PTA President

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Principal's Report - Mr. Imbimbo & Mrs. Garzone

- We are currently in Phase IV of District Reopening Plan (bringing back students who need ESL, IEP etc support). Slowly increasing numbers of students in the building.
- Hot button topic in the past was snack, what would we do during inclement weather? Today we were able to use the APR, spacing 6 ft apart, partitioned the APR to hold 2 classes at a time. If weather is not very bad we can bring students to the courtyard, but today wind was too unpredictable to use the pop up tents. As weather starts to change, safest place for kids to be unmasked is outside, but with cooler weather coming - Parents: please send your kids to school with warm clothes and layers bc we will try to get them outside as much as possible.
- We've implemented live specials on in-person day. If students participate in live specials during in-person days, YES, they still need to complete their specials virtual lessons at home (as much as possible) but we recognize kids are kids and it can be hard to get them back on the computer after school. But we do want to encourage it.
- Unfortunately we've had a shortage of substitutes across the district lately, and specials teachers have had to be pulled to cover classrooms and haven't been able to offer as many in-person specials.
- Virtual Weeks: Expectation to complete virtual specials all week.
- Please continue filling out the health screening form every morning on in-person days, especially after breaks or long weekends we notice it's easier to forget.

(There were quite a few kids that didn't have their screening forms at first after the 4-day weekend.)

- If you are traveling for the holidays, possibly taking your family to a state on the advisory list, please reach out to Mrs. Losquadro or Nurse K to inform us of your trip. Is mandatory that your child is self-quarantined after your trip. If unsure please reach out to us.
- Nurse K has resigned and this Friday 11/13 will be her last day with us. Nurse Mary Fisher will be joining us in the new year as our new school nurse. She's currently working at the Biotech High School. She is a Middletown resident, with a great resume, and we are very excited to have her join us in the new year. In the meantime, Nurse Lincoln will be filling in for Nurse K for the remainder of 2020. She's been shadowing Nurse K and is up to speed on all protocols.
- Schedule reminders: November 25th is an early release for staff and students. No afternoon Meets that day. 26th & 27th closed for Thanksgiving. Nov 30 - Dec 4 school is all virtual for all students and staff.
- December 23rd is also early dismissal. School building closed during winter break (Dec 28 - Jan 1). Our first week of school in January (Jan. 4-8) will be all virtual for everyone.
- Today the district's Central Office Administration met with local Dept. of Health officials to discuss Phase V plan. (Phase V = all-virtual students who would like to attend in-person are given opportunity to attend in-person with their cohort.) Currently as of today we are ready to go for Phase V at Lincroft. We have enough desks and chairs, enough learning materials, schedules are set, etc. Should the district continue to move in that direction. (Phase VI would be Dec 16, that's when cohorts discontinue and all in-person students present every day.) Please stay tuned for any news from the district about any potential changes to the reopening schedule.

Teachers' Report - Mrs. Frazee & Mrs. Bozard

- Melissa Russo: On behalf of PTA we so appreciate everything being done by our teachers & staff.
- Frazee & Bozard: We love seeing the kids on in-person days. So much better to have them with us. Hybrid feels like it's working better than full virtual.
- Thank you to families for helping the students be prepared and ready to go each day.
- Can't thank you all enough for all the support, keeping the kids on task when they're virtual... 5th grade has received cleaning wipes & tissues etc from home. We really appreciate that, we know how scarce these things are.

- Melissa Russo: Anything the teachers want for the classrooms?
Frazee: 3rd grade Mrs. Stoudt asked if PTA could get vinyl powder & latex free gloves and lysol spray. Kindergarten: all 4 teachers asking for EXPO markers & erasers. Also leveled books, non-fiction, levels C-F...and other leveled books A-E.
Melissa Russo: PTA will look into getting surplus books from POMO/NM, and will try to source the gloves & lysol, etc. PTA can order the EXPO markers. Let us know if the teachers need anything else, please email us and PTA will do our best to purchase.

President's Report - Melissa Russo

- This is my first public meeting as PTA President. I have big shoes to fill following Heather McGrath, hopefully she taught me well.
- Attended district-wide PTA Presidents Meeting last week and was really interesting. Feels like the district is coming together more this year as a community.
- District does not want anything sent in to school for the holidays. No crafts to be sent in. Have to worry about where it came from, shouldn't be the teachers responsibility to host the holiday party (normally run by class parents). No treats to be sent in to school for distribution to the kids. Needs to be consistency across all the classes in all the schools. Don't want anyone to feel left out.
- Discussed COVID-friendly fundraising. There were some good ideas and things we'd like to try.
- Things look very different this year, but we have to remember it's temporary. Don't want any school to feel left out or like other schools are doing things we can't.
- Picture day will be taking place in the spring, likely February. Mr. I will send more info out after the new year.
- Mr Imbimbo: I have an update on that. Currently we have "school portraits" scheduled to come out on 2 separate days in the week, Feb 2nd & 4th. And will schedule a make up day. Don't know the logistics on doing a class picture yet, but do have the individuals set up.
- Frazee: Will 5th grade photo be taken at that time?
- Mr. I: Not sure yet, won't know til we know more about class pictures. Things could change in the meantime.
- Melissa R: Would photo be taken with masks on? If something did happen and it came back to THAT picture... wouldn't want that to happen. So much unknown. What will the state allow? Lots of great ideas, but don't want something to

happen and this is the cause.

- Reminder PTA bin is still outside the building and someone from the board is checking regularly. You can always drop off any paperwork, forms, or checks in to that bin. School staff brings the bin inside every night for safe keeping.
- Update from MTFODL (special ed advisory group) - they have a FB page anyone can join for updates & meeting invitations. Next meeting is Nov 16th via Zoom.
- PTA Membership & Facebook group: We have been deleting members from the FB group if you're not an active member of the PTA (paid dues for this year). This is to protect our children. Parents post photos there and event information.
- Thank you to all the class parents who are working to collect dues. The dues will fund the class t-shirts. Keep your t-shirts this year for a sense of community, with their teachers names. The dues you are submitting to class parents are not PTA dues - they are for class shirts and class funds. Normally would go to class parties, but will be using to purchase the teacher gifts during the year since no parties this year.
- PTA will also be using our funds this year to show our school teachers and staff some much-needed appreciation. Each month going forward we are going to do something special to bring the staff some love. They are working harder than ever. Want to let them know each month that we are thinking of them and appreciate them.
- New Charleston Wrap fundraiser. It's doing really well. As of today we've already profited \$1,300 for Lincroft Elementary. They offer many different types of items and a prize system for top sellers. PTA will also do prizes for top classes and a few random prizes. Also teachers get prizes and discounts. It benefits so many across the school. Since we are limited in our fundraising this year please shop & share to help support the school. Already have quite a few kids who have won several prizes. Hopefully we can use this money to make some improvements in the spring. We're not able to do the fundraising we normally do this year (normally we would have already had 2 or 3 events by now)...
- Amazon Smile also is a big help towards meeting our goal. Please continue to start your Amazon shopping at smile.amazon.com and select Lincroft PTA as your charity.
- Boxtops for Education: No longer collecting physical tops. Please download the app and scan your grocery receipt for our school to get credits.
- Scholastic Book Fair was held over the summer - we used the money to fund the subscriptions the teachers request for Scholastic news magazines and digital access. Usually what we don't make in Scholastic book fairs the PTA will cover the rest. It costs thousands for these subscriptions, but we will try to run another book fair to help meet this goal.

- Thank you to the PTA board, I am so fortunate to have a board of this caliber. They are doing so much.

Treasurer's Report – Katharine Cogan

- Fundraising is a challenge this year, but we're also not spending as much.
- Income to date has been from new PTA memberships, spirit wear sale & now Charleston Wrap. Hoping to have a few more fundraisers set up and will let you know the details.
- Expenses so far: Normal recurring expenses (insurance, license renewals), teacher appreciation gifts, and a big one we'll be paying out is \$4/member in dues to NJ PTA, will be paying that soon.
- I'll have our updated budget reports posted on the PTA website shortly. Please reach out to me with any questions, I'm happy to help.
- PTA membership: 443 people joined this year so far. \$3840 gross membership sales. We have to pay fees to NJ PTA & MemberHub(\$2000 total) = \$1840 net to PTA from the membership drive this year.
- Historically we've had 506 PTA members last school year, and 557 the year before that. Total membership went down this year, but we sort of expected it with some families being fully virtual, some families transferring out to private, etc.
- We kept the ability to join the PTA open. Was supposed to end 9/30, but wanted to keep open a bit longer, but will have to close it soon b/c we need to pay the fees to NJ membership soon.
- Amazon Smile - such a great fundraiser for our school. Just have to go to smile.amazon.com. No need to spend extra funds, just do your normal shopping. Please encourage family & friends to select Lincroft PTA as their charity as well.
- Tax filings: Has already been filed and accepted by the IRS. Saved some money on tax prep software from NJ PTA.
- Class Reps for this year have been selected. We thank everyone who volunteered to be a Class Rep this year, we couldn't do it without your help. Class Reps have been in touch with parents and teachers. If you haven't sent in your Parent Contact Form yet please do so, Class Parents need those to order your child's class shirts. They are also collecting class dues. Please submit that if you haven't already.
- We know 2020 has been a really tough year, and we want to remind everyone that the PTA is always here to support our community. If you or anyone you know is having trouble paying class dues, buying school supplies, etc, please email me

at lincroftptatreasurer@gmail.com. Any correspondence will be confidential. We want to help anyone in our community who may need it.

VP Programming - Danielle Pratt and Tammy Jones

- Haunted House Competition was held in October and was a success. Prizes awarded (gift cards to ABC bagel).
- New December event coming soon - "Snowballs". Winter fun gift bags for kids, delivered to your home. Details to come.
- We are open to ideas and suggestions. If you've heard of something fun at another school, let us know. We want to keep the community engaged and the kids having fun.
- Spirit wear sale was successful, made around \$750. Planning to do another in the spring with warm-weather clothing.

Corresponding Secretary - Martina Garland

- Hello everyone. In my role I send out the weekly PTA e-newsletters. I gather information from Melissa, Danielle & Tammy, or anyone who has something to communicate (yearbook etc).
- I also head up the Garden Club & Committee. We have several families involved. We did a big cleanup in the school garden and were able to uncover some beautiful plants that attract butterflies, hoping to support those this spring and plant some new edibles (fruits & vegetables) for the children to experience. Did a beautification project in front of the school this fall. Will take that down at end of November and will do a winter theme soon.

Recording Secretary - Coralee Dixon

- Hi everyone! I am the one feverishly taking notes during this meeting so that everyone can refer to them later. I also edit our PTA website (www.lincroftpta.org) and am one of the PTA reps on the Pandemic Response Team this year.
- I spent some time updating the PTA website over the summer, and am excited about a new section of the website especially for new families joining our school. Going forward, if you know anyone who has moved to our area and/or is joining our school for the first time, please share this page with them - <https://>

lincroftpta.org/new-families. It has a checklist of things to do and links to helpful resources.

PIC Meeting Reps Update

- They are waiting for the meeting minutes from the latest meeting and will post them soon.

Closing message from Melissa Russo: The PTA is here to help all of our families, teachers & staff. Please reach out at lincroftpta@gmail.com anytime if you have questions, suggestions, ideas or concerns.

Questions

Melissa Russo: We are opening up for questions now.

- Commenter: I'm not sure who is in charge of the Pawsitive Attitude award program. Is there any plan to have this program even under this hybrid/virtual platform?
- Mr. I: Some teachers have unofficially still been giving out the stickers. I have to say that life is stressful right now, but I genuinely feel that school is a happy place right now. The level of respect and rapport and community flowing out of the classrooms everyday... The Pawsitive Attitude program has fallen by the way for now...all the kids are genuinely happy at school and learning every day. The hallways are pretty quiet. Kids are smiling under their masks, happy on the playground. Something that started as recognizing happy and positive behavior...it's kind of happening all over every day. We probably will get back to it at some point, but for now there's a different tone in the building. Some of it is stress, but there is a different vibe.
- Commenter: I run a virtual character program in another district, it's working really well, I'd love for our school to have something like this.
- Mr I.: Yes please send me the info I'd love to look at it.

[No other questions]

Melissa R: Thank you all for coming. Please send feedback on if you liked this live meeting or the written meeting. Thank you again to our board and the teachers for all you do. Enjoy your Thanksgiving!