

## PTO General Meeting Agenda

September 14, 2021

- **President's Call to Order**
- **Treasury & Budget Update**
  - For August our most significant expenses were the Teacher Classroom Grants, of which \$5,325.00 of the grants have been cashed, so \$3,115.00 left to come out of the account.
  - We had a check from April 2021 which just hit the account now. It was a reimbursement for 5th Grade Fun Day which was applied to last year's budget for \$151.95
  - We also paid for additional welcome signs in August for \$258.00 as well as the \$51.95 monthly e-commerce charges.
  - For inflows we received a check for \$213.83 for WE Give and an interest income of \$0.81
  - Please continue using the online reimbursement request form for all WE PTO reimbursements requests. The link to the online form can be found on the WE PTO website (in the right margin of the page).
  - Be sure to use the Tax Exempt form when making any purchases for PTO. WE should not be paying tax on any school-related expenses
  - If you have any questions about reimbursements or anything else related to the WE PTO budget, please send an email to westchestertreasurer@gmail.com
- **President's Report**
  - School supplies was a success: sold 278 kits. Thank you to Kary Mangers for coordinating.
  - Spirit wear was a success. We had 186 orders, 504 items, \$10,690 gross sales and \$1,990.36 in proceeds. Thank you to Amy Schawacher and Kate Wilkins.
  - Welcome Committee signs have been delivered and now collected. We are trying to collect all the signs. Please spread the word. New family lunch/event has not been planned yet. We are looking at a possible outside venue for the event. Thank you to Jean Shaw for coordinating.
  - Buzz book has started. If you do not want your information in the buzz book, please fill out the google doc coming soon. Thank you to Susie Von Gontard for working on this.
  - First Dining out is tonight at Raising Cane's from 5-8:00pm.
    - Next dining out is Tuesday, October 5th at Ballwin Sno-cone from 4-8p.
    - Thank you to Susan Needler and Courtney Tessier for coordinating.
  - The Greentree parade is on September 18th. The float is designed and underway. Construction dates are Wednesday and Thursday September 15 & 16th.
    - This Year's Theme: Kirkwood Enjoys the Great Outdoors!
    - Our theme: WE are climbing to new heights. Dress up for the outdoors, hiking, fishing, decorate your wagon & stroller too. If you're not dressed up like the theme, wear spirit wear or red.
    - Information about the parade: The parade will line up in the Kirkwood High School parking lot on Essex Avenue. Our number in the line-up is #31. We cannot throw candy; it has to be handed out.
    - Judging for awards will begin at 8:30AM. The parade will begin at 10:00 AM. Please be in your vehicle with your group at 9:55 AM.
    - Families should be dropped off at Kirkwood High School's Dougherty Ferry parking lot on the north side of the school. Parking is permitted on that lot, but not on the Essex lot. Children may be accompanied from the Dougherty Ferry

- parking lot (north) to the Essex parking lot (south) where the parade will start.
  - There is a shuttle that runs from Meramec Community College to the high school beginning at 8:00-9:15 AM. The parade ends at Kirkwood community center which is a good walking distance from the high school.
  - There will be a lot of walking so make sure you have a stroller or wagons. They are trying to keep the pace going so make sure you're ready to walk.
  - Students will be decorating fish at school for the float
  - Float assembly will be Wednesday and Thursday nights by pioneer park in the Devonshire cul de sac.
  - Candy donation: You can send candy to school. There is a box outside of the office.
- o WE Give Kickoff is this Sunday, September 19th.
  - Biggest fundraiser for the PTO. Money goes to support all our events, teacher grants, field trips, yearbooks, staff appreciation, etc. All donations will be done online this year. Be on the lookout for the link. Giveaways will be for a donation of:
    - \$35 Westchester drawstring bag
    - \$120 Westchester drawstring bag + a throw blanket
    - \$250 Westchester drawstring bag + throw blanket + Kirkwood Yeti
    - \$300+ Westchester drawstring bag + throw blanket +2 Kirkwood Yeti
  - Thank you to Jill Niemann and Kerry Elmore.
- o Grade Level Traditions:
  - K: Veterans Day
  - 1: Read for the Stars
  - 2: Economy City
  - 3: Circus
  - 4: Science in the Trees
  - 5: Fun Day, moving in the middle, Celebration
- o Magnets will be for sale at ice cream social and trunk or treat for \$5. Please bring cash. 250 magnets @ \$5 = \$1250 -\$353 = \$897 profit
- o Ice cream social and book fair is Sept 20-22nd on the North playground. Book fair on Tuesday shopping 4-7. We need scoopers, runners and cleaners - Sign up genius for volunteers.
- o Trunk or treat has been scheduled for October 26th from 5-6:30p. We need 40 volunteers to decorate their trunks for the event to happen. Cars will need to arrive by 4:30p. We will also have sign up parties to sign up for an event and auction items.
  - If you're interested in helping plan the event or help with the silent auction or sign-up parties, please contact me. This event will be taking the place of FFN.
- o WEE Ones will have a craft event on October 9th in the WE woods. Thank you to Colleen Filla and Anne Hinrichs for setting up the first donuts at the park last week.
- o STEAM Night set for November 30, 2021 from 6-7:30pm. Night where each grade level has a classroom set up an activity. Parents can also set up booths/activities. Kids can rotate around between the activities.
- o The Trivia Committee has secured Friday, 2/11/2022 at the Community Center.
- o Mother/son event is set for Sunday, April 24, 2022 from 2-4p will be an outside event at a park.
- o Learning about Literacy Power Hours: Sept 9, 14, 28th.
 

<https://www.kirkwoodschoools.org/powerhour>

- o Father/daughter dance on February 6th
- o Ways to get info
  - PTO Page on Westchester Website <https://www.kirkwoodschoools.org/Page/5902>
  - Facebook PTO Page <https://www.facebook.com/westchesterelementarypto>
  - Wednesday Updates Email
- **Principal's Update**
  - o New strategic plan for the district
    - Pillars of the Plan
      - Social, mental, & emotional health
      - Curriculum, instruction, & programs
      - Equity, diversity, & inclusion
      - Communication & engagement
    - 3 common goals with other elementaries
      - Ensure instructional practices are student-centered and responsive, yielding positive outcomes for all students
      - Improve and implement policies, practices, and procedures to reflect a focus on equity, diversity, & inclusion
      - Foster a climate of belonging and a culture of dignity across all Kirkwood schools.
    - WE staff also chose their own goal as a school
      - Identify, develop, and provide social-emotional and mental health resources and learning for all students
    - Finalizing goals with timelines. Each year the school will have a school improvement plan.
      - Curriculum goal based on benchmarking results and will be focused on literacy. Literacy Link will be coaching the teachers with literacy instruction. Teachers will be using Heggerty & Sondag programs for literacy instruction.
    - Every staff member will be part of one of the goal teams: Working and writing and collaborating about their goal. District will be asking for feedback from parents in the spring.
  - o We are wanting to build our feeling of community at Westchester. We need the help and support from families to volunteer to help continue our traditions. **Join & participate in our community!**
  - o Gifted testing will happen for second and 3rd grade this year.
  - o Current student headcount is 578 students.
    - First grade has 6 sections. They have two lunch shifts. This also changes the specials schedule.
  - o No Wednesday folders this year. All school communication will be sent electronically.
  - o Groundbreaking is Friday the 24th @9:00 for the 2 classrooms in the front of the gym. Dr. Beckerle and Mr. Hansen's classrooms will be there. The goal is to have it done by February. The big project that will connect 3rd and 4th grade hallways will start this summer and finish by 2022-23 school year. There will be a lottery for a hat day this Friday for \$1 to be entered into a raffle to have a shovel and photo opportunity at the groundbreaking.
    - There will be a temporary parking lot created in front of the baseball field for construction vehicles.
  - o A request has been made for a new bike rack for the front of the building.

- o Parent teacher conferences will be Oct 18-22. Teachers will be doing conferences all week virtually. There will be an option to do in person conferences as well.
  - o Unified lights: Any Students with IEPs or 504 kids are paired up with athletes and have a special night at Kirkwood. It is Wednesday, September 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm at the Kirkwood High School stadium.
  - o Picture day is next Wednesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>.
  - o Please sign up for chicken checkers!
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- New business  
N/A
  - Meeting Adjourned