



Birch Lane
PTA®

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Birch Lane
Massapequa Park, NY 11762

BIRCH LANE PTA

Executive/General Board Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, November 16, 2021

PTA General Membership Meeting:

Date: Tuesday, November 16, 2021

Time: 6:45PM

Place: Birch Lane Front Gym

Heather Callahan, President

- Meeting called to order at 6:45pm
- A quorum was present 17 members

President's Report:

Vote and Approve Prior Meeting Minutes

Approved last meeting's minutes from October 2021

Thank You to:

Bulletin Board Committee - Stacey Sandurs and Kristen Larman

Picture Day - Elizabeth Edelbach

Holiday Fair - Sue McEvoy, Kira Mallia, and Tara Hochberg

Correspondence Report - Kiri Spillane

Thank you for a great welcome back bash from the Banta family

Treasurer Report - Marianna Somers

At our last meeting on October 15, 2021, we had a balance of \$33,896.49

As of today, November 16, 2021, our balance is \$33,345.93

Expenses:

Fall Plant Sale Plants \$3600

PTA Council Dues 2021-2022 school year \$650

Invoices from Welcome Back Bash \$385

Income:

Fall Plant Sale: \$6,000

Membership: \$500

Membership Update:

416 Members

Council Report – Amy MacLeod

Council Meeting on November 15, 2021

Mr. Aspetti and Dr. Gerhard (Fairfield) were the guest principals

- Both emphasized their appreciation for all the PTA does to support the teachers and students
- Both emphasized successful back to school events, holiday fairs, arts in ed programs, etc.
- Both also emphasized their schools' attention to character education and social-emotional learning

Massapequa Council of PTAs:

- Council's mission for the year is to be a larger presence in the community
- There is going to be a Massapequa-wide blood drive. We'll be competing against Farmingdale for pints collected
- Membership is up in every unit from last year

Comments from Dr. Fasano:

Parents on the elementary level are concerned about the weight of their students' backpacks. Dr. Fasano was asked if the students have to bring the Chrome Book back/forth every day and he said yes, they do.

The District is moving from PowerSchool to a different platform

Teacher Reps were present:

Field trips are back

PTA events are back

Clubs began at the secondary level

Music and plays are back

The teachers are trying to coordinate more community wide events and fundraisers

SEPTA Report - Anthony Prizzi

We had a Harvest Dance a few weeks ago which was great. We celebrated Unity Day where kids and staff wore orange. Our next meeting is tomorrow night at 7pm.

One of Massapequa's own, Debbie O'Fee is going to be discussing her book called "I'm Sorry Jimmy Muscle".

Anyone that is interested in becoming a SEPTA member please visit <https://massapequasepta.memberhub.store>.

BOE Report - Stephanie Iannuzzi (presented by Amy MacLeod)

From October 21st Meeting

Presented annual audit report

School districts are required to follow the GASB; each year they issue new statements and standards

Overall, the district has a very healthy balance sheet

Chair of community also spoke and she recommends that the order of financial statements be approved.

Legislation - Marianna Somers

Annual convention being held from 11/19-11/21 with in-person and virtual options

We had a vote of confidence at our last meeting

Heather and myself will be attending on our unit's behalf

A motion was made to vote to approve the Council Advocacy Committee on behalf of the Massapequa Council

Seconded

Motion was defeated

Reflections – Jenni Mignone

We collected 49 submissions. We were very heavy on the Visual Arts section. I dropped off all of the Visual Arts pieces to Ms. Jaronczyk. Everybody will have their first and second place picked next week. Submissions to Nassau Reflections on 12/5 (virtually). The entries that we got were fantastic!

Arts in Education – Kiri Spillane (presented by Heather Callahan)

Next week Journeys is here for fourth grade and we're very excited to have it back in person this year!

Spirit Wear – Christine Fahey

Spirit Wear orders were submitted to New Wave last month but are experiencing delays with shipping, etc. There were two specific styles that they're having difficulty fulfilling. We're still looking to have them shipped in five weeks. More information will be sent out as soon as we have it.

Picture Day – Elizabeth Edelbach (presented by Marianna Somers)

Picture Day and makeups have concluded with much success. A big thank you to Mr. Aspetti and Mrs. Larkin, Patken Photography and our picture day committee. Thank you to all who participated with the vast majority of our students purchasing portraits. Not only was it a successful fundraiser for our school but it was such a joy to see all of the children's smiling faces. Makeup portraits should be delivered in the next 1-2 weeks, if anyone has any issues or questions, please reach out.

Blood Drive – Stephanie Gentile

We had The Little Doctors program for the fifth graders-a representative from the New York Blood Center came out and spoke to the students and sent them off with donation forms for donors and we got a tremendous turn out. Six student names will be randomly selected to help at the Blood Drive which will be on December 1st.

PARP – Gracemarie Rozea

We're in the preliminary stages of planning but our theme will focus on kindness and acceptance. The program will run from 1/24 to 2/11. We hope to offer a virtual author presentation to kick off the program; we're looking to see if Jared Campbell might be available. The 19-day program will consist of daily events, challenges, and completion of a weekly reading log (20 minutes daily reading through the program). We will plan to decorate a bulletin board for PARP based on the program theme. At the end of the program, each student will receive a book which will be purchased through Scholastic dollars. Each grade level will have a selected title. Committee members have taken responsibility for different aspects of the program including submission of information for the Birch Twig, creation of online documents, flyers, and program resources.

Book Fair – Ellen Williamson (presented by Amy MacLeod)

Books Bring Us Together! Mark your calendars, our Annual Scholastic Book Fair is back with tons of great books to choose from. The fair will be held in-person from February 14-18th and our online store will be open from February 14-27. Be on the lookout for more information early in the coming New Year.

Holiday Fair – Sue McEvoy and Kira Mallia (presented by Amy MacLeod)

The Holiday Fair is in full swing. Thank you to all who volunteered to make a success!

Heather Callahan -

A reminder that to volunteer for any PTA event you must be a paid PTA member. We relaunched our website, an email blast was sent out with password protected photos. The front two tables by the front office is the Lost and Found so please check for your child's belongings.

Reports from Teachers – Miss Reedy (K-2) and Miss Downey (3-5)

Kindergarten

Very busy learning Foundation letters and sounds
Reading Thanksgiving books, singing songs, and talking about Thanksgiving traditions
Students disguised their turkeys
Created cards for Veterans for Veteran's Day
In Math, students are learning to sort and count objects to ten
Looking forward to a festive holiday season

1st Grade

Students are so excited to explore new reading and writing texts through mentor texts
Fantasy fiction texts using story elements
First writing workshop unit and will be publishing and sharing their stories
Learning how to give feedback to peers
Models and strategies to solve additions and subtraction word problems
Activating their science schema learning about light and sound
In Enrichment, we're learning about lighthouses with Miss Downey
Learning about sound energy and how we communicate with sound

2nd Grade

Excited to attend Enrichment with Miss Downey
Math - addition and subtraction with regrouping
Writing - sharing personal narratives

3rd Grade

Learning strategies in math to learn their multiplication facts
Social Studies learning about the parts of a map
Writing their final stages of completing their personal narratives
Learning to apply a variety of reading skills
Counting away in Spanish learning numbers from 1-100

4th Grade

A great time was had by all during all Halloween celebrations
Looking forward to the Journeys program next week
Learning elements of writing their personal narratives

5th Grade

So excited to sign the '22 for the back of their class T-shirts
Math - preparing for their mid-unit exam on place value
Science - Matter Unit
Too Good for Drugs program
Had an eye opening visit from the New York Blood Center
Social Studies - Maya and Aztecs
ELA wrapping up their fiction unit and starting the novel Tuck Everlasting

Reports from Administration: Mr. Aspetti and Mrs. Larkin

Thank you to all of our families who sent in photos of our veterans for our Hall of Heroes. It is so inspiring and we are so grateful that you shared those photos with us. Photos will be returned in June. In Student Government, we adopted a battalion again so thank you for all of those donations. To all of our volunteers and the different committees that have worked on all of these programs, thank you so much. We're grateful for everything. Thank you to the Holiday Fair, the room looks great! Thank you to all of the volunteers. Thank you for all of your help with the holiday parties. The parties are still enjoyable for our students but follow our protocols. We celebrated World Kindness Day as a building on Friday. The kindness on rocks has been something we've been discussing for 3 years now and we purchased 700 river rocks and our art

teacher Ms. Jaronczyk, Miss Signorile and the Kindness Club spray painted the rocks to prepare them for the students to decorate them during art classes with inspirational messages. The Blood Drive and the Little Doctors looks like it's going to be a great turn out. We have a Thanksgiving food drive going on through our Kindness Club. We'll be bringing those to Long Island Cares for the holiday. On Monday I'll send out an email for families to send in their holiday cards to decorate our hallways. Holiday parties are around the corner and we're looking forward to the holidays in the building. After Thanksgiving we have our parent teacher conferences. First trimester ends on 11/24, the portal will close that day and open again on 12/8 so you have an opportunity to review your child's report card prior to conferences. 12/10 is a full day of conferences and there is no school for students that day. Please reach out to your classroom teacher if you have a conflict with your scheduled time.

Comment:

The bikers on Beacon Drive are coming from the middle of the block and not using the crosswalk and it's dangerous. The parents need to be aware not to park in a no parking zone.

Happy Thanksgiving, have a Happy Hanukkah and a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!
Our next PTA meeting is in February.

Upcoming Events

DECEMBER

December 1 – Blood Drive

December 2 – BOE Meeting

December 10 – School Closed – Parent Teacher Conferences

December 24-31 - School Closed Winter Recess

JANUARY

January 6 – BOE Meeting

January 17 – School Closed – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

January 20 – BOE Meeting

January 24 – PARP Begins

Meeting ended at 7:30pm