



Birch Lane
PTA®

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**Birch Lane
Massapequa Park, NY 11762**

PTA General Membership Meeting
Date: Friday, September 18, 2020
Time: 9:45am
Place: Held Virtually via Google Meet

Agenda:

· *Procedures for Virtual Meeting*
No questions for administration
Email administration or save for the next meeting in October
There's limited time so we'll try to be as concise as possible
Voting will be done via the chat feature

· *Introduction of Executive Board*
President: Heather Callahan
1st Vice Preisent: Amy MacLeod
2nd Vice President: Linda Venuto
Treasurer: Marianna Somers
Recording Secretary: Tara Fay
Corresponding Secretary: Kiri Spillane

· *Vote and Approve Prior Meeting Minutes*
Approved last month's meetings from May 2020

· *Thank You*

Kindergarten Committee: Elizabeth Edelbach, Katie McCauley, Tracy Lowrey, and Gracemarie Rozea for delivering the Kindergarten signs

Bulletin Board Committee: Stacey Sandurs and Kristen Larman who go in after hours and put up new bulletin boards

Hospitality Committee: Jodi Ricardo and Katie McCauley; although we couldn't have the Welcome Back luncheon for the teachers they did receive gift bags

School Supply Kit Committee: Sue O'Brien and Kristen Wright, as well as Elizabeth Edelbach for distributing supplies

· *Correspondence* - Kiri Spillane

No correspondence

· *Class Parents*: if you haven't already sent your information to the PTA email please do so; Class Parent info will be sent out shortly after this meeting

· *Audit Committee Report* - Stephanie Iannuzzi

We examined the records of Birch Lane PTA July 2019 - June 2020 and found them to be correct and in good standing; signed by Marianna Somers, Stephanie Iannuzzi and Heather Callahan

· *Treasurer Report* - Marianna Somers

At our last meeting on May 8, 2020, we had a balance of \$30,296.40
As of today, September 18, 2020, our balance is \$27,772.24

July and August Expenses:

Scholarships: \$1750.00

Arts in Ed: \$7,091.55

Student Planners: \$1,366.49

Tax Preparation: \$600.00

July and August Income:

Membership: \$628.00

Photography: \$5,925.71

Supply Kits: \$3,312.19

Spring Spiritwear: \$658.40

· *Membership Update:*

269 Members

· *Council Report* - Amy MacLeod

The first council meeting is on September 21st so I'll have a council report at our next PTA meeting

· *Membership* - Chris Zlatniski

We are up to 276 members

So far membership is going well

· *SEPTA Report* - Anthony Prizzi (*presented by Heather Callahan*)

Everyone in the community is invited to attend our meetings. All meetings are being held virtually until further notice starting at 7pm.

-On Wednesday, September 30th, we will be kicking off the start of the school year with a Welcome from our Amazing Special Education Administrative Team including a breakout presentation from district social workers Joanne Waters & Marissa Boulukos to assist parents with the struggles of our new learning environments.

-An Advocate from Long Island Advocacy Center (LIAC) to talk about Covid-19 related issues.

-On Wednesday, November 18th:

High Five Literacy & Academic Coaching

Guest Speaker: Faith Borkowsky, Author: "Failing Students or Failing Schools?": A Parent's Guide to Reading Instruction and Intervention

· *Curriculum Report* - Leah Weissinger

No Report

· *Junior/Senior Report* - Lachlan MacLeod (*pres. by Amy MacLeod*)

First Junior Senior meeting is September 29th so Lachlan will submit a report for our next meeting

· *Legislation Report* - Marianna Somers

No legislation meetings thus far and none are scheduled that we know about

· *Supply Kits* - Sue O'Brien

Sold 347 kits this year as compared to 301 last year

Important fundraiser for the school

The company gives us a percentage of what we sell back

We did have an issue with the first-grade supply kits; notebooks

and folders were not in the supply kit box because they were given to us after the orders were placed

Looking at home delivery for next year, as of now that's an additional \$7-10 per kit

· *Arts in Education* – Danielle Fisher (*presented by Kiri Spillane*)
Danielle has been looking into virtual options for Arts in Ed and works closely with Mrs. Larkin
Kindergarten Touch Tank is available virtually
2nd grade working on
5th grade (GET FROM KIRI)

· *Picture Day* - Kathleen Mecabe
Picture Day is supposed to be October 6th and 7th but it has been postponed as of now

Budget:

Budget was emailed out last night

We've gone over our opening balance

Family events expenses:

A \$400 expense for Little Ladies Dance from last year as we were unable to get a refund for the DJ deposit but they will be honoring that in 2021

Back to school expenses

Motion made to approve the budget for 2020-2021 school year, if you're opposed please indicate in the chat room. Budget approved.

· *Spirit Wear* - Stephanie Iannuzzi

Spirit Wear will be on sale from now until October 5th. The store opened this week, all orders can be placed online and we invite everybody to check it out!

· *Save Around Kid Stuff Books* - Tara Fay (*presented by Heather Callahan*)

The sale begins September 28th and will run for 3 weeks. This year the sale is going to be done all online. You'll be able to flip through the virtual book for our area and order books right from the website. Books will ship directly to you and Shipping is Free! There will be a link which will direct you to the Kid Stuff website and our school landing page. This is a really great fundraiser to start out the school year, as always we appreciate your participation!

· *Health and Wellness Committee* - Lauren Carollo

Starting a rainbow for Walk/Bike to School Day on October 7th

K – red

1st – orange

2nd – yellow

3rd – green

4th – blue

5th – purple or violet

During the walk/bike to school we'll have a scavenger hunt (optional)

All of the information will be sent out via email blast and a blurb in the Twig

Holiday Fair - Sue McEvoy

Back in July, we picked out the items we needed for the fair

We have 3 choices for the holiday fair

Get from sue!!!

The fair is scheduled for the first week in December

By then we'll reassess the situation and see what our best option is

Boosterthon has been postponed until the 2021-2022 school year

New Business - Heather Callahan

Beautification Committee

We've discussed with Mr. Aspetti making the blacktop for recess more kid friendly; I'd like to make the motion for a Beautification Committee for that.

Motion approved. The Beautification Committee will take place, I'll send out an email looking for volunteers so we can do that as soon as possible

Just a reminder that the 5th grade committee it is not a PTA event so please direct questions to the chair people who were selected this week

Reports from teachers - Mrs. Germaine and Miss Downey

- Reports from Administration - Mr. Aspetti and Mrs. Larkin
 - Mr. Aspetti
 - Want to thank Mrs. MacLeod and the committee that puts together the
 - Want to thank for bulletin boards (Mrs. Lowery)
Our birthday bulletin board with Crayola images there were wooden columns that we sanded down and repainted to look like Crayola crayons. Mrs. Aspetti came in and finished the columns and that was the theme for the bulletin board and it matches perfectly!
 - Thank you to our custodial staff for all of their hard work during the summer and getting the building prepared. We truly appreciate their efforts!
 - Thank you to our faculty and staff for coming in every day to make sure our children understand the new protocols in place and encouraging the kids to stay healthy and keep each other safe and healthy. They're doing a great job managing their classes and keeping our place looking like an elementary school while keeping everyone safe and healthy
 - Thank you to our parents and family members: we realize we had to make a lot of changes around here with arrival/dismissal, sending in safe lunches/snacks every day, wearing masks when they're on the school grounds. All of those things are in our community effort to keep everyone healthy and safe and consistent. Thank you for adhering to all these procedures!

- Thanks to our superstars, the kids! They are so resilient and you can see them smiling behind their masks, they're being as responsible as they can taking on added responsibilities this year and we are super proud of all of them. We are so excited to have them all back!!
 - Thank you to all of you and we'll continue to do the things we do on a daily basis to continue to be here in school.
- Building news:
- Back to School Night presentations are coming up this Monday. Videos will be posted on PowerSchool Learning pages by 4pm on Monday. An email reminder will be sent out. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to your child's teacher.
 - We are in the process of doing our benchmark testing.
 - Benchmarking through Fountas and Pinnel Reading: independent and instructional reading assessments
 - Math assessments through I-Ready: gives us more information as far as students' current levels in mathematics. Working on individualized skills on an individualized basis and then finishing up with the reading I-Ready assessment
 - Working on distance-learning schedules in preparation for any given moment where we may have to close school for a day or for a period of time to be prepared to be on virtual learning
 - There was a positive case of Coronavirus at Birch Lane. Mrs. Iconis has been in touch with the Department of Health as far as contact tracing, etc. It was determined that there was no reason for us to close our school as the protocols that we have in place are solid. We do have to be prepared in case we get a call at night that we change to distance learning. Distance Learning schedules will be posted on PowerSchool Learning once they're completed. If we're on a distance learning schedule, we'll be following our typical day schedule working on whole group instruction and small group instruction. In order to group appropriately, we need to complete our benchmarking and grouping of students. We are in the process of it and we will be ready should we get a call that we have to close and our instruction will continue.
 - If you have any questions please reach out and we'll get back to you

Teacher Reports

Mrs. Germaine (Kindergarten through Third Grade)

Kindergarten:

The Kindergarteners are off to a great start! The children are making friends, learning routines and having fun

Dressing up in Colors of the Day

Fundations has begun

Really enjoying using the new Chromebooks, learning how to log on,
using many activities on the SeeSaw platform

Readers/writers workshop has been launched

First Grade:

The First Graders are already learning and growing so much!

They're learning about being kind and caring classroom members

Creating new friendships

In Math, they're learning adding new strategies such as "counting on"

Second Grade:

The Second Graders have adjusted nicely to their new classrooms!

Launched school wide reading and writing

They're putting their beach towels and yoga mats to good use with
outdoor learning

They're enjoying using their Chromebooks and using platforms such as
Razz Kids and I-Ready Math)

Miss Downey

Third Grade:

The Third Graders are off to a great start learning how to navigate their
class PowerSchool pages

In Math they're learning about place value

In Social Studies they're learning about geography

Writing: decorating writer's notebooks

Reading about fiction stories

The students are off to a great start wearing their masks

Fourth Grade:

Fourth Graders are off to an awesome start!

Our students have adjusted quite well

Learning about place value in math

Learning about themselves as readers/writers

Learning about world geography

They thank you for all of your support during this uncertain time

Fifth Grade:

The children are adapting extremely well!

Language arts: Fiction unit

Math: learning about volume and each student has his/her own bag of
manipulatives

In Social Studies they're learning about the Five themes of Geography

Upcoming Events

SEPTEMBER

September 28 School Closed - Yom Kippur

OCTOBER

October 5 Spirit Wear ends

October 7 Walk or Bike to School Day

October 8 BOE Meeting 8:00 Board Room

October 12 School Closed - Columbus Day

October 16 PTA General Meeting/Breakfast with the Principal 9:45 (location TBD)

October 22 BOE Public Session 8:00 Board Room

October 25 Safe Halloween at MHS 1:00-4:00

October 30 Halloween Class Parties (see class parents for details)

NOVEMBER

November 3 School Closed - Election Day

November 11 School Closed - Veterans' Day

November 12 BOE Public Session 8:00 Board Room

November 17 PTA General Meeting 6:45 (location TBD)

November 25-27 School Closed - Thanksgiving Recess

Questions Asked

Q: Is it possible to have pictures done outside?

A: As of now, no outside visitors are allowed to be on school property. We'll have to see how that progresses.

Q: Are distance learners included in the Holiday Fair?

A: We're making sure distance learners are included in everything. One thing that's been stressed through PTA Council is that no remote learner will be left out of PTA events

Heather:

Thank you to everyone for logging on today. Fingers crossed it won't be like this all year!

Thank you to Mr. Aspetti, Mrs. Larkin, Miss Downey, and Mrs. Germaine

Our next meeting is October 16th at 9:45. There will be an email that will go out where you can submit your questions.

Meeting adjourned at 10:44