

**Memorial PTO Meeting**  
September 15, 2021



**Attendees:** Dr. Bilsborough, Michelle Kirkby, Danielle Tata, Jenny Shaw, Katherine Weisse, Kelly Behbehani, Megan Fuller, Jenna Schwartz, Julie Monahan

**1. Principal's Report**

Dr. Bilsborough: We are off to a great start to the year so far! Bus and parent drop off have been going well. Pick up is more problematic because of the 2:45 preschool dismissal. We are waiting on a seating chart from the bus company. Families can request for siblings to sit together

The teachers are spending a lot of time building community within our classrooms and within our community. For some students, this is the first time they are in our building.

Choose to Be Nice Program is starting soon. 9 Nice Mice-we are doing one per month. Stories and classrooms are focused on each trait.

This will be our final year for open circle. Other social and emotional curriculums are coming to the forefront. Wellesley College is stepping back and letting other curriculums come forward.

Inner Explorer Program: A small pilot started last year. 5-minute video that focuses on mindfulness and breathing and calming strategies. This will start soon.

Social emotional piece is the biggest focus right now!

Academic things:

Dyslexia Screening: we are now mandated to do dyslexia screening. We are using a tool called the Dibbles. It happens 3 times throughout the year. It will help us support the kids throughout the year.

Math Pilot (K-5 initiative)-Envisions program was what we used in the past, but t's heavily language based. Our new math pilots this year are Reveal and Illustrative Math.

DEI-committee starting up. We are examining the materials we are using and being cognizant of bias (curriculum, books, videos-make sure it's accepting of all races/sexes/genders).

The kids are eating in 2 locations. Kids are doing great with masks; we're going outside with masks as much as we can. Kids are sitting in every other seat in the café and the gym. Grades will rotate every 2 weeks.

Pool testing- Starting today-state is working with an outside company. They send their staff in to test. 3 classrooms are being done simultaneously during a 15-20 minute block. Results come back the next day. And close contacts will be notified. They will come once per week. 266 are enrolled right now.

We are hoping to have parent volunteers in the building at the library.

DEI books: We would love for all teachers to have all 37 books by the end of the year. It might be helpful for certain titles to be rolled out together.

## **2. Important Dates**

### **a. Upcoming Meetings**

- i. Thursday, October 21, 7 PM, Special Guest: Mike Quinlan: We need to figure out how many people might come to see if we need to use the gym. We will get questions ahead of time
- ii. Wednesday, January 12, 9 AM
- iii. Wednesday, March 2, 7 PM
- iv. Wednesday, May 4, 9 AM

b. Hospitality: Teacher Breakfast - Monday, Sept 20 -Catered from Panera Bread.

c. Picture Day - Tuesday, Sept 21

d. Virtual PIN - Wednesday, Sept 22

e. Room Parent Meeting - Monday, Sept 27, 9:30 in the teacher's lounge.

## **3. Recent Events/Initiatives:**

a. School Supply Kits -Went well! Megan said they kept ear buds separate even though they were a required item. It caused a small issue because some kids didn't know they were supposed to buy them separately. Ship directly to the school is better than ship to home. Does anyone want to do school supplies with

Megan and then take over next year? We can pull a volunteer from K-5. Should we add Multicultural crayons? Missy will talk to the teachers.

c. Bus orientation -We think it went well. It was quick. It split into 2. The virtual portion was good.

d. Preschool Music-We all approved to fund Mr. Ken for the preschool.

#### **4. Upcoming Events/Initiatives**

a. School Year Goals

i. DEI, SEL and Playground

Playground-How can we get momentum going? A PG committee was formed pre-Covid. We are trying to get it up and running again.

b. Volunteers and Volunteer Form – 1 form put out by the K-5 PTO. You don't need to fill out one per kid. Dale and Wheelock already sent out form. We will have Nicole resend.

#### **Memorial Volunteer Needs:**

i. Read Across America Chair -decorating, partnering with the librarian for a visiting author (sometimes the visit is within the read across America week, sometimes not). Mystery guests (local celebs).

ii. Kindergarten T-shirt Chair-

iii. Literacy Coordinator-In November at Dale. Not sure if it's happening this year because of Covid.

c. Teacher Start up fund -Start up funds when out last week. We provide \$100 to each teacher to get their classroom started up. \$3544 was sent out. No one needs recess boxes. Missy will see if anything needs to be replenished.

d. Boo Fundraiser with Dale and Wheelock-We will put them together Friday, publicize, and send out in October. We ordered 720 across the schools and are charging \$15.

f. Holiday Cookie Kits -Kelly will reach out to Jamie again.

g. DEI Book Update-We want to get 37 books to each classroom. We can do 3 different pushes now, holidays, end of year. Also have a few extra books to keep in the library. We will partner with Jim James. 18 K and 1 classrooms and 2 preschools. Mrs. Ferrahar will help prioritize the list.

Maybe Missy will put in a grant for multicultural crayons/markers? She will take inventory about what we have already.

h. Halloween party/parade

i. Party-in-a-bag for each party. Volunteers for crafts and games.

Hopefully we can do the parade because it's outside.

ii. Pumpkin walk -can this come back this year? Staff decorated pumpkins and created a pumpkin walk.

**5. Treasurer's Report and Budget Review**

-Teacher luncheons-We are not sure yet if we will eventually be able to go back to parents bringing in food.

-No group assemblies, or outside people coming in just yet

-Historically we pay for the buses for the field trips. Dr. Bilsborough is not sure yet if field trips will happen. We will reevaluate based on metrics, etc.