**East Quogue Community PTA**

**6 Central Avenue**

**East Quogue, NY 11942**

**March 11, 2025**

**General Meeting**

In attendance:

PTA Board: Bria Spanbock, Jessica Schwinn, Katie Back, Briana Gladding, Cait Horstman, Tahlia Kouffman, Ann Rybak

PTA Members: Cindy Cagno, Jessie Carlson, Jenny Fiore, Christine Grant, Namrata Kadiwar, Jen Caruso Jones, Corinne Neubauer

Administration / Faculty: Michael Miller, Danielle Davin

Call to Order:

Bria Spanbock Time: 9:16am

*Meeting was held in person and on Zoom*

Acceptance of Minutes:

1st Tahlia Kouffman

2nd Corinne Neubauer

Principal’s Report and BOE Report: Michael Miller

* Circus going on in the gym. Lots of prep!
* 7th grade orientation a success
* Wicked Wiz of Oz – Congrats to all! Pizza party today
* Update on Remi, our therapy dog. She will be boarded at The Hydrant for 4 weeks to get therapy training. Testing still to come
* BOD meeting on 3/31 – second budget presentation
* 3/31-4/31 – Last week of Academic Academy
* Discussion about the evacuation at WHB MS and HS the previous Friday. The safety subcommittee of the BOD will review EQ evac policies and instructions depending on various factors (weather, other local schools evacuating etc).
* Update from Tahlia on Whitsons and the subcommittee – work underway.
* Mrs. Rempe is piloting a composting program via a food waste audit
* A number of parents re-raised the issue of no hot lunch for the older grades (running out)

Teachers Report: Danielle Davin

Kindergarten

**Our Kindergarteners are excited to be learning about ecosystems in ELA, particularly the Savanna. We have been exploring its features, plants, animals, and food webs**. In celebration of Dr. On Seuss' birthday, we have also enjoyed reading his books, which have helped us practice our rhyming skills. In math, we are focusing on teen numbers and practicing counting and adding by grouping them into tens. Throughout March, we will be discussing weather changes, comparing conditions to a lion or a lamb. Additionally, we had a wonderful workshop with the Southampton Animal Shelter, where we learned to make toys for shelter animals alongside a furry rabbit friend. Many families generously donated supplies for the shelter animals as well! We are so excited for the circus this week! Thank you to the PTA!

1st grade is so excited to try to catch the Leprechaun. We are busy making traps. In ELA we are reading lots of stories and learning about characters and setting. In math we are adding and subtracting tens. We are looking forward to our field trip to the PAC to see Moon Mouse.

2nd grade In ELA, we are diving into our Animal Stories unit and focusing on characters and settings. In social studies, we are learning about government and its three branches. In math, we continue to use subtraction strategies and subtract within 1,000. **Our class enjoyed our first field trip to Westhampton Beach Performing Arts to see Frog and Toad.**

Third graders have been strengthening their fraction skills, and will now begin a unit on measurement where they will work on telling time, determining elapsed time, measuring liquid volume, and measuring mass.  In reading and writing we have begun a study of traditional tales from around the world.  While reading variations of Cinderella stories, we are comparing and contrasting story elements within these stories and developing strong opinion writing about these stories as well. **In science we are learning about animal adaptations.  Each class recently completed a lab where they were able to explore bird beak adaptations.  Students chose different tools such as different sized tweezers, tongs, and spoons, to “eat” different foods from trays of soil.  Third graders were able to see hands-on how different beaks help bird access and eat the foods they need to survive.**

4th grade: The fourth graders are busy with our geometry unit. We are identifying lines and angles. We will be using a protractor to measure angles. In ELA we continue looking for text evidence to support our answers. We are focusing on editing our writing and critiquing our work. In social studies we are continuing our unit of colonial New York. The students are enjoying our electricity unit. They are busy constructing parallel and series circuits as well as learning how a light bulb works. We are very excited for the circus next week!

**5th grade:** This month, the fifth graders are wrapping up their math unit on multiplying fractions and mixed numbers. We are moving on to dividing fractions this week! In social studies, we will cover the first president of the United States, the Louisiana Purchase, the War of 1812, and the Trail of Tears. In ELA, we are finishing and publishing our adventure stories. Check out our stories by scanning the QR codes in the fifth-grade hallway! We are also reading a new class novel, *Schooled*, by Gordon Korman. We are so excited about the National Circus project coming to EQ. Thank you to the PTA for providing this special opportunity for our students!

6th grade - **The sixth grade went to Westhampton Beach for 7th grade orientation.  They returned to East Quogue excited to be 7th graders.** In Math, we are finishing up a unit on Algebra and will be starting a unit using Integers where we will represent quantities in real-world contexts using positive and negative numbers. In Science, we just finished our unit on Electricity and Magnetism. The students will now begin learning about elements and the periodic table, Mrs. Alessi’s favorite.  There are a lot of fun projects during this unit that the students enjoy. We also had Anita from the Group for the East End in for an in-house lesson on the moon and the tides.  Our lesson ended with a fun “moon munch” activity. In ELA the students just finished writing a 5 paragraph, informative essay on change. The students had to reflect on changes within themselves, changes in a character in the book “Walk Two Moons” and changes in our society.

**Music**

Our students in grades K-3 are working on St. Patrick’s Day songs and games.  Students in grade 4 are working on composing music for an old Mickey Mouse Cartoon.  The choruses are in full swing and are gearing up for our Spring Concerts.  World Music has been working on songs for the performance in June.  Our SCMEA vocal students just finished two weekends of intensive rehearsals and performed a fantastic performance this past Sunday!  The Drama Club finished up their performance and did a fabulous performance!

**Spanish**

March 2025 In Spanish class, the students are currently :

* 6th grade:  Analyzing class school schedules from a variety of Spanish speaking countries
* 5th grade: Dissecting family trees given verbal descriptions of relationships.
* 4th grade: Retelling telephone numbers in culturally authentic manner (grouping instead of single digits).
* 3rd grade: Investigating the weather through Latin America.
* 2nd grade: Labeling and matching various POPULAR food vocabulary.
* 1st grade Naming farm animals.
* Kindergarten: Counting 1-10.

**Art**

* Kindergarten: working on self portraits and how to draw the parts of the face
* First: Learning about implied texture and how to use lines to make spring animals appear soft and fuzzy
* Second: Learning about hot and cold colors and using them to symbolize a mood, drawing and painting traditional Mexican suns and moons
* Third: Learning about the Baroque period of art, recreating Johannes Vermeer’s famous painting, *Girl With a Pearl Earring*
* Fourth and Fifth: Working on designing agenda book covers for next year's agenda books. The theme this year is anything to do with STEAM or science. The winning designs will be revealed the week before spring break in April.
* Sixth: Learning about figure drawing and illustration. Choosing a figure from Greek Mythology to create an illustrative drawing of, connecting with their recent reading of *Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief* in ELA.

**Garden**

This month in garden we have started to plant our seeds in the greenhouse for our Summer garden. All classes have started tomatoes, eggplant, onions and peppers.  Kindergarten will soon start seeds for their mothers day gifts. 1st grade has wrapped up their unit learning all about seeds. 2nd has learned about bugs and have spent a class period observing our worms in the worm composter. 3rd grade finished learning about soil and has had their soil station day sifting, forming and mixing soil for our seed starting efforts. In 4th grade the worms for our worm composting bin have finally arrived and we had a lab day working on experiments just like the ones we learned Charles Darwin did in his studies of worms. Did you know worms don’t have eyes or ears? Don’t worry no worms were harmed in the experiments! 5th grade has completed their study of composting in their group project of compost jars and have recorded their results.  6th grade brought home last months successful plant propagations and also conducted Darwin’s worm experiments during their science period in the greenhouse this month.

**STEAM**

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| Kindergarten is learning about 2D and 3D shapes. They are preparing to make and test Bubble wands using TinkerCAD and our 3D printers. |
| First grade is reviewing 2D and 3D shapes. They are preparing to make and test Bubble wands using TinkerCAD and our 3D printers. |
| Second Graders are learning about how 3D modeling and printing works. They will be making backpack tags using TinkerCAD and our 3D printers. |
| Third Graders are researching a dinosaur of their choice. They will be learning about their dinosaur and creating a model of its skeleton. |
| Fourth Grade is beginning their mini-golf unit. They will learn about simple machines and then work in groups to create mini-golf holes out of cardboard. |
| Fifth Grade just wrapped up their Engineering Challenge Competition. They will be continuing with 3D modeling and printing. |
| Sixth Grade is beginning their 3D modeling and printing unit. They will create 3 unique projects and choose 1 item to send to the printer. |

**Library**

This month also marks the kickoff of Pick A Reading Partner (PARP) Month and our Beanstack reading challenge, where students track their reading, earn badges, and participate in a school-wide challenge. Every grade has been introduced to the program, and we encourage families to join in by reading together at home and to reach out with any questions!

* Kindergarten – Students have been enjoying fun, interactive read-alouds.
* 1st Grade – We’re supporting classroom ELA lessons by focusing on characters and settings in stories.
* 2nd Grade – Our exploration of animal stories continues as we investigate how animals are portrayed in different genres of literature.
* 3rd Grade – After completing our illustrator study, we’ve moved into an author study, focusing on writers who have adapted traditional tales or drawn inspiration from folktales. One example is *The Gruffalo* by Julia Donaldson, which is based on a Chinese folktale.
* 4th Grade – We’re celebrating Women’s History Month by exploring biographies of inspiring women, including *Shark Lady* by Jess Keating and *The Oldest Student* by Rita L. Hubbard.
* 5th Grade – We’re introducing different reading tools and resources while also discussing media balance as part of our digital citizenship lessons.
* 6th Grade – Sixth graders have been hard at work creating book trailers using iMovie and Canva! We’ll wrap up this exciting project with a book trailer showcase during our upcoming book fair.

**PE**

In PE this month the students participated in a fun game called cageball.  A giant ball is inflated, the students are arranged in a big square. Each student is assigned a corresponding number with others from the other 3 teams.  When their number is called students crab walk to the middle of the square and try to kick the ball over one of the other teams lines. The kids loved it!  This week the circus is back in town and the kids are pumped! Each grade will participate in 2 circus sessions run by the National Circus Project team.  The 5th and 6th grade will perform in the circus show at the conclusion of circus week.

Treasurer’s Report: Katie Back

* No material update
* Katie added that the teacher’s lounge will be restocked and that they are gearing up for teacher appreciation week in April!

President’s Report: Bria Spanbock

*Old Business:*

* Hoops for Heart
* Ms. Quigg performance
* Drama Club Performance – March 5th @ 7pm
* Open Gym Night – March 7th

*Upcoming Calendar Events:*

* PARP (month of March)
* National Circus Week of March 10th
* Cap and Gown Pictures – March 18th
* Spring Solstice Dance – March 19th
* Spring Book Fair – Begins week of March 31st
* All board position for the PTA are open. Election to be held in May. Please reach out if you are interested!

Motion to Close:

Cindy Cagno

Ann Rybak