**East Quogue Community PTA**

**6 Central Avenue**

**East Quogue, NY 11942**

**November 15, 2023**

**General Meeting**

In attendance:

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

PTA Members: Brandon Albert, Cindy Cagno, Lindsay Dean, Colleen Dueul, Diana Feinberg, Christine Grant, Jaime Krops-Lara, Meaghan Moran, Gabriella Visentin

Administration and Staff: Michael Miller, Erin Brady, Danielle Davin

Call to Order:

Bria Spanbock Time: 7:04pm

*Meeting was held in person and on Zoom*

Acceptance of Minutes:

1st Jessica Schwinn

2nd Cait Horstman

Principal’s Report: Michael Miller

* EQ is filing to receive free breakfast and free lunch from NY State. Our socioeconomic need status is 33% and the threshold was just lowered from 40% allowing us to take advantage of this great need for our community
  + There were a number of follow-up questions around: (1) food waste (cold breakfast to be made available and we will be tracking numbers and (2) my School Bucks (you can leave $ in or ask to redeem; note that any snacks will require $; also note that any credit card is subject to a 4% add up charge)
* Emergency evacuation drill was completed in less than 10 min walk; EQ FD closed the road
* BOCES Bars Tests will help inform student performance on standards and where grade level teachers can help augment (3rd to 6th grade)
* Conference Day in November; teachers began ATLAS mapping for all curriculum and will share with the community in Spring
* SEL mental health testing – Parents will receive screening results
* Fall Newsletter is out for mailing and received
* Book Fair underway – TY to the PTA
* Nov 22-24 is Thanksgiving Break
* Holiday on Main is 12/2
* 12/5 Report cards will be available
* 12/6 is Parent Teacher Conference Day
* 12/13 is the Winter Concert at 7pm
* 12/25 – 29 is the Holiday Recess
* School improvements:
  + Renovation in Library begins in December through Jan
  + New curtain to be installed in cafetorium in advance of winter concert
  + New camera system

Teachers Report: Danielle Davin

**Kindergarten-** In Kindergarten, we are working on reading and retelling familiar storybooks. In writing we are finishing up our small moment pieces. We will be starting our show and tell unit in the coming weeks. In math, we are learning to compare numbers 0-10 by using words like equal to, greater than and less than. We are also learning about traditions, Veterans Day and focusing on everything we are thankful for. We are looking forward to all of our fun Thanksgiving celebrations!

**1st grade - In Writing**, the students are working on small moment stories.  The children are writing personal narrative stories that are "zoomed in" on a specific experience and told across pages. The children are working on writing with focus, details and dialog in this unit.

**In Math-** the children are working on their math addition and subtraction strategies within 10.  The students have been adding/subtracting zero from a number, adding/subtracting 1 from a number and adding doubles facts. **In Reading-** The students are working on building good habits as readers.The children have been working on reading independently,increasing their reading stamina and working with partners. In addition, the children are learning habits to help them solve tricky words. The first graders had a wonderful time on their field trip to the Children’s Museum in Bridgehampton.  The museum’s interactive exhibits allowed the students to explore and learn at the same time.  The first grade would like to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving!

**2nd grade-** In Fundations, we are finishing unit 5, where students focus on syllable division and multisyllabic spelling. In Math, we are finishing Chapter 5, where students were introduced to various subtraction strategies. We will then begin chapter 6, where students will apply the strategies taught in chapter 5 and learn to fluently subtract through 100. In Writing, we are working on Persuasive Reviews. Students enjoy being critics and are reviewing many different things such as; books, food, restaurants, toys, etc. They are also working on holiday themed writing and what they are thankful for. During our reading block, we are continuing to study characters and making connections during our guided and independent reading time. During science we are continuing to learn about matter. We would like to wish everyone a very Happy Thanksgiving!

**3rd grade:** Third graders are strengthening their multiplication skills and developing their division skills in math.  In writing, we just completed our narrative “true stories” and have begun our next writing unit: fairy tales.  We are currently immersing ourselves in classic stories and adaptations, comparing and contrasting the literature, as we prepare to create our own adaptations.  In reading, we just completed our unit studying characters and have started learning about fables, folktales, and myths.  This unit includes work with recounting stories as well as determining moral/lesson/theme.  In social studies, we just completed our geography unit, exploring similarities and differences using countries around the world.  We look forward to beginning our science unit on weather next.

**4th grade-** Fourth grade students have just finished practicing different strategies for double-digit multiplication and are now hard at work learning long division.  In science, students are building electrical circuits to light bulbs as we learn about electricity and energy.  In social studies, students have begun a Native American unit.  We are learning about how the Algonquians and the Iroquois had to adapt and use natural resources available to them throughout NYS.  In writing, students are busy using elaboration strategies in our personal narratives.  In reading, we are immersed in realistic fiction and looking closely at interpreting characters.

**5th grade -** Fifth graders are working hard on multiplication with decimals and real world problem solving with money. In social studies we completed our study of the 13 colonies and are beginning to follow the colonists’ path toward war with Great Britain in the American Revolution. In reading, the fifth graders completed Schooled by Gordon Korman and are excited to begin Pictures of Hollis Woods by Patricia Reilly Giff. During writing, the fifth graders are publishing poems that show their ability to think positively as they give thanks for even the smallest moments in their lives. The fifth grade wishes everyone a very Happy Thanksgiving!

**6th grade** - In science, we are wrapping up our second chapter on solids, liquids and gases. We completed a fun lab on the viscosity of liquids to see how temperature can impact viscosity.  The students are also really enjoying all of our virtual labs online.  We recently went to Ponquogue Bay with the Group for the East End and explored the estuary habitat.  In ELA, we have been doing a deep dive into all types of narratives.  We continue to learn about what makes a great narrative through all the different types of literature that we are reading.  We completed our first novel, *Insignificant Events in the Life of a Cactus*, and the kids loved it.  We wrote our very own personal narratives and right now we are in the middle of our first round of book clubs.  The conversations the children are having are quite impressive.

**Music**

**6th Grade:** Students are learning how to analyze music listening selections and discern the basic music elements that create various expressive qualities in what we hear.

**Band**:

Advanced Band students are preparing for their annual Winter Concert performance scheduled for Wednesday, December 13th at 7pm. In addition to their winter concert performance held at our school cafetorium, the Advanced Band students are also preparing to perform at the annual Tree Lighting celebration during the “Holiday on Main” festivities on December 1st. The Band will be joined by our Senior Chorus in the Village Green as they sing Holiday Carols.

Our Beginning students are learning how to properly practice on their instruments, as they continue to learn proper sound techniques and pitch and rhythm reading as they prepare to learn to play their first song.

**Art**

**This week- K-6** Are working on their decorations for Holiday on Main St. Each class will have a paper tree branch hanging in a store window on Main St with a paper ornament hanging on it made by each student in the class.

This month

K/1: learning scissor skills and how to cut geometric shapes to make collages

2: learning about architects and designing their own castles using shapes

3: learning about geometric and organic shapes through creating mixed media lava lamps

4: finishing projects designing their own ancient vessel using patterns made up of lines and shapes

5: working with paper to execute a Japanese paper cutting technique called “Notan” meaning light and dark harmony. Thinking about shape, contrast, and positive and negative space

6: finishing homemade accordion books containing examples of and information about 5 different observational drawing techniques.

**Spanish**

**6th grade**: Recognizing and retelling several forms of greetings and farewells. Also presenting an unknown person, asking and answering how someone is doing, and utilizing expressions of courtesy such as “es un placer” (it's a pleasure to meet you).

**5th grade**: Identifying the rooms of the house in Spanish. Analyzing and answering questions based on a visual interior picture of a house.

**4th grade**: Listing, matching, recognizing numbers 0-20.

Asking and answering, ¿Cuál es tu número favorito? (What is your favorite number?)

**Garden/Greenhouse**

The students have all been learning about seed saving for next year.  We've been decorating and filling seed packets in hopes of sharing this Spring.  Classes have also been learning about the first frost in the garden and how it changes the plants.  Fifth grade planted garlic for harvest this summer and the rest of the students have been helping clear and mulch the beds for the winter.  Thank you again to the PTA for their generosity at the Harvest Moon Celebration!

**STEAM**

K/1: Are working on Thanksgiving Engineering challenges.

2: creating custom Thanksgiving parade floats including a wheel and axle. Stay tuned to see a video of our floats!

3: wrapping up our Graphic Design and Computer Science unit by making a Digital Citizenship poster with Google Slides

4: creating and designing Simple Machines mini-golf holes, which we hope will be played by 3rd and 4th grade in December.

5: wrapping up our 3d printing unit

6: working on creating a wearable prosthetic leg based on bones in the leg.

**PE**

The month of November has been a lot of fun.  The PE team is mixing it up with some good old reliable activities as well as some fresh new ones.  Games such as The Cone Hop, Steal the Treasure, Ice Cream Cone Knock Off, etc.  This month we will also be introducing volleyball skills as well as scooter activities and fun Thanksgiving themed games.  Have a Happy Thanksgiving!

BOE Report: Michael Miller

* Two major points of discussion from the BOE meeting:
  + SEL Mental Health screening: a request to have that made available to parents which the school will do
  + ELA committee has had two meetings so far and plans to provide another update in December

Treasurer’s Report: Katie Back

* Taxes were filed and accepted
* Katie gave an update on $ on hand less committed expenses, which included the agreed programming as submitted by teachers. Approx $42k clear
* Requisition Requests:
  + BMX Fall Frenzy event - Ms. Brady - $2k - Sept 2024. Approved.
  + Skydome Planetarium - Mrs. Hogan - $1800 approx. Approved.
  + STEAM Mobile Lab - Mrs. Hogan - $1800 Approx, Approved.
  + Starlab - Mrs. Bellucci (1st grade only) - $800 - March 2024
    - Will be paid for by science behest grant
  + Cultural Program - Gigi (ENL) - May 2025 - No cost provided
    - Needs to be reviewed and fleshed out
  + 5th and 6th grade trip to Engeman Theatre - Beauty and the Beast ($50 / kid) - Nov 29th. Approved.
  + Holiday Cafetorium Decorations – Mrs Clemensen - $500, Approved.
* Ann Rybak shared that we also submitted PTA membership and paid dues to NYS PTA

President’s Report: Bria Spanbock

* Spirit Wear review (Ann and Diana). Completed and successful. We may do another round of sweatshirts based on demand. Thank you!
* United Day 10/18. The school wore orange for kindness and acceptance. The kids signed an anti-bullying pledge – it was a success!
* Picture Day Retake – 20 kids or so retook photos. Seamless and successful
* Muralist was in for 2 days. Each student participated in the mural painting
* Trunk or Treat was a hit! Thanks to our chars: Christine Grant and Lindsay Gerardi!
  1. Christine Grant shared that Aspatuck Gardens would lend winter plants to the cafetorium for holiday events this December
* Candy – we collected 235 pounds of candy and will receive $235 from the orthodontist!

*Upcoming Calendar Events:*

* Book Fair ends on Friday. Every kid and teacher get a free book (worth $10). Also, teachers have a “wishlist” for their classrooms. If you are interested in donating, please stop by the Book Fair!
* Holiday on Main is 12/2 which will include caroling and tree lighting at 5pm. 6th grade is doing a hot chocolate stand
* Holiday Boutique is Dec 7 and 8th. Setup on Dec 6th.
* Holiday Giveback event (Feinberg and Visentin) will be Dec 11th and is still under construction. Opportunities to donate hats, gloves (adults) and coats (children) along with hot cocoa and crafts for the kids.

Other:

* Katie Back shared a flyer from LI Cares to purchase thanksgiving meal ingredients to local families.
* Ann Rybak shared a desire to explore safe screen time and perhaps a pledge to not have cell phones in elementary school; Mr Miller shared that NYS Wait Till 8th Pledge exists and could be reviewed

Next PTA Meeting: December 12th at 9:15am

Next BOE Meeting: December 12th at 7pm

Motion to Close:

Tahlia Kouffman

Cait Horstman