**East Quogue Community PTA**

**6 Central Avenue**

**East Quogue, NY 11942**

**February 15, 2024**

**General Meeting**

In attendance:

PTA Board: Bria Spanbock, Jessica Schwinn, Ann Rybak

PTA Members: Cindy Cagno, Katie Doscinski, Namrata Kadiwar

Administration and Staff: Michael Miller, Danielle Davin

Call to Order:

Bria Spanbock Time: 9:17am

*Meeting was held via Zoom*

Acceptance of Minutes:

1st Ann Rybak

2nd Jessica Schwinn

Principal’s Report and BOE Meeting Update: Michael Miller

* TY to the PTA for the Valentine’s Day Dance
* BOE Meeting was postponed due to Tuesday’s snowday and will be rescheduled after the winter break. Jessica Curran was slated to attend and show her Regeneron project for which she was shortlisted. Note that for her year, the 6th grade valedictorian and salutatorian are going to Duke and Princeton respectively.
* New lighting added to parking lot
* UPK registration is open
* Before and After School Academy is off to a great start. For 3-6th grade, there are 41 students in attendance and for K-2, there are 43 students registered (starting after the break). This will continue for next year (not contingent on the grant that is supporting it this year)
* Dr. Porter and Ms. Brady opened up before and after school hours for students with about 20 or so opting in
* Mental Health Award from NY State – this was announced via News 12 earlier this month. Note that this is contingent on the Executive Budget passing (April / May timeline). EQ applied for Recovery Funds from COVID both academically and mental health. We received the mental health award tentatively for $663,180. This would be focused on areas such as: social and emotional learning, BCBA, teachers professional development, summer school, therapy dog, translation services via chromebooks and other.
* ELA update: survey sent to parents with about 20 responses so far. The committee has met with all 7 programs.
* Preliminary budget to be shared at next BOE meeting. PTA board asked for the following: field trip allocations by grade, awning and A/C for 3rd and 4th grade wing.

Teachers Report: Danielle Davin

**Kindergarten**- In February, Kindergarten will be starting the month off by learning about groundhogs, shadows and we will be making predictions about the weather. For P.S. I Love You day we will be wearing purple and writing about what we love about ourselves and how we can be kind to others. On February 12th, we will be celebrating the 100th day of school! We will dress up like we are 100 years old and complete a variety of 100th day counting, reading and writing activities! We will also celebrate Valentine’s Day by delivering our Valentines to our friends to show how much we care about each other. We will also be learning about Black History Month, Dental Health, Super Bowl, and Presidents through a variety of reading, writing, math, science, and art activities. A special thank you to the PTA for hosting a family fun Valentine’s Day Dance!

**1st grade**-In February, our first graders are learning about Abraham Lincoln, George Washington and celebrating Black History Month by learning about African Americans who have made a positive contribution to our society.  We will celebrate the 100th day of school and Valentine’s Day with fun activities.  In math, we are continuing our knowledge of place value.  In reading, we’re diving deeper into non-fiction texts and in writing the children are continuing their work on procedural books.  In science, our scientists are learning about space and our solar system.

**2nd grade**- In recognition of Black History Month, students will research a famous African American and write a report. Students will also learn about George Washington and Abraham Lincoln in honor of President's Day. Students are continuing to read and write about nonfiction topics. Our Mathematicians are learning how to add numbers within 1,000.

In Fundations, students are learning about R Controlled Combinations.

In Social Studies, we are learning about Government.

**3rd grade** - This month third graders are entering the world of fractions. We are learning to identify unit fractions and pieces of a whole. In reading we are exploring non-fiction text structures. Students are learning to identify structures such as compare and contrast, sequencing, and cause and effect. We are wrapping up our state research reports in writing. In social studies students are learning about economics around the world.

**4th grade:** In math, students have learned to add and subtract fractions and mixed numbers and are now working to multiply whole numbers by fractions and mixed numbers.  In social studies, students are learning about colonial life in the newly formed English colony. In Reading and Writing, students are examining non-fiction texts and structures, while researching weather hazards. In science, students are exploring the rock cycle.  At the end of the month we are excited to get some hands-on experience with our earth science unit with an “Earthworks” workshop.  A special thanks to you, PTA, for making that possible for us!

**5th grade:** Our fifth graders have been hard at work during February. Throughout the month, we have been working on our research skills to write biographies about a historically significant African American for Black History Month. Along with developing our research skills, we have also been analyzing different causes and effects in social studies from the American Revolutionary War and how they contributed to the structure of our new government after the war. Lastly, students have been using our prior knowledge of fractions from our previous math unit to multiply fractions by whole numbers or another fraction. Throughout our learning this month students have shared their love for one another through compliments and kind actions towards each other in the spirit of Valentine's Day/P.S. I love you day!

**6th grade** In science the kids made awesome Rube Goldberg chain reaction machines to show energy transfer and energy transformation.The students are now using their skills about wind energy and building just like William in The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind to build their very own windmills out of recycled materials.  In ELA we are continuing to learn about all the elements of fantasy as we read The Lightning Thief. As we read we are gathering evidence to explain what constitutes being a hero.  In health class we have been talking a lot about mental health and P.S. I Love you day. The students are working on a research project about world changers and trailblazing heroes who lit up the world with their passion for positive change. In Math, we are in the middle of a Geometry unit learning how to find the Area of different figures.

**Art**

**5th and 6th grade-** Continuing working on using 1 point perspective to create a city using the element of art “space”

**4th grade-** learning about portraiture and animals. Conducting research to find reference photos for animal portraits to be painted using complementary colors

**3rd grade-** Learning about value in art and how to mix colors to make them darker and lighter when painting.

**2nd grade**- Learning about hot and cold colors. Drawing and painting suns and moons found in traditional Mexican art and discussing the significance of color in our art. Using the hot colors to paint the sun to represent warmth, light, and energy, and the cold colors to paint the moon to represent calm, cool, darkness, and rest.

**1st grade-** Learning about secondary colors and the color spectrum “ROYGBIV” creating paintings featuring every color of the rainbow using only red, yellow, and blue

**Kindergarten**- learning about the primary colors, red, yellow, and blue through various artistic media including drawing, painting, and collage. Students are learning about painter Wassily Kandinsky and quilt artist Rosie Lee Tompkins whose work both featured a lot of primary colors. They’re creating paintings and paper collages inspired by their work.

**Spanish**

6th grade: Composing a poem to describe themselves using the verb “ser”, physical adjectives and personality adjectives.

5th grade: Analyzing various family trees in order to identify relationships of its members .

4th grade: Retelling telephone numbers in authentic combinations (grouping and single digits). Assessing numbers 0-100.

3rd grade: Stating weather conditions in Columbia, Costa Rica, East Quogue and various locations throughout the world.

2nd grade: Labeling and matching various junk food vocabulary. Asking and answering, ¿Te gusta?( Do you like it?)  Me gusta (I like it).

1st grade Identifying the 5 senses.

Kindergarten: Identifying family members, using the song Bebé Tiburón (Baby Shark).

**Music**

Our performance Ensembles are all in full rehearsals each morning, Monday through Friday from 8:00am through 8:50am.

Our 5th and 6th Grade music classes are celebrating Black History Month by learning about “message songs” that helped slaves to find and travel the Underground Railroad to freedom, as well as learn about famous Jazz Musicians and how African American culture shaped our music world into contemporary music styles throughout the 20th and 21st Centuries.

Our Drama Club is gearing up for their March 7th Performance of “Disney’s, The Little Mermaid, Jr.”. Our Performance starts at 7pm, but the “pre-game” festivities will start around 6:15pm in the upper and lower galleries. There will be various stations to Build your own Prince/Princess Crown, create your own Mermaid Face, take a selfie-Photo under the backdrop of our beautiful “Under the Sea” backdrop with some sea creatures, we have bracelets, keychains, Crazy Straws, and you can even get a few  “Under The Sea” tattoos!!

**Garden/Greenhouse**

Kindergarten and 1st grades grew their own bean seeds in plastic bag greenhouses and got to see how roots and leaves begin to grow up close! 2nd grade has been learning all about predator and prey in the garden with a special focus on spiders and ladybugs this month.  3rd grade has continued their soil explorations and performed experiments to see what kinds of materials made up our garden's soil.  4th grade has received their worm delivery and has spent the last few weeks caring and feeding for East Quogue’s own worm composting farm! The students have been learning how and what to feed the worms for success, with hopes of harvesting worm castings for fertilizing our seedlings that they’ll grow for our Spring garden.  5th has completed their compost in a jar experiments and will soon be applying all they've learned to our outdoor compost bins.  6th grade enjoyed a lab day in the greenhouse studying the activity of our new worm friends.  They experimented with different foods and light and recorded all their observations.  Earth Rangers is in full swing with our next session coming in March for the 5th and 6th grade.

**STEAM**

K-1 Students are working on the Digital Literacy and Computer Science skill with online and offline activities and centers.

Second grade students are learning about how to choose age appropriate websites and apps to stay safe. They’ll be building a model of a traffic light to practice sorting RED, YELLOW, and GREEN online activities. They’re also  learning how to type from home row.

Third graders are finishing their dinosaur unit by creating a model of a dinosaur’s skeleton using pasta “fossils” for dinosaur bones.

Fourth graders are ready to choose their 3D printing project. They created 3 projects using TinkerCAD and will get to choose whether they print a bookmark, keychain, or tessellation stencil.

Fifth grade students are hard at work on their Rubber Band Powered Cars for the 2024 Fluor Engineering Challenge.

Sixth grade students just started their 3D printing unit. They’ll create three designs and choose 1 to print at the end of the unit in March.

**PE**

Friday February 2nd the whole school participated in the Kids Heart Challenge aka Hoops for Heart.  The students had an amazing time and the school has raised just over $11,250 for the American Heart Association!!!  The rest of the month the students will be working on their fitness and participating in fun games/activities (guard the pins, spider, scatter, etc.) Have a safe and fun winter break!

Treasurer’s Report: Ann Rybak

* Most of our funds have been allocated or earmarked for the year!



We are focused on streamlining the requisition process for next year and have agreed the following parameters:

* This is the guidance that the PTA has given in its requisition form process: Embracing an ethos (i) to focus on augmenting educational programming through specials areas (defined as Arts, STEAM, Foreign Language, Reading, Library, Music etc) and (ii) to reaching as many students as possible in that effort
* The PTA will seek to amend this ethos next year by adding additional expectations on: (iii) keeping experiences onsite at East Quogue Elementary (as opposed to external experiences); (iv) including both a teacher sponsor and a specials sponsor for any event; (v) not accepting single-grade focused requests(unless there is strong rationale); and (vi) continuously challenging ourselves to uphold these guidelines

President’s Report: Bria Spanbock

*New Business:*

* Winter Break – NO SCHOOL (2/19-2/23)
* Relay for Life – run by Mr. Purkis and Mrs. Alessi, sponsored by the Student Council. This is to raise $ for survivors of cancer. Events include:
  1. Coin Wars (3/1) during lunch times
  2. Pasta Dinner (3/13) from 5:30-7:30pm
  3. Dance (3/20): k-2 from 5-6pm and 3-6 from 630-730pm
  4. Trivia Night (4/12) from 6-8pm
  5. Relay for Life (5/3) from 6-11pm
* Bingo Night Fundraiser for 6th Grade (3/8) from 6-730pm
* “Raise a Glass for Rob” (3/14) – Cindy Cagno spoke about the event which will be from 6-9pm at Buckleys in Hampton Bays. From 6-7pm there will be passed hors devours and Miller Lites. Tickets are $20 ahead of the event and $30 at the door. There will be basket raffles and we are seeking donations.
* Pick a Reading Partner (PARP) is coming back to EQ!! this is a school wide reading challenge which will be taking place during the month of March
* Science Fair – optional for K-4 and mandatory for 5th and 6th grades. Please discuss with your child ASAP! They have all the info!
* The PTA is discussing a Career Day with Mr. Miller
* Drama Club performance of Little Mermaid will be on March 7th. There will be a pre-show immersive experience and the PTA is looking for volunteers
* For Student of the Month, the PTA has historically purchased a gift for the student that was chosen by the teachers / admin committee. Given the limited involvement of the PTA in the Student of the Month process, it has been agreed that the award will no longer be called the “PTA Student of the Month” and starting for the 24-25 school year, the PTA will no longer be purchasing a small token for the winners

*Old Business:*

* PTA Family Valentine’s Day Dance (2/14) – This was a success! Kudos to all of the volunteers!
* Open Gym Night (2/2) – Our first gym night was thinly attended but a lot of fun! We intend to offer these monthly from Dec – March in the 24-25 school year
* 1/19 Wildcat Way Trait: Responsibility
* 2/9 PS I LOVE YOU Day
* Winter Concert (Dec 13th)
* PTA Holiday Celebration (Dec 19th)

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

Next BOE Meeting: TBD (POSTPONED due to snowstorm)

Motion to Close:

Ann Rybak

Jessica Schwinn