**East Quogue Community PTA**

**6 Central Avenue**

**East Quogue, NY 11942**

**December 12, 2023**

**General Meeting**

In attendance:

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

PTA Members: Lindsay Dean, Diana Feinberg, Jenny Fiore, Luz Garcon, Amanda Moran

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

Call to Order:

Bria Spanbock Time: 9:16am

*Meeting was held in person and on Zoom*

Acceptance of Minutes:

1st Bria Spanbock

2nd Tahlia Kouffman

Principal’s Report and BOE Meeting Update: Michael Miller

* TY to the PTA for sending our 5th and 6th graders to Beauty and the Beast and the Holiday Boutique
* Holiday on Main was a success
* Parent Teacher conferences went smoothly
* The Holiday Band and Chorus performance was outstanding – TY to the Schwinn and Grant families for their donations
* BOE Meeting
  + NYS Blue Ribbon Commission has 12 reccs to state for Grad Requirements (thru 12th grade)
  + Update on ELA committee – ATLAS curriculum mapping underway
* As an update to last meeting’s discussion on screen time, Ms. Brady is reviewing bringing in a program on “Screenagers” which will be appropriately targeted from 4-6th graders as well as a parent seminar ($300)
  + Tahlia followed up with a question on cumulative screen time assignments and how to measure / regulate

Teachers Report: Danielle Davin

**Kindergarten-** In December, Kindergarten will be learning about different winter holidays and the traditions that go with them. We are working on our concept  books by adding more details and creating sentences to match our illustrations. In reading, we are using our super powers to read books. In math, we are learning how to compose and decompose numbers within 10. We are busy making gifts and learning about how we can spread kindness this holiday season.

**1st grade-**Even with the holidays fresh in our minds, the first graders continue to work hard each day.  We challenge ourselves to solve more difficult math equations and word problems each day.  We love solving problems with three addends.  We are finishing up our Small Moment Writing Unit, and it will culminate with a Writing Celebration.  We are excited during Fundations because we are adding suffixes to words, and marking words too.  It is even more exciting when we start noticing digraphs, glued sounds, and suffixes while we are reading.   Learning is exciting in First Grade!  It was so nice to share all of these things with parents at our conferences.  Without their support, the children would not be making the gains we see.

     The First Grade is embracing "Generosity" throughout the month. We are making bird feeders in the Green House and in our classrooms.  Some are already hanging in the Reading Garden.  We can't forget about our outdoor friends during the winter months.  The children have made holiday necklaces for the entire faculty and staff to show how we are so appreciative of all they do. We love listening to them jingle when we are in the hallways.  We are going to make a gift and card for a special person in our life to help cheer them up on a cold winter's day. Please look around the building for small holiday wreaths.  We hung these wreath messages to inspire others to show kindness too.  We are learning that Generosity can come from the heart, not always from a store!

     A great big thank you to the PTA who always display what generosity means.  We are so grateful for the books you allowed all of us to pick out at the Book Fair.  We loved shopping at the Holiday Fair, and we know you have more in store for everyone as the holidays approach.  First Grade would like to wish everyone a Happy Holiday and a Healthy New Year!

**2nd grade-** We are busy elves! In Math, we are working on fluently subtracting within 100. In Writing, we are wrapping up Opinion/Persuasive writing and will be celebrating our published pieces. In Reading, we are finishing up our “All About Characters” unit and focusing on target skills, such as; Problem/Solution, Character Traits and Story Maps, using our Storyworks magazine. In Social Studies, we began our chapter on people, places and Nature and will focus on Communities. We have many fun craftivities planned to celebrate the holiday season. Second grade wishes you all a very happy and healthy holiday season!

**3rd grade -** December is a busy month! In math we are using our newly learned multiplication and division skills to solve multi-step word problems . In science we are continuing our study of weather, weather tools, and hazardous weather. We’re wrapping up our fairy tale writing unit, while learning more about editing and revising. In reading we are studying non-fiction text features and writing articles that include these features. What a productive and fun month it is for us!

**4th grade-** Fourth graders are finishing out the year strong! In math, we are working on factors and multiples, using divisibility rules and identifying prime and composite numbers.  In Science, students are diving deeper into electrical circuits by constructing series and parallel circuits and identifying conductors and insulators.  In Social Studies, we just wrapped up our Native American unit and will begin learning about explorers.  Students also have been creating paragraph responses related to our current science and social studies topics in writing periods.  In reading, students are reading realistic fiction texts with complex characters.

**5th grade -** The fifth graders have had quite a busy month! In Math, we are working hard on our division skills and real world problem solving. In Social Studies, we have made it through the American Revolution and are moving on to the building of our newly independent nation. In reading, the fifth graders are loving Pictures of Hollis Woods by Patricia Reilly Giff. We are looking forward to watching the Hallmark movie, which we will compare and contrast to the novel in our culminating literary project. During writing, we are working on our holiday point of view stories, as we take on the role of a mischievous elf or engage in a snow globe adventure. The fifth grade would like to thank the PTA for our amazing trip to the Engeman Theater in Northport. We loved getting to see Beauty and the Beast in such a gorgeous theater!

**6th grade -** In science we just began Topic 3 which is Energy.  At the end of this chapter the students will be creating their own Rube Goldberg chain reaction machines! We also just started the novel, The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind in science because it goes great with our next two topics.  In ELA, we just finished writing short stories and we are now learning how to form a well written response to literature.  After vacation we will begin our fantasy unit and start reading The Lightning Thief. In Math we started Algebra and are  generating equivalent expressions using different Properties of Math and combining like terms.

**Music**

**5th/6th Grade Classroom Music:** Our upper grade music classes are learning about what it takes to be a Ballet Dancer and then watch a performance of “The Nutcracker”, as they listen to Tchaikovsky’smost famous masterful music pieces.

**5th/6th Grade Music Performers:** Our Senior Chorus and our Advanced Band students have been working extra hard to prepare for their performances in the “Holiday on Main” Tree Lighting Event, as well as their annual Winter Concert Performance, which will be held in our School Cafetorium on Wednesday evening at 7pm.

**Instrumental Music/Band**

Advanced AND Beginner Students have been making great progress the past 3 months. The students are preparing for their monthly Performance Test which demonstrates their learned skills on their instrument as they perform songs/exercises in their Lesson Book. The scheduled Performance Test for December for all Beginner and Advanced Instrumental students will take place during their lessons the week of December 18th through December 22nd. What a great way to end the calendar year on a good “note”!

**Art**

**Kindergarten-2nd grade**: Learning about 3D art, creating sculptures out of paper and model magic, learning about making cups and bowls with clay by pinching and building using coils

**3rd-** Learning about geometric and organic shapes through creating mixed media lava lamps

**4th&5th-** learning about creating the illusion of dimension in their drawings through adding shading.

**6th-** creating ceramic sarcophaguses to go along with their Egypt unit in social studies

**Garden/Greenhouse**

The garden has been cleared and mulched for the winter by the students.  This week classes will be reading the book ‘Night Tree” by Eve Bunting and decorating the large tree in the reading garden with ornaments they make for the wildlife to enjoy.  The rest of the month will be spent planning what students would like to grow in our garden next Spring as well as setting up our hydroponic grow towers to enjoy greens during the cold months,  K/1 will continue learning all about seeds. 2nd has started learning about bugs and will begin with dragonfly activities.  Grades 3 and 4 are learning about soil and the soil food web, while 5th and 6th have started to learn about the composting process and how we can use that resource in the garden.

**Spanish:**

**6th grade**: Constructing questions and formulating answers on the topic of likes and dislikes in regards to common activities.

**5th grade:** Composing a descriptive paragraph about his/her personal home.  Describing the location of the rooms on each floor, the color of the rooms, the style of the rooms and what is located outside of the house (for example pool, garden etc.)

**4th grade**: Listing, matching, recognizing numbers 20-30.

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

Asking and answering ¿Cuántos años tienes tú? (How old are you?)

**3rd grade**: Constructing a calendar of only his/her birthday month, labeled with the month, days of the week, holidays and the numbers in Spanish.

**STEAM**

**Grades K-3** are celebrating the Hour of Code by learning Coding vocabulary and practicing online and offline coding skills throughout the month. Students are focusing on Coding vocabulary words like sequence, algorithm, bug, and debug.

**4th Graders** are wrapping up their Simple Machines mini golf projects in order to play before the holiday break.

**5th grade** students are selecting their 3D Prints from the projects they created this fall.

**6th grade** students are creating a usable prosthetic leg from recycled materials and will be testing them before the holiday break!

**PE** This is our favorite time of the year….hockey season!!  Students learn how to properly hold a stick, have fun, be safe and how to keep track of their teams record.  The week before the winter break the students will participate in our Winter wonderland stations as well as participate in different holiday themed activities.  Have a happy holiday season!

Treasurer’s Report: Katie Back

* Katie gave an update on $ on hand less committed expenses, which included the agreed programming as submitted by teachers. Approx $32k to work with this year (including $10k “holdback”)
* The book fair had $9k sold in books which means $4300 earned in Scholastic money (with $1200 earmarked for book vending machines). We are a GO on Spring Book Fair
* 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.

President’s Report: Bria Spanbock

* Book Fair was a success. We are going to do a Spring sale likely scheduling for the week of the BOE budget vote (which is in May) and look at a community minded focus too
* Holiday on Main Update
  1. We sold about $200 in spirit wear and had dozens of kids do crafts
* Holiday Boutique was a success. Barely any inventory on the 3rd day.
  1. Add spirit wear like: EQ Mom / EQ Dad
* Holiday Giveback event (Feinberg and Visentin) was great! Next events will be a beach clean up and town beautification as well as donation of books to Spring Book Fair
  1. Recommendation to start a Wildcat Marketplace to donate great items that our children have outgrown

Next PTA Meeting: January 9th at 7pm

Next BOE Meeting: December 19th at 7pm

Motion to Close:

Tahlia Kouffman

Cait Horstman