**East Quogue Community PTA**

**6 Central Avenue**

**East Quogue, NY 11942**

**March 12, 2024**

**General Meeting**

In attendance:

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

PTA Members: Cindy Cagno, Laura Calandra, Jessica Ferreira, Luz Garcon, Christine Grant, Namrata Kadiwar,

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

Call to Order:

Bria Spanbock Time: 9:20am

*Meeting was held via Zoom*

Acceptance of Minutes:

1st Jessica Schwinn

2nd Briana Gladding

Principal’s Report and BOE Meeting Update: Michael Miller

* Drama club performance was a success with about 450 in attendance
* Bingo Night for 6th grade made about $2k
* Pasta dinner for Relay for Life was a lot of fun
* BOE meeting is on 3/12
* 3/20 Relay for Life Dance
* 3/21 Middle School orientation for kids and parents
* 3/29-4/1 no school
* 4/3 Parent Teacher Conference
* Newsletter coming out
* School calendar approved for 2024-25
* When is Field Day? TBD
* $663k mental health grant – almost approved by NYS. Remi is the therapy dog

Teachers Report: Danielle Davin

**Kindergarten:** In March, Kindergarteners are learning all about weather. We are graphing “lion” days and “lamb” days and discussing their differences as we transition from winter to spring. We are also writing “how to” books on various topics. In math, we are comparing and ordering teen numbers. We continue to practice counting to 100 by 1s, 5s, 10s. We also celebrated Read Across America week, Women’s History Month and of course, St. Patrick’s Day!

**1st grade:** There have been so many exciting things going on in first grade.  The children recently published a How To during Writing Workshop, and completed the unit with a writing celebration. They were so proud of their accomplishments.  As we build our stamina during reading, we recognize the many features of both fiction and nonfiction, and we are excited to share what we are experts about in our next writing unit.  During math, we have been comparing numbers through 120. We can now make these numbers utilizing tens and ones, and also show one more and one fewer and  ten more and ten fewer. It is even more fun when we use these strategies with word problems.   As we explored many famous African Americans in class during Black History Month, many students presented optional projects in class.  It was so wonderful to share knowledge and creativity with one another.  We learned so much from our classmates.  And now, we are preparing for a possible visit from the East Quogue Leprechaun in honor of St. Patrick’s Day.  The children are so excited to present the leprechaun traps that they are preparing at home.  This just might be the year that we catch him.  Wishing everyone a Happy St. Patrick’s Day from First Grade!

**2nd grade**

Second grade will begin learning measurement in math, beginning with length in metric and custom units. The boys and girls had been working on adding and subtracting 2 and 3 digit numbers and their addition and subtraction facts have really improved.  Keep up the great work!  The boys and girls will be focusing on different types of fiction in reading and in writing, they will be composing Realistic Fiction pieces. We continue to work on responding to questions in a complete and detailed manner.  Restating the question in the answer helps the students to write more complete responses.  It  supports their ability to spell many words correctly because the words used in the answers are in the question.  Paragraph writing continues to be a focus too.  Practicing writing paragraphs helps the students identify main ideas, supporting details in addition to using text based evidence in their writing.  In Science, the students will learn about Earth’s Changes.  March is Women’s History Month and we will be focusing on celebrating the vital role women have played in American history.   St. Patrick’s Day is a fun holiday!!  The second graders will get the opportunity to do some fun holiday themed activities.  Happy St. Patrick’s Day everyone!

**3rd grade**

Third graders have continued learning about fractions, and are now able to identify, compare, and order fractions.  Next, we’ll explore measurement, including elapsed time.  In reading, we are learning about point of view.  Students can identify first, second, and third person point of view, and can notice character and narrator point of view within a story and how it may be similar or different to their own point of view.  We have been using the series, “What If You Had Animal…”, in writing to create pieces describing two of the animal adaptations students would want to have.  They are using facts from the books to describe what each adaptation looks like and how it helps, and they are telling how they would use these adaptations in their own lives.  This ties in with our animal adaptations unit in science as well.  In this unit we are exploring the features that help living things survive in their habitats.  We enjoyed classroom rotations that explored bird adaptations.  BOCES visited us for an in-house field trip that allowed us to explore bug adaptations.  Each class spent time studying land bugs and water bugs.  Students used scientific equipment for observations including microscopes.

**4th grade:** In fourth grade, we have just wrapped up our unit of area and perimeter.  We are now identifying lines, and even will be learning how to draw angles with protractors!  In writing, we are organizing and drafting our five paragraph persuasive essays that include our thoughtful thesis statement.  In science, we are finishing up our unit on weathering, erosion and deposition.  In Social Studies, we are learning about what colonial life was like for families and children in New York.  In reading, we have been learning about researching, using reliable, non-fiction sources and structures to learn more about a topic.

**5th grade** - The fifth graders have been working hard this month! We are wrapping up our unit on dividing with fractions by applying our knowledge to real world problem solving situations. During Social Studies, we have been studying the creation of our Constitution and the construction of our Capitol in Washington, D.C. We are excited to be starting our next Science unit focusing on Earth’s natural resources and human impact on our environment. The fifth graders continue to enjoy reading and analyzing the novel, Restart by Gordon Korman. In writing, we are currently publishing our research projects in celebration of Women’s History Month. Ask your child to share what they have learned about these amazing women and their contributions to our world.

**6th grade** - We have just started a unit called, “Changing Perspectives” in ELA. Students will study the art of argument.  They will consider why we have controversy in society and examine the content and structure of informational and argumentative texts in order to gather information and evaluate others’ claims. They will debate issues and write an argumentative letter to convince an audience to support their position on a topic important to them. In Math we are just finishing up a unit of Geometry where the students have been finding the Surface Area of various three dimensional figures. In Science we are halfway through our unit on electricity and magnetism.  Ask your children about the exciting static electricity lab!

**Music**

Primary grades are working on St. Patrick’s Day songs, building on different vocal skills, and experimenting with tempo.

Third grade students are continually building on their recorder skills and using two hands to play.

The upper grade levels are taking a deep dive into jazz music.

Junior and Senior Choruses are working on songs for their concerts and the 6th grade Marimba group begins on Thursday!

Vocal NYSSMA lessons began this week.

The SCMEA students participating in both band and chorus did a fabulous job at the festival this past weekend!

**Art**

Kindergarten and first Learning about texture, how to identify textures and take texture rubbings as a form of printmaking

2nd and 3rd Learning about implied texture, how to use lines to create the appearance of texture in drawings

4th and 5th graders are working on their submissions for the 2024-2025 agenda book cover contest! The theme this year is anything having to do with books, reading or our new library. We will be voting on the covers in April.

6th Learning about facial proportions and the anatomy of the face. Practicing drawing and shading the parts of the face in preparation for self portraits.

**Spanish**

6th grade:  Analyzing class schedules from a variety of Spanish speaking countries.

5th grade:Creating family trees given verbal descriptions of relationships .

4th grade:Determining the locations and flags of all Spanish speaking countries.

3rd grade: Identifying clothing. Giving compliments to classmates.

2nd grade: Labeling and matching various POPULAR food vocabulary.

Describing it as salty and sweet.

1st grade Naming farm animals.

Kindergarten: Counting 1-10.

**Garden/Greenhouse**

It's full steam ahead with the garden this time of year.  First grade is learning about what different parts of a plant we eat. 2nd grade is starting pollinator friendly seedlings in the greenhouse.  3rd grade has concluded their unit on soil by working in stations and practicing eco friendly methods of seed starting like making paper pots out of newspaper and soil blocking, 4th grade is continuing their care and feeding of our vermicomposter and observing the worm behavior.  Soon we’ll have castings to harvest for our seed starting efforts.  5th grade is helping to plan the garden beds and the varieties of plants that we’ll grow.  Planning is starting for a full bed of cutting flowers in the garden this year!  6th grade will be helping prepare the beds in the garden for the planting season once the weather has warmed at the end of the month.  5th/6th Earth Rangers begin this week! Up next is 2nd grade-keep an eye out for those permission slips!

**STEAM**

Kindergarten and first grade students are working on making mazes. Kindergarten is focused on windpowered mazes, and first grade will use hex bugs in their maze designs.

Second grade students are studying habitats and biodiversity so they can build a mini-habitat model and will finish the unit with a little bit of 3D printing.

Third graders are working on balanced and unbalanced forces and will be creating marble roller coasters in small groups. They will be learning how to engineer with recycled paper.

Fourth grade students are working on erosion and stop motion animation. They will create a paper model of weathering and erosion in small groups, and then use Stop Motion studio to put their model in motion!

Fifth graders are in the scoring phase of their rubber band powered cars. Their final scores and designs will be entered in the 2024 Science Buddies Engineering Challenge.

Sixth grade is finishing their 3D printing workshop. They will chose one of their designs to send to the printer: a name plate, a city skyline, or a mini-maze.

**PE**

In classes this month students played a variety of fun kickball games that involved a lot of cooperation, teamwork and critical thinking. Classes will also enjoy some lighthearted cageball and the return of volleyball.  Fitness testing is right around the corner!

Treasurer’s Report: Katie Back

* 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

*Old Business:*

* 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
* 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

*New Business:*

* 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
* “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.
* 3/27 Pizza party lunch with the SROs
* Mother’s day plant sale orders will likely go out beginning of April
* Elections in May
* Kindergarten roundup to have a packet
* Diana is interested in a bike donation and swap on April 12/13th More to come. How about a beach cleanup too!

Next PTA Meeting: April 9th at 7pm

Next BOE Meeting: March 12th at 7pm

Motion to Close:

Cindy Cagno

Tahlia Kouffman