

January 19, 2023 - PTA Meeting Program Notes

Introduction by Lynde

- Call to order (8:02pm)

Principal's Report – Presented by: Michelle Makrigiorgos & Jennifer Condra

- As a reminder, next week is the end of the 2nd quarter. There's a two-hour early release on Wednesday, and Thursday & Friday are teach workdays
- As the end of the quarter arrives, the staff will be doing midyear assessments. When complete the staff/teams will do a "date dig" (how are the students doing, where are they doing really well, what are their needs) which will help guide the staff going into the second half of the year.
- Portrait of a Graduate (FCPS skill sets that focus on and support student success not only in school; but in life)
 - January skill set is 'Communicator'
 - Goal is every month to highlight one skill and provide information
- Renovation Update : Construction has been going really well. They're ahead of schedule thanks to some dry weather and a team that works weekends. Next step is looking at classroom spaces to order furniture, materials, etc.
- Students grades 3-6 are currently completing or have just completed their midyear VGA (Virginia Growth Assessments) requirements. Should receive scores in the mail in late February/early March
- Students grades 1-6 that were below the 40th percentile in the Fall assessment of iReady (screening with the iReady screener gives teachers information about strengths and needs in students' basic reading and mathematics skills) will be required to be reevaluated during this midyear analysis. Some teachers also choose to reassess students not required to retest to get another baseline of where they are.
- Advanced Math students in 6th grade just took the Iowa Algebra Aptitude Test (IAAT). Results from this assessment are used as one component of the course placement process for Algebra 1 Honors in Grade 7.
- Gearing up for the ESL students to take the WIDA (English Language Proficiency Assessment Information - WIDA and WIDA Screener) which is required by Federal law for English learners in grades K-12
- Families of students in grades 3-6 who completed the Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) Screener (a screening assessment to measure social-emotional learning skills) during the fall window will be receiving a mailed report of the survey results this month. The survey offers valuable

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information about a student's SEL skills, relationships, school environment, and well-being. Parent and guardians can use the Family Guide to understand your student's SEL Screener outcomes and facilitate discussions at home about the results. If you have further questions and/or concerns, please reach out to our school counselor, Brigit Akpinar, at bdakpinar@fcps.edu or child's classroom teacher.

Treasurer's Report - Presented by: Steve Soliday

- Nov/Dec combined information (no PTA meeting in Dec)
- Little bit behind in terms of donations but a little ahead in memberships
- Yearbook ads have been rolling in
- Big expense sports programs (before/after school) in Dec
- Pretty much were we expected to be
- Lots of fundraisers coming up

President's Report & Program Announcements – Presented by : Lynde Herzbach

- **Join the PTA** – different membership levels available; join for this year at the Louise Archer PTA website, which is <https://louisearcherpta.org/>
- **Amazon smile loyalty program** – Unfortunately, Amazon recently announced it is ending its smile loyalty program for charities. Thank you to everyone who participated in the program. We'll be on the lookout for other fundraising options.
- **Harris Teeter loyalty program** - The Harris Teeter Together in Education Program has started – Please link Louise Archer to your VIC card! Next time you step into a Harris Teeter, just remember to ask at check-out or at the customer service desk to link your card to Louise Archer ES #6189.
- **Donation drive for Louise Archer families in need** - The PTA is working with our wonderful Louise Archer staff to collect donations for Louise Archer families in need. Specifically, we are looking for donations of pantry staples and certain household/toiletry items. The school provided a suggested list -
 - Oatmeal packets; Ramen noodles; Granola bars; Individual cereal packs or family boxes; Milk – shelf stable, individual (not cold); Juice

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pouches; Canned chicken/tuna; Fruit cups/cans; Pasta; Rice; Canned goods (especially veggies); Meal prep things - spices, oil, condiments

- Toothbrushes; Toothpaste; Bar soap; Deodorant; Feminine Napkins; Paper Towels; Napkins; Dish Soap; Laundry Soap; Sponges; Toilet Paper
 - The list will be posted on the PTA facebook page and included in the next Sunbeam email.
 - Grocery Gift Cards are also always welcome. Any donations can be dropped off directly at the Louise Archer front office no later than February 6, 2023.
- **January Stock the Fridge**
 - With the end of the quarter coming up, the PTA will be “Stocking the Fridge” and the Teachers Lounge with snacks for the Teacher Work Day on Thursday, January 26. Please consider signing up on the PTA sign-up genius, I’ll put the link in the chat. The sign-up genius is also available on the PTA facebook page and in the Sunbeam email. If you think we are missing anything essential that you want to donate, please add a comment in the "other" choice.
 - <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0B4AAAA62EA5FE3-winter2>
 - Items can be dropped off at the teachers’ lounge at school the morning of Thursday, January 26, preferably between 9 and 9:30 am.
- **February Pop-up Party** – The PTA will also host a February pop-up party on Friday, February 17 for teachers and staff. We’ll have more information closer to that date but I wanted to mention it since our next meeting is after the pop-up party. This years will be similar to last year’s February pop-up party. The PTA will be providing chocolate for a chocolate fountain and we’ll circulate a sign-up genius that includes lots of goodies to dip in the chocolate and to celebrate Valentine’s day.

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- **Thank you** – I wanted to say thank you to all of the volunteers and everyone who always steps up for these sign-ups and donations. We greatly appreciate everyone's efforts.
 - We would like to try to increase involvement with parents in our younger grades (kindergarten through third grade). We realize it can be hard to meet other parents and get involved, so the PTA would love to hear ideas on how to increase involvement with all Louise Archer families. Please feel free to email any of us on the executive board.
 - Prior to covid, we used to plan grade-level specific parent meet-ups, which was a wonderful way to meet other parents. If anyone would like to arrange a meet-up, please feel free to advertise it on the PTA facebook page or the Sunbeam newsletter.
- Please also keep an eye on the PTA calendar, we have so many great events coming up this spring and are looking forward to seeing everyone.

Skate Night - Presented by: Erin Berk

- Skate night will be Saturday, February 25.
- \$2,000 obligation that we are responsible for however last year we covered it and ended up making money for the PTA, so not a particular concern.
- Not more left to do at this point but advertise and don't anticipate needing more than one volunteer at the check-in table.
- Flyers to go out in Tuesday folder coming soon.

Sunshine Times - Presented by: Reshma Patel

- A flyer went out in the Tuesday folder before break
- Have received only 4 articles
- Deadline at the end of January. Then will be focusing on formatting and the qualification process.
- May submit anything, not just writing. It can be a poem or a drawing, etc.
- Group submissions allowed as well

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Mini Grants - Presented by: Cathy Chen

- Second round of mini grants has started - received about half a dozen at this point
- Deadline is end of January and (hopefully) a decision will be made within two weeks of that.
- Everyone should hear back by early Feb

Yearbook - Presented by: Anita Cheng

- This past week started collecting booster ads for the 6th grade class. Almost half are now sold out. Usually a total of 60 spots a year and this year so far we've sold 29. Going to have another week for the 6th graders and then after that, going to open it up to K-6
- Yearbook cover update: over 50 submissions. So many the Anita/Keely couldn't decide, so opened up a Google forms survey for the staff at LEAS. A total of 27 staff members responded. Finally made a decision of cover. Also, decided the top 4 entries will be displayed on the back of the yearbook, as opposed to having two separate covers.
- Yearbook sales starts on January 30

6th Grade Celebration - Presented by: ~~Shannon Aimone~~ (Lynde Herzbach)

- Date: Friday before school gets out - June 9th.
- Lots of committees that need volunteers to assist in making it great.
- Email Shannon for more info if interested shannon laes6thgradecelebration2023@gmail.com

Questions:

1. Field trips - Noticed there were no field trips in the Fall. Would like to know if it depends on grade or are there standard guidelines?

- It varies depends on grade level and curriculum. There was that hiatus during COVID so now teachers are reviewing things again (ie. If they are going to go somewhere they've been in the past or somewhere new, with COVID restrictions). Generally, tend to have more field trips in the Spring and typically, one field trip per grade level.

2. Will parents be notified of iReady Winter scores?

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- Winter is a little different. Only certain students that are required however some teachers will choose to give to all students again to get another data point. Also, results should be in your SIS Parent Acct as well as mailed to you. Can reach out to your students teacher if your child took it. (Not a requirement except for the students who scored below the 40th percentile in the fall)

3. Construction - Any chance the entire school will fit in the new addition next year, and is the cafeteria supposed to be ready by next year?

- Yes to both - however, the building is being built to occupy 700 students and currently there are just over 500. What we're going to have to look at is, how many classrooms will be needed at each grade level vs how many classes will be able to fit inside the new building? The goal to fit everyone but still may be some overflow. Also, they will be removing the modular next Fall which allows a little more time for construction that's needed to pour the new pavement and blacktop area that's going to be used for kiss & ride and parking.

4. Is there a chance we could get a construction lead to present at one of our next PTA meetings?

- Yes. Leadership receives updates constantly and consistently. Also planning on giving kids an opportunity to hear and see some things too to get them engaged and excited about it. Michelle to inquire with constructions leadership when in the process might be most beneficial.

Reminder : Our next PTA meeting will be Wednesday, February 22. Also, keep an eye out on the FB page and the Sunbeam email for more announcements.

Call meeting to close (8:35 pm)