

April 19, 2023 - PTA Meeting Minutes

Call to order: 8:02 pm

Principal's Report – Michelle Makrigiorgos & Jennifer Condra

- A record sixty-two (62) families registered for Kindergarten for the upcoming school year. Fifty-four (54) of which attended the Kindergarten Orientation last week. It was really exciting to welcome so many new families.
- The 3rd quarter progress reports will be coming home in Tuesday's folders next week. You can also view them on your ParentVUE account. If you have any questions feel free to touch base with teachers.
- Faculty/Staff members are gearing up for end of year events. Such as;
 - Field Day: PE teachers are working with many families and preparing for Field Day in June.
 - 6th Grade promotion has been scheduled for the last day of school (June 16th) @ 10am. More information on that should be coming next month.
 - A Family Survey will be available April 17 to May 1. The survey asks questions about your satisfaction with teaching and learning and perceptions of support for learning this school year. Responses to this survey will be confidential and survey participation is voluntary, although highly encouraged.
- Renovation:
 - Meetings with construction group every other week.
 - Currently discussing packing up/moving teachers into the new addition.
 - Finalizing all of the furniture & other items that will be needed for the new addition.
 - A new playground ready in time, as well as a new blacktop area.
 - Will be keeping the modular through February of next year.
- Assessments:
 - All 1st - 6th graders will take a year-end iReady assessment again (screening with the iReady screener gives teachers information about strengths and needs in students' basic reading and mathematics skills).
 - Standards of Learning (SOL) assessments will begin the week of May 9th for grades 3-6 which leaves time for makeups/retakes. Retakes available if students gets a below passing score (375 to 399) with some intervention.
 - Kindergartners are also taking more reading and math assessments through May.
 - Please be mindful to have your child in class during those assessment dates so that they won't have to do a makeup test. Specifics grade level test dates in the News You Choose email.

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Treasurer's Report – Lynde Herzbach will present for Steve Soliday

- We received ~ \$500 from Dining for Dollars for the month of March.
- We're currently on track for this year, spending more than we are receiving to spend down the surplus from Covid.
- The Executive Board will vote to add funds into the Azzara Fund (PTA funded program that provides assistance to students in need. These items can include school supply kits, field trip fees, class t-shirts, and extra-curricular activities) for this year.

President's Report & Program Announcements – Lynde Herzbach

- Critical need for two essential volunteers – President and Web Master shadow/future chair
 - President – My term as president will end this summer. We are looking for a volunteer who is interested in being PTA President starting in the fall for a two-year term. If you have any questions or may be interested, please feel free to email me (president@louisearcherpta.org)
 - Web Master shadow – we need a volunteer who would like to shadow and assist Jerry for the next year or two and then take over. Preferably, the volunteer would have at least three or four years left at Louise Archer, so someone with a student in the younger grades or younger kids who are future students.
 - The PTA will also be transitioning our technology infrastructure so having a shadow who can help with the transition while learning the system would be ideal.
- Open positions for next year – we have many volunteer opportunities for next school year, if you have any interest in volunteering, please feel free to email me. Just a few of the open positions include:
 - Dining for Dollars Coordinators
 - Directory Chair
 - Faculty Volleyball Game Coordinator
 - Field Day Chair
 - International Night Chair
 - Pizza Bingo / Silent Auction Chairs
 - Reflections Chair
 - School Supplies Chair
 - STEAM Fair Chairs
 - Yearbook Chairs
 - Volunteer Organizing (SUG) chair
- The PTA relies on all of the amazing volunteers in order to provide so many activities and events as well as support for the school. The membership dues are also important to fund our budget. Next year, we will need to increase the PTA dues in order to make sure we are covering our costs and dues for the Fairfax County PTA and Virginia PTA.

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- Directory – Unfortunately we will no longer get free paper hard copies of the PTA directory next year.
 - There are essentially two options – we can continue with only the digital version of the directory, which is available on the app and online OR members will need to pay for a paper hard copy version.
 - We are going to circulate a google form and some questions to gather feedback on the two options. We will also try to have some additional directions on how to access the directory using the app so families can decide if that access will be enough.
- Construction update coming in May –
 - At the May meeting, we are planning on having a discussion of the construction. The discussion will include a reminder of the schedule and the photos for the planned results.
 - We are going to circulate a form to gather questions from the community prior to the meeting. Please keep an eye out for the form and submit any questions you might have before the deadline.
- Dining for Dollars – I hope everyone enjoyed Mama Tigre today. We also have the following upcoming dates:
 - May 9th (3-7pm) @ Smoothie King
 - May 24 (11:30am - 9pm) @ Pupatella in Reston - online or in-person with code LES (Corrie: “I haven't done it, but it's 5 miles on the bike trail for anyone adventurous”)
- Original Works - Cathy Chen would like to relay the following:
 - Thank you to everyone for supporting the PTA’s Original Works fundraiser. Through the program, each student created artwork that can be reproduced onto a variety of keepsake products. The PTA raised about \$2,000 through this fundraiser!
 - All orders that were received by March 28 have arrived at the school! Your student should have brought home the order. If not, please ask your student's teacher. If you put in a late order, it should arrive in a few weeks!

Vice President’s Report - April Buckley

- Teacher Appreciation Week (May 1-5) is approaching. Room parents were sent a flyer for distribution to class parents.
- Below is the schedule for the week with the class-specific requests noted. The document attached below includes the assignments for all of the grades as well.
- The mornings will be busy, so if you are able to volunteer to help collect contributions as the students arrive, please sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0B4AAAA62EA5FE3-20233>

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- **Sunday, April 30:** TAW KICK OFF – Students and parents chalk the school sidewalks with notes of thanks and encouragement.
- **Monday, May 1:** FRUITFUL HEARTS AND MINDS – Stocking the teacher’s lounge with fruit.
 - Kindergarten: apples
 - 1st Grade: pears
 - 2nd Grade: oranges or clementines
 - 3rd Grade: bananas
 - 4th Grade: grapes (preferably in ziploc bags for grab and go)
 - 5th Grade: peaches & plums
 - 6th Grade: strawberries
- **Tuesday, May 2:** RESTOCK OUR TEACHERS – Replenishing our teacher’s school supplies.
 - Kindergarten: non-bleach Clorox wipes
 - 1st Grade: dry erase markers & erasers
 - 2nd Grade: composition notebooks
 - 3rd Grade: Sharpies, Permanent Markers
 - 4th Grade: Flair pens
 - 5th Grade: non-bleach Clorox wipes
 - 6th Grade: composition notebooks
- **Wednesday, May 3:** LUNCH LOVE - Teachers will have a catered lunch from Mama Tigre.
- **Thursday, May 4:** WORDS FROM THE HEART – Students write notes to, or draw pictures for, their teacher(s) and staff members.
- **Friday, May 5:** SCHOOL SPIRIT DAY AND GIFT CARD BINGO -
 - Spirit Day : Have your child(ren) wear their favorite LAES shirt or sport their blue and yellow.
 - LAE Bingo : Teachers and staff will participate in Gift Card Bingo.
- For any questions, please reach out to the PTA VP at vicepresident@louiseacherpta.org

6th Grade Celebration - Shannon Aimone

- Scheduled for June 9th @ the Vienna Fire Department 7:00pm - 9:00pm

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- Second week of May invitations will be sent out to all of our 6th graders with a pair of sunglasses (You're Future is Bright theme)
- Sponsorships chair is working with Silent Auction & 5K chairs to make sure we don't double dip across the town of Vienna.
- A \$25 (per child) admission will include a photo booth, a DJ for two hours, food, and beverages. Azzara Fund will be used for any student who needs assistance.
- New this year is the option to purchase yard signs to celebrate their promotion to Middle School. For every sign purchased, the 6th Grade Celebration Committee will earn \$5 to help offset the cost of the celebration.
 - Orders are due by midnight on **May 21st**.
 - All signs will be shipped to the 6th Grade Celebration Committee and we will distribute accordingly.
 - For a generic "graduate" sign the cost is \$25. If you want to personalize with your students name the cost is \$30.
 - Buying a yard sign is optional.
- This years 6th grade class gift will be a donation to the teacher fund to help our teachers furnish/decorate/be excited about moving into the new addition this coming school year.

International Night - Gila Hashkes & Bryan Burgess

- Scheduled Friday, May 19th 6pm - 8pm in the cafeteria; setup time for presenting families is 5pm.
- Currently have 9 regions being represented (India, Columbia, Mexico, Jerusalem**, Jordan, Kosovo, Switzerland, Guatemala, and Kyrgyz Republic)
- Registration to present a region, culture & traditions has been extended. Please email internationalnight@louiseacherpta.org to register, including your family name, region and best contact method.

Silent Auction - Kinny Mu

- Went live Sunday, April 9th at 3pm and has been going well. Total of 61 items donated by local businesses, LAE families, and our generous faculty/staff.
- There are several teachers who generously donated their time and it would be great to have some great bids on them. Some teachers' items currently have zero bids.
- Buy Now items available as well.
- To date, raised close to \$3,700.
- Beneficial to share more widely. Broader viewers would be advantageous.
- Ends Sunday, April 23rd at 9pm. One last announcement in the Sunbeam to go out.

Pizza Bingo - Pam Lombardi

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- Signup Genius is lacking volunteers, which is crucial for event, so we want to stress that in our upcoming communications to parents/staff.
- We will have a 50/50 raffle for one week of summer camp at iCode (value \$500)! 10 tickets for \$10. 50% of proceeds will go to the LAES PTA and 50% to the LAES 6th Grade end of year events.

Yearbook - Anita Cheng

- We have extended the yearbook sales deadline to 4/21. As of 4/16 we currently have sold 356 / 401 contracted books (89%).
- The PTA will also purchase some extra copies for the school.
- Our current status: 401 - 356 (sold) - 8 (6th grade) - 5 (school) = 32 extra copies to have on hand to sell for the school if we decide to order the 401 books. Last year, I believe we had about 33 extra copies and were sold out.

O&A / Comments : None

Look out for more information on the following upcoming events:

- Deadline to order Yearbook (April 21)
- Pizza Bingo (April 28)
- Teacher Appreciation Week (May 1-5)
- International Night (May 19)
- Field Day (June 9th)
- 6th Grade Celebration (June 9th)

Our next, and final, PTA meeting will be Thursday, May 25

Meeting called to close : 8:45pm