



Louise Archer Elementary School PTA

General PTA Meeting - November 13, 2024 (Technical Difficulties)
November 19th (Redo)

Call to Order: 7:00 PM

Note: Thank you for your patience, especially those waiting for last week's update. We faced issues with two-factor identification that affected meeting attendance. We appreciate the strict security measures and everyone who helped organize this meeting on short notice during this busy time.

Principal's Report - Michelle Makrigrigos & Jennifer Condra

• Construction/Renovation Update:

- I don't have a lot of updates to share, but I'm excited to announce that the front area is now open! An impressive new flagpole has been installed, mirroring the one at the high school, and it stands proudly in front of the building. Additionally, we've laid fresh green sod, and the fencing has been taken down. As for the backfield, it will require approximately 90 days for the grass to grow, so we're optimistic about gaining access to those fields by January or February.
- Currently, we are finalizing a punch list of items, and I know at some point we will have an official ribbon-cutting ceremony to welcome everyone in. However, we anticipate this won't happen until late winter or early spring.
- We're also focusing on landscaping, murals, and other enhancements to make the building uniquely ours. While the construction is finished, we are still working on customizing it to fit our school's identity.

• PTA Grants

- Lastly, I want to express gratitude to the PTA and everyone involved for the PTA grants. 14 grants were approved and our teachers are truly excited to implement their creative ideas alongside the students

Treasurer's Report - Sabiha Khan

- The balance at the close of September was approximately \$24,400, and by the end of October, it has risen to about \$28,500. While this looks promising, let's break down what it signifies regarding our income. As of October's end, our funding mainly came from membership dues and donations, totaling around \$5,500, with about \$450 raised in October alone. If you have friends or family who haven't yet become paying members, please encourage them to join us.

Louise Archer Elementary School PTA

General PTA Meeting - November 13, 2024 (Technical Difficulties)
November 19th (Redo)

Sock Hop - Reshma Patel

Note: We sincerely apologize to Reshma, Molly, and Erin in particular, as we know you had updates you wanted to share last week before the sock hop. Unfortunately, that didn't happen due to our technical difficulties. Instead, we are here to express our heartfelt gratitude for the incredible work you did on the Sock Hop. Thank you so much!

- It was an amazing turnout as always. Interestingly, I think with more advertising, we might have faced more pizza issues. I always order extra, yet we still seem to run out, which is a great problem to have! Hopefully, the 6th graders had a fantastic time, as they always do. I also hope they managed to raise a significant amount of money; I told them their goal was to surpass last year's impressive total.
- We did take some notes for improvements and things we'd like to enhance for next year. One key point for those who attended and had a good time is that Molly and I are considering transitioning the event to new organizers. A fresh energy could be beneficial. If anyone is interested or feels motivated, we have all the information to share. A special shout-out to Erin, who joined our committee and was incredible upfront! Overall, it was a wonderful experience, and I hope everyone enjoyed it.
- If you have any feedback or suggestions on what didn't go well or what you would have liked to see done differently, please send those our way. We maintain a running list of improvements each year.



Sock Hop This Friday - Buy tickets for food & drink

There is **no charge for entry** to the Sock Hop. All students and parents are welcomed to join the party for free! Tickets that are sold are used to purchase food and beverages at the event.

Tickets are \$1 each. For purchases of fewer than 10 tickets, please bring cash on the night of the event. Purchases of 10 or more tickets may be purchased with a credit card on the night of the event or by [clicking here](#) to purchase in advance. There will be an express line to pick up tickets that are pre-purchased. **Online ticket sales stop on Thursday at 10:00 PM!**

Pizza by the Slice - 2 tickets
Sneak Beer Fizz! - 2 tickets
Soda or Water - 1 ticket

Be sure to bring cash the night of the event to tip the 6th graders that are "hopping" the tables. We'll have a QR for Venmo as well, but the 6th graders get 100% of cash tips to help fund their year-end celebration.

Put your dancing shoes on for the Sock Hop at Louise Archer. The event will be on **Friday, November 19th**. We will have food in the Cafeteria from 6:00 - 7:30 pm and a DJ in the Gym from 8:00 - 8:30pm. As always, our 6th graders will top the tables and raise funds via tips for their 6th grade celebration.

Please note, this is **NOT** a drop off event. Chaperones, parents and caregivers must ensure that children follow schoolwide hallway expectations as they move from the cafeteria to the gym. No children are permitted on the playground or backstop during this event.

Please consider volunteering and/or donating needed supplies via [this link](#) for this event to make it a success! Information for pre-sale purchase for food & drink will be provided closer to the event. We greatly appreciate your help and we can't wait to host this fun event for students and families! Contact [Molly Zhao](#) or [Reshma Patel](#) with any questions.

Sixth Grade Celebration - Lynde Herzbach

- A big thank you to Reshma and Molly. The sixth graders had an amazing time, and we truly appreciate their participation and the chance to earn tips. If it's alright, I can share the Venmo details in the chat once more. We'll also send it out again for those who couldn't join the top-up but still want to support the sixth-grade event. They can conveniently send their contributions directly via Venmo.
- Now, regarding this year's sixth-grade celebration: for those who may not be aware, we haven't hosted it at the school since 2019 due to COVID and then construction. For the past three years, it has taken place off-site. This year, however, we are thrilled to announce that we will be back at Louise Archer! The celebration is scheduled for Friday, June 6th, from 6:00 to 9:00 PM.
- We will need plenty of assistance to make this event happen, as there are numerous committees involved in its organization. The focus is all on the kids! There will be pizza, a DJ, a photo booth, and a quiet space for games.
- We welcome all sixth-grade parents who are interested in helping with the organization. We are in the process of setting up a kickoff meeting. Many sixth-grade families have already received emails from us regarding this. We are now transitioning into the planning phase, so if you're interested in volunteering or contributing in any way, please respond to the emails from our group email address, which is LAES6thgradecelebration2025@gmail.com. I'll also share it in the chat. We're actively searching for a location that can accommodate everyone, and we'll provide those details soon.

Louise Archer Elementary School PTA

General PTA Meeting - November 13, 2024 (Technical Difficulties)

November 19th (Redo)

International Night - Arvind Jairam

- We're planning to hold International Night on the Friday following Valentine's Day, which is February 21st, and we're hoping for a great turnout like we had last year. I could use one more volunteer since there will be a table and many activities happening that night; an extra set of hands would be very helpful. Additionally, there are various logistics to coordinate with different participants. If anyone is interested, please feel free to email Liz, me, or anyone else involved.
- However, I would also appreciate help with planning since next year will likely be my last year assisting with this event. It would be beneficial for someone to shadow me this year to understand the process, especially since my son is in fifth grade.

Mini Grants - Cathy Chen

- For those who may not be familiar with the PTA's mini grant program, every year, the PTA allocates a substantial amount of funding to teachers to enrich the educational experiences of all students. This is my third year assisting with the mini grant program, and this year the PTA has set aside \$9,000.
- We conduct two rounds of mini grant requests. The first round concluded at the end of the first quarter, during which we received 12 requests, and I'm pleased to announce that all 12 were awarded, totaling around \$4,000. The grants awarded will benefit all students at Louise Archer. Some funded projects include replacing pop-up goals for PE classes, creating a sensory room led by some of our teachers, and purchasing puzzles and activities for the Brain Lab. We are also acquiring yoga mats for classrooms and flexible seating, along with math manipulatives. There are many fantastic ideas that the teachers have submitted this year.
- Our second round of requests is expected to open by mid to late January, after the holidays. If you would like to collaborate with your teachers on some great ideas, please inform them. There is additional funding from the PTA for the second round. I want to give a big shout-out to the treasurer for her support in coordinating with all the teachers and myself to ensure these items are purchased this week. I know it's a lot of work, so thank you very much.

Silent Auction - Liz Young

- Our silent auction for this year is shaping up wonderfully and will launch on December 6th. This event will be entirely virtual, so be sure to mark your calendars! The auction will be available online until December 16th, which falls on a Friday, providing you with around ten days for some holiday shopping. You can explore unique last-minute gift ideas from the comfort of your home. As the date approaches, anticipate receiving numerous emails with details on how to access the auction link.
- We have an incredible array of donations this year—some familiar favorites and some exciting new items that you're sure to love. Here are a few sneak peeks:
 - Camp programs, including summer camps, sports camps, break camps, and yoga camps.
 - An assortment of fitness items for adults, along with martial arts programs.
 - The teacher experiences, which are always a highlight and often the most sought-after items in the auction, will be even more amazing this year!
 - One particularly fun item is the chance to help with baby chicks in the spring—a truly delightful experience when those eggs hatch.
 - Additionally, the Vienna Police Department is generously donating a ride to school in a police cruiser, complete with flashing lights. The kids will absolutely love it!

Louise Archer Elementary School PTA

General PTA Meeting - November 13, 2024 (Technical Difficulties)
November 19th (Redo)

Walking Wednesday - Craig Floyd (Liz Young)

- Just a reminder, tomorrow is the last Walking Wednesday for this calendar year, and we aim to start again as soon as possible in 2025.
- However, you can look forward to Walking Wednesday returning in early 2025, weather permitting.
- Additionally, Cafe Marie kindly donates coffee each week, so don't forget to bring your reusable coffee mugs if you're walking.

Holiday Cookie Carry - Lauren Padgett

- We invite you to bring a batch (or two) of your favorite cookies or baked goods (in a disposable container) to the teacher's lounge on the morning of Monday, December 16.
- All treats are welcome! If baking isn't your thing, store-bought items are also appreciated.
- Please use following SUG: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0B4AAAA62EA5FE3-46295725-2023#/>
- While ingredient lists are not required, feel free to label your goodies with their type/flavor or any special dietary information, such as gluten-free, and I will do my best to include that information.
- For drop-off, students can leave their treats at a designated table in the school lobby upon arrival on Monday morning. If you need to drop off items earlier, parents can bring them to my house the weekend before. Please feel free to contact me at lauren.padgett15@gmail.com



Presidents Report - Liz Young

Spirit Wear:

- Last week, we had a Spirit Wear ad that was supposed to be shared during this meeting. We'll ensure you receive all the information regarding current discounts and upcoming Black Friday sales. If you're looking for Spirit Wear, feel free to check our website.

A 'Spiritwear Weekly Ad' graphic for November 8-14, 2024. The ad is divided into several sections, each featuring a different clothing item and a discount. The items include: 'Cyclone Tie Dyes' (15% off), 'Crystal Tie Dye Tees' (15% off), 'Gildan Hoodies' (20% off), 'Gildan Sudaderas con Capucha' (20% off), 'BACKPACKS!' (15% off), 'iMOCHILAS!' (15% off), 'Ladies' Stripe Double Hood' (10% off), 'Ladies' Fanatics' (10% off), 'Capucha Doble a Rayas Para Mujer' (10% off), and 'Señoras' Fanatics' (10% off). The ad also mentions 'Flat Rate Shipping!' and '¡Tarifa plana de envío!'.

Louise Archer Elementary School PTA

General PTA Meeting - November 13, 2024 (Technical Difficulties)
November 19th (Redo)

Presidents Report - Liz Young (cont'd)

Early Release Monday:

- Don't forget, December 9th marks our next early release day, which falls on a Monday. Everyone should have received a text and an email with a link detailing the need to inform the school about your plans for the remainder of the schedule. On early release Mondays, it's essential to complete a survey for each child in your household individually, rather than submitting just one for all. Please ensure you fill out these surveys to assist in necessary planning.

Join the PTA:

- As always, I want to encourage you to join the PTA. If you haven't signed up yet, or if you joined last year thinking it carries over, please note that it does not. For those interested in becoming members, please check our website for various membership options and levels available.

Our Next In-Person Meeting:

- Our upcoming meeting will be held in person on January 14th, featuring a guest speaker. For those who attended our last in-person gathering, we had an incredible speaker from the Center for Missing and Exploited Children discussing cyber security and how to keep our kids safe online. If you weren't able to join us and would like the materials from that session, please reach out, and we'll arrange to get you a copy. It was a truly excellent event, so I highly encourage you to attend the next one if you can!

Questions:

1. Question: When will the favorite things list for this year's teachers be released? I have access to previous years, but I need the updated information, especially since we've added more staff.

Answer: That's a great question. I don't have the answer right now, but I'll make a note of it and I'll follow up not just with you, but with everyone.

2. Question: Will there be a Book Fair this year?

Answer: The last I heard, Gene Simpson, our librarian, has been working on organizing an in-person book fair. There was an attempt to hold it in the fall, but that didn't work out due to vendor issues. I believe she was considering some dates in March, although I'm not sure if anything has been confirmed yet.

Call Meeting to Close: 7:48pm