

Willard PTO Meeting

Monday, November 1st, 2021, 0845am

via Zoom, per Pandemic Regulations

Join Zoom Meeting

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3542037976?pwd=VGlJMFVSeU5jUnVXb2tQRVgxOEpIQT09

Meeting ID: 354 203 7976

Passcode: 406490

1. Call to Order. Meeting called to order at 0848

1. Report: Superintendent (Dr. Ed Condon)

One of the things the district has been great about is pivoting and finding ways to accomplish activities and tasks within pandemic parameters so thank you to the PTO as well!

Illinois School Report Card is out. Illinoisreportcard.com is where you will find the data. The tests were taken by schools within Illinois at different times throughout the year because of the unusual circumstances of the past years, so the data is not complete. There are no “norms” to compare to this year. MAP performance is what our assessment is based on. The results are largely what we expected, we are high performing in many areas and lacking in others. The results will be talked about in depth at the School Board meeting tomorrow night. Please join to hear more about our results.

School Equity Project has been working on some exciting items. One opportunity that will be unveiled later this year is providing a space for students who would like to be more involved in School/District decisions. Information is forthcoming.

Parent/Teacher Conferences are 11/10 & 11. Please sign up so we can talk as a team about each student’s needs and achievements.

The survey gauging interest in vaccine clinic for younger students has been sent out and many have responded. This clinic is a partnership with Jewel-Osco. The most popular date is not available, so we may need to hold the clinic earlier in the week which is not ideal but we would like to hold the clinic before winter break.

We have seen a decrease in cases which makes us happy and optimistic.

Q: From Stephanie, would you like us to help advertise the survey? A: No thank you bc it is almost time to close the survey but we may ask for help on advertising clinic once it is scheduled.

1. Report: Principal (Diane Wood and Christine Gerges)

Via Christine: Thank you Dr. Condon for giving our students the opportunity to receive their vaccines in a clinic.

Thank you to the PTO for the principal day gift sent to her office.

Happy Halloween! Make sure you check out the virtual Halloween costume parade.

Grade level teams have met this month to do benchmark assessments on reading, math, and writing on each student. This experience is great and the principals are so happy to have the opportunity to join in these conversations.

A big change this month is that students have been allowed to play with their grade level peers not just their class so there have been discussions on making new friends and how to play safely in general.

Ms. Millon’s class led the virtual Town Hall today and touched on this topic as well.

Parent/Teacher Conference sign up closes on Nov 5th. Please encourage parents to sign up.

Virtaul Book fair is being organized by the librarians. This will be online and held during the week of conferences.

Picture retakes are 11/10. You will receive pictures before this date so you can make decision on whether to retake.

We have several nonattendance days coming up, view your calendar.

1. Report: Presidents (Stephanie VanDerSchie and Anna Parks)

Fundraising idea from Ms.Parker, shared via email, copied here:

I just watched the latest Mark Rober YouTube video with my son and wanted to pass this on. <https://youtu.be/pXDx6DjNLDU>

Is this is something the PTO would like to promote and possibly donate? I have some alt ideas rolling around in my head too… Any Artsonia purchases roll into a donation… or a portion of the current Artsonia fund gets rolled into #TeamSeas… just thought I’d run this opportunity by you!

Please watch this video and respond with any thoughts you have on this opportunity. One idea could be a discussion during Town Hall, presented by an individual class or a Kindly Wizard project.

1. Report: Secretary (Erin Llanes)

Minutes from October have been sent out, I did not receive any corrections.

Stephanie moved to approve the minutes, Gretchen seconded.

1. Report: Treasurer (Carrie Ryan and Ursula Canli)

No report from treasurer.

1. Report: Vice President of Volunteers (Rachel Dardis)

Halloween parties were held and activities were planned by Room Parents. These seemed to go well and general responses were that parents were excited to be involved again.

Approved snack list was changed last minute. The popsicles are no longer allowed so we just can use the approved snack list that is available on line.

Q: Can snacks be eaten in the classroom? A: Snacks are encouraged to be eaten outside or taken home.

Many comments on how the students were so excited to have this celebration.

1. Report: Vice Presidents of Technology (Ginny Sara)

Update via email, copied here:

-Sent the 2020-2021 Yearbook list for when they are ready to distribute.

-Still working on getting new students uploaded to RevTrak.

1. Report: Vice President of Communications (Gretchen Radach and Meredith Maienza)

No updates.

1. Report: School Board Liaison (Katie Avalos)

No report.

1. Committee Reports

Please provide a brief update (no longer than five minutes) for the following committees:

* **School Picture Day/Retakes** (Brenna Brown)

November 11th

* **Kindly Wizards** (Madeline Weldon-Linne)

Gift baskets are being handed out through Beyond Hunger and the wizards will be making cards, signs and decorations. This opportunity will also be available to all students who which to make a card.

We will look at the ocean project info and see if this would work for Kindly Wizards.

* **Yoga** (Kelsey Wilson)

No issues

* **Fun Lunch** (Ellen Douglas)

Ellen is collecting notes on when students/parents are happy and what didn’t work. So, going forward, this process will be simplified.

* **Spirit Wear** (Kimberly Hlavin)

We have had good sales and have a profit recorded. Extra product has been ordered so we will have some table sales going forward. The table will also have some examples so that parents can actually see the products and order in the Spring.

Kim requests some help on this committee to assist this year and maybe take over next year. We may also transition to ApparelNow next year. This is ongoing.

We will advertise table sales before it is held.

* **Legacy Sports** (Colette Basil)

There will be a four week session upcoming before winter break. Logistics are being worked out.

* **G4G** (Lindsay McIntyre)

Provided via email, copied here:

Walk/Bike to School Week went GREAT! We averaged almost 225 students walking or biking each day with our numbers growing each day ... Friday saw 277 students! The t-shirt strings seemed to be popular and we recommend using them as "prizes" again next year. THANK YOU to all of the parents who volunteered.

Our monthly sustainable swaps on Facebook are getting a lot of traction. We had 60 comments to our October post and a lot of costumes offered up but not many takers. We ended up facilitating the donation of about 15 costumes to UCan for a Halloween event they were hosting. Today (Nov. 1) we'll be posting about winter accessories.

We reached out to Val Smart about starting a Green Team for our third and fourth graders. Val is focused right now on Garden Club and asked that we wait until early next year to start this ... which probably makes the most sense as hopefully we'll have vaccines for the kids by then. This will remain on our radar.

The annual pumpkin smash is at Roosevelt on Saturday morning (9 am to noon). We're promoting this composting event on Facebook and the Wizard Weekly. Willard families can drop their pumpkins off or Haven and I will be driving around picking up pumpkins left on the curb. Please remove all decorations / lights. It's a fun way to "green your Halloween!"

* **Hospitality** (Anne Mastropietro)

Teacher dinners are being planned for the 10th and 11th during conferences. The first night will be Mediterranean, working on the second night. We are over budget bc each meal needs to be individually packaged due to covid restrictions. This committee could also use volunteers next year to take over the role.

Q: Is there anything you need form Christine or Diane? A: Yes, we will talk about timing and set up off line.

Thank you from Christine for this wonderful treat. Teachers are so thankful for this dinner.

1. Old News
2. New Business
3. Public Comment
4. Adjournment at 9:26

\*\*\* Next meeting: December 6th, 0845 \*\*\*