

Orchard Home and School Association
Friday, November 18, 2016
November Minutes

Call to Order: 8:55 AM

Motion to Approve October 2016 Meeting Minutes

Approved by Alison Stephens and Karyn Schoenherr

Teacher Report: Spotlight on Fifth Grade

- (Saglimbeni, Porod, and Price)
 - Focus on Organization, Using Binders/Notebooks to Organize Work, Organization of Digital work, Google Classroom
 - Focus on Planning and Time Management– Students use a Daily Planner to independently record track their assignments. This is an important tool for teaching responsibility and accountability as well as organization and time management.
 - Chrome Books– Organizing digital assignments in Google Classroom
 - Home Organization– Teaching strategies for organizing students’ home lives include: Afterschool Checklist, Pack-Up Checklist, Instruments, etc. The goal is to have students take ownership of their own materials and be held accountable for their own responsibilities.
 - Encourage risk-taking, taking responsibility, and building their confidence as you gradually release, etc., sometimes students need to make a mistake and experience the consequences in order to really learn a lesson on behavior.
 - Focus on different writing genre units throughout the year, right now memoir writing is the focus.

Nurse Report: Karen Coates on this year’s Health and Family Life Curriculum

- This curriculum is designed to support what you are telling your children at home.
- Sex Ed lessons are very simple and to the point, they are taught co-ed to dispel the mystery about menstruation, erections, etc. There is one lesson taught solely to the girls called “Girl Power.”
- Advises not to have “The Talk” but instead impart information at teachable moments, using the correct vocabulary.
- Focus on using correct terminology and getting kids comfortable with technical vocabulary (and also exploring slang and sexist, offensive terms and terminology)
- Topics includes: body changes, voice changes, body hair, nocturnal emissions, acne, height, puberty, sexuality, sexual exploitation, and the importance of owning your own body.
- Websites such as Kids Health and PBSkids.org are great resources that Nurse Coates will post on Skyward and encourages you to navigate these sites with your child

- The goal is to provide a safe, non-judgmental space to learn
- So far, students have covered smoking, sexual exploitation, and will be moving onto alcohol and alcohol abuse. There is a time line available to know when lessons are happening.

President's Welcome and Committee Reports, Lauren DiMauro:

- Book Fair was a great success
- Still without a yearbook chair

Treasurer's Report, Nicole Richards & Caron Katz:

- Fun Day was a huge success
- HSA Membership/Directory drive was successful
- Pizza and Bakes Sales are nearing half way to their goal
- Orchard HSA Taxes have been filed
- Box Tops check should be coming in
- We started spending \$1500 of the \$7000 STEAM money. We have invested in a mobile digital video studio, a circuitry kit for every grade, forces and motion kits, and supplies for the Bridge Engineering and Building Contest.

Committee/Fundraising Reports:

- HSA Membership/Directory – huge success, the ads covered our total printing cost
- Box tops raised \$486.00, next due date for Box Tops would be 1/13/16
- Jingle Bell Jog- Collected \$685 cash and converted to Grocery Gift Cards which was the preferred donation.
- Grocery Gift Cards- These are a win win!

Federated HSA Update

- RHS Alumni – Orchard HSA will buy a brick for \$125 (using the \$120 budget overage from Fun Day), and please spread the word to buy bricks
- GWMS Bricks will be sent to Grade 5 parents (support STEAM)

Teacher Report, Mrs. LaBarr:

- Dan Gutman makes an author visit on 12/2
- Book Fair was a huge success. Thank you!

Principal Report, Mary Ferreri:

- Wellbeing Series kicks off with Dr. Robert Brooks: Fostering Family Closeness and Respect.
- Have begun spending \$1500 of \$7500 allocated for STEAM
- PARCC results are in and overall our students did very well. Students tended to score higher on the Math than the ELA sections, on average.

Questions?

Adjournment