

**Jacob Wismer (JW) Parent Teacher Organization (PTO)
Meeting Minutes
May 6, 2015**

Welcome and Introductions

President's Report: Kathy Leis called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m. Introductions were made. There were 16 people in attendance. Kathy reported on the following:

- 2015-2016 proposed PTO Board is as follows:
 - President: Bradi Gates
 - V.P. of Community Events: Sarah Sperbeck-Koenders
 - V.P. of Fundraising: Amy Charon
 - Co-Volunteer Coordinator: Mary Kelly Rossow
 - Co-Volunteer Coordinator: Amy Roskowski
 - Treasurer: Latsy Walker
 - Secretary: Merideth Manwiller
 - Member at Large: Jen Politsch

Members will be voted in at the June meeting.

- Cherie Pun Memorial Update: Cherie's friends are still working on deciding on memorial. The hope is that there will be a final decision by the next PTO meeting in June.

Secretary's Report: Erin Ertz had no updates.

Principal's Report: Joan McFadden reported on the following:

The 2015-2016 teachers/grade level is as follows: K – 4 classes, 1st – 5 classes, 2nd – 4 classes, 3rd – 5 classes, 4th – 5 classes, 5th – 5 classes.

Teacher staffing is as follows: Intervention – 1, Music – 2, PE – 2, Tech Lab – 1, Library Asst – 1, Student Supervisor – 1, Counselor – 1, ESL Teachers – 2, Resource Room - .5 Final staffing is not yet known at this time and could change based on actual enrollment.

Community Partnership Team: Joan McFadden has final breakfast tomorrow (May 7th) at Village Baptist. Kathleen High will facilitate Before School Tech Club and is thrilled to be doing so. Will be asking/scheduling experts in field to come in and work with kids on certain projects. Getting all set up for next year.

VP Fundraising's Report: Bradi Gates reported that she has received a check from Piccolo Mondo for \$228.48, which is a little bit lower than last year, but still

one of the top earners. Bradi is working on scheduling a Sweet Tomatoes fundraiser for May or early June.

VP Community Events: Anne Daniels reported on the following:

- **Junior Great Books:** Anne reported on behalf of Shanna Lonquist that she will be using \$1,000 to purchase 2 Series 1 teacher manuals and about 16 books for both 3rd and 4th grade. Anne Daniels will take over as chairperson next year. She will be using next year's \$1,000 this summer to purchase 2 Series 2 teacher manuals and about 16 books for both 3rd and 4th grade. 2nd grade received new materials a couple of years ago. 5th grade materials are in pretty decent shape and do not get used as often as other grade levels. 3rd and 4th are pleading for new materials as they use theirs pretty heavily.
- **Author Visits:** Anne reported on behalf of Jillian Starr that Nick Bruel has committed to Jacob Wismer on October 20th for a full day, giving two presentations (K-2 and 3-4) as well as one 5th grade writing symposium. Details will be worked out in the fall. Jarrett Krosoczka will be here on November 17th. We'll be sharing him that day with Oak Hills Elementary. He will give two presentations, 1 for K-2 and 1 for 3-5. Details will be worked out in fall.
- **Fifth Grade Planning:** Margaret Littman reported on the following:

Yearbook:

- Michelle, Rodney, Marlo, Steffanie and Margaret have taken and gathered photos which are working their way to I-Shuan.
- Thank you to Colleen Scoggins for coordinating the art submissions.
- Student surveys are completed, thanks to the teachers for distributing, Stacey for typing them and Joy for proof reading.
- The individual class photos by the play structure were recently taken by Steffanie.
- Thank you Stacey and Mary Kelly for lining everyone up.
- Thank you Tammy for your clever photoshopping of the big 5th grade photo.
- I-Shaun has started putting in names, baby photos, memories and individual photos into layout.

Action items for yearbook:

- 5th grade teachers and Joan to provide "letter to students" for yearbook before memorial weekend (ideally-as book will begin printing shortly after memorial weekend)
- Margaret sent the big photo to Costco photo center and needs to pick it up. Adjusted the proportions by adding text "class of 2015" so it should fit in standard 11x14 mat.

- Mary Kelly will mark the mat for signatures, where the frame doesn't overlap the mat to avoid signatures being hidden by frame. The mat board will be circulated to each classroom for signatures in the next few weeks.
- I-Shuan will get a sample printed at printer (local UPS store offered to print the books at a lower cost than GISI in Tigard. Compare the quality and hopefully have a closer cheaper option) Save a little bit more, about \$.70 per book. 100 pages. Will take about a week to do.
- I-Shuan will continue gathering candid, group and other photos for yearbook.

Outdoor School:

- Volunteer drivers and luggage loaders/unloaders are assigned for May 18th and 20th.
- UHaul key will be picked up by Margaret May 15th or 16th.
- Driver Monday: Margaret and Tanya. Wednesday: Nanda Kishore. Back-up drivers have volunteered in case we can't fit all the luggage in. Javed Anwar and Marlo McIlraith.

Action items for Outdoor School:

- Class Coordinators to send a Reminder on May 16th (Saturday) to parents for outdoor school (Help Counter and via 5th grade class coordinator's distribution list)
- Keep luggage conservative (use small duffel bags rather than large suitcases PLEASE) Drop off time for luggage is 7-7:45 am on May 18th in lower lot.
- Send Off Party June 10th:
- Tricia Ball has announced the next 5th grade sendoff party planning for Monday 7pm Bethany Public House. They need to report expense findings and estimations for food, rentals/activities.
- Many volunteers have signed up for the day of party. Make the party very simple for teachers, sign the yearbooks. Tricia working with party planning group on narrowing down food and outdoor activities, rental stuff on June 10th. Outdoor school lots of volunteers, and drivers are ready. Next couple weeks are busy.
- Celebrate the Arts: Kathy Leis reported on behalf of Melody Stringer that Celebrate the Arts is the evening of May 7th from 6-7:30pm. The theme is cultural diversity. Melody could use all the help she can get and will be at the school all day if anyone wants to come help.
- Staff Appreciation: Kathy reported on behalf of Vilay Fortner that Staff Appreciation is the week of May 11th. There will be a different theme each day, and Vilay welcomes anyone who wants to help decorate. She will be in

the staff room at 9am every morning and could use extra help decorating on Friday afternoon at 1pm.

Volunteer Coordinator's Report: Mary Kelly Rossow had no updates.

Treasurer's Report: Latsy Walker presented the proposed PTO budget for the 2015–2016 school year. The following changes were made:

Innisbrook - Decrease \$3000.00

Jog-A-Thon - Increase \$3000.00

Scrip Rebate - Increase \$200.00

Write-A-Check- Increase \$3000.00

Movie Night - Increase \$10.00

Scholarship Fund - Increase \$100.00

Author Visits - Increase \$1000.00

New Line Item - OMSI/Science Expo - \$600.00

PE Specialist - Increase by \$500.00 to \$1000.00 total. \$500 per specialist

Music Specialist - Increase by \$500.00 to \$1000.00 total. \$500 per specialist

New Line Item -Purchase new Help Desk Computer - \$1000.00

New Line Item - Website Hosting - \$33.60

New Line Item - Domain Registration - \$10.99

Taxes - \$70.00

The PTO Board will vote on the Final Budget at the June meeting.

Member at Large Report: Tammy Robb had no updates.

PTO Liaison: Dan Silver provided the following grade level updates:

Kindergarten: The kindergarten is working on the life cycle of a plant by planting plants- Come see the "kinder garden" by recess to the progress. Many of us have started a poetry unit, with others beginning soon. Our fairy house "engineering and design" unit is in full swing. The children draw plans, make a list of materials, build the structure out of natural materials, write a letter to the fairies and then reflect in writing what they thought about the process. We have also been doing many forms of art to put on display for the Celebrate the Arts night. We invite everyone to see our Eric Carle wall, it's beautiful. Lastly, we are practicing our songs and poems for our performance on May 27. It's going to be another masterpiece! Thanks again for all your support!

1st Grade: Poetry has been our focus because April is National Poetry Month. We spent a lot of time reading and writing poems. Acrostic poems, diamantes, haiku and shape poems are just a few of the types of poems that we have been reading and writing. We also learned about using some literary devices such as alliteration, onomatopoeia, personification and similes. We also focused on using our five senses to find good adjectives for our writing. Our kids wrote some AMAZING poetry!

2nd Grade: As usual, good times are aplenty in 2nd grade! The students are making great progress in the reading and writing goals and the teachers are very proud of the strong efforts made by so many of their students. Way to go kids! In math, second graders have been focusing on telling time, counting money, and geometric attributes. This is in addition to the already learned place value, addition, and subtraction skills. Our Solar System Projects were a huge success with all of the support from our wonderful families. We are looking forward to our Trade Fair coming up too (a fun way to learn about supply and demand). We are so excited for our upcoming Ramona Quimby field trip on May 19! Time to get our Cleary on!

3rd Grade: Portland Field Trip is coming up on May 12. We will be touring downtown Portland with the Urban Tour Group. Our field trip will end at the Washington Park International Rose Garden for lunch. Engage New York - Teachers are trying out several of the Engage New York math units. Architect in Schools - Each 3rd grade class worked with an architect to learn fundamentals of architecture. Student work culminated in developing cities of the future. These final products will be shared at Celebrate the Arts. Third graders are currently working with a dance instructor from Body Vox to put their own poetry to dance. This is part of the district Arts for Learning program. Mobile Museum is visiting 3rd grade to help us learn more about the Native Americans in Portland's history. We have had the Portland History trunk from the Oregon Historical Society.

4th Grade: Fourth grade is a little over halfway way finished with the SBAC testing. This week four out of the five classes will take and complete the Math Performance Task. All that is left after this is the Computer Adaptive Test! Last week 4th and 5th grade were privy to a presentation given by motivational speaker Gabe Murfitt. His message on confidence, leadership, perseverance, and respect were very well received. It was truly inspirational! Fourth grade is well on its way with the study of the Oregon Trail. Simulations are in full swing with Pioneers having to outfit wagon companies with necessary food and supplies and make decisions such as whether to ford rivers and risk drowning or pay exorbitant ferry fees, take time to hunt along the trail, or even which direction to take.

All of the classes are also involved with classroom businesses and we will have an international business day towards the end of this month as well as during the last week of school.

5th Grade: We are excited about Celebrate the Arts! It sounds like some fifth graders are doing a cultural booth which will be great speech experience for participants. We are gearing up for Outdoor School! In two weeks, we will be learning outside in the wild. It's such a wonderful, enriching environment to learn in and we really appreciate all of PTO's financial support and volunteer hours in getting us there. We are doing all sorts of other projects, such as Arts 4 Learning (using the novel "Seed Folks" as our basis for learning, and it's culminating in an art project with professional artist - paid for by district grant funds). Some of us recently wrapped up "2035" stories (about a day in the student's life 20 years from now), and we have all participated in Junior Achievement. Some other units of study we've embarked upon have studying the events leading up to the Revolutionary War, and Newbery book projects.

PE: Mr. V....Teamwork, cooperation activities, Mr. A...Racquet/Paddle sports-tennis & badminton, Preparing for end of year including Field Day.

A huge thank you from the specialist team for the additional funds. We are very lucky and grateful for having such a supportive parent community who values the mental and physical health and well-being of their children through music and movement.

ESL: Please tell them a million thanks for the materials they purchased for us. The kids are really enjoying using them to learn. -Heidi

Music: Belgique: In 4th and 5th grade we are taking a look at trumpets and learning about the very basics of what it takes to play one. The trumpet instrument cart will be at Jacob Wismer from April 20-June 4.

In 3rd grade we have begun ukuleles. There are lots of 2 chord songs we'll be singing and playing.

In 3rd, 2nd and 1st we are putting the finishing touches on our songs for Celebrate the Arts. After that, we'll be moving on to using classroom instruments (xylophones, unpitched percussion instruments) with our singing and movement games and activities. Many thanks!

Music: Welch: Kindergarten: Learning about instruments of the orchestra as we listen to well-known orchestral pieces, such as Pictures at an Exhibition. Then, we

create movements to those pieces. Whether working with a partner, within a group, or by ourselves, we make use of our knowledge of locomotor and non-locomotor movements. Watching parts of Fantasia 2000.

1st Grade: Concentrating on our performance pieces for Celebrate the Arts. Also studying the instruments of the orchestra and creating movements. Watching parts of Fantasia 2000, identifying instruments, and enjoying Listening to Pictures at an Exhibition.

2nd Grade: Studying instruments of the orchestra and working on our song for Celebrate the Arts. We had a short drum circle unit, where we followed the conductor's cues, played several rhythm games, and layered increasingly difficult rhythms within our circle. Smiles galore!

3rd Grade: Drum circles (see above)! We composed music, in groups, to accompany various poems. Working together, we made decisions on instrumentation (texture), dynamics, rhythm, and movement. The creativity was phenomenal! Thanks to Ms. Belgique, we are also putting the finishing touches on our Celebrate the Arts performance songs: selections from Portland, A Musical.

4th/5th Grades: We have recently begun our trumpet unit, and it is going very well! Our goal is to be able to play at least one song. So far, we have learned four notes: G, F, E, and D!

New Business: Jen Polisch has been emailing Colin Arnold about Field Day and is working on finding popsicle donations. Kathy Leis talked about the The Giving Tree that the PTO started as a way for students and families to give back to the teachers. Each teacher gets 5 leaves that they can write a request on for \$10 or less. Kathy needs to put a permission slip box that will hang next to the tree. Dan Silver relayed a huge thank you on behalf of the Specialist team who feel very lucky and grateful for the PTO support.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:44.

The next PTO meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 3rd.