

March 15, 2023
Cornell Elementary PTO Meeting Minutes

Welcome & Introductions - Corinne Dyksen

- Call to Order, Introductions
- In attendance: Corinne Dyksen, Liz Lyuendyk, Joanna Purkiss, Rita Sharma, Holly Higgins, Kristin Hundt, Tracy Ojerio, Margaret Cook, Brittany Martinez, Kavita Drolet

Principal's Report - Mrs. Tracy Ojerio

- We are prepping for Science night on Monday
- Planning to reschedule Laurie Keller (author visit) for after spring break
- 4th graders are prepping for Kinawa next year
- 3rd and 4th grade MSTEP testing coming up after break (students will test on computers unless they have an IEP or 504). This test is beneficial for educators to get a feel for benchmarks and how they're being met so they can adjust instruction as necessary.
- Staff has been asking how they can be helpful for Global Cornell. PTO will reach out.
- Huge thank you to families who contributed to luncheon for conferences
- Great turn out for conferences – close to 100%!
- Conferences will be virtual again next year (unless families request an in person meeting), but we may offer the option of in person the following year
- May be helpful for PTO to know when newsletter weeks are so we can coordinate what needs to be included

Treasurer's Report - Corinne Dyksen

- Financial standing
 - Spent \$2829.54 on books for Read Together, Grow Together (we purchased them through Schulers and received a large discount) and \$15.89 on Zoom
 - Earned \$0
- [Student Directory](#)
 - We were originally going to combine directory with mileage club waiver form, but decided to separate them to make it less confusing
 - We will post QR code for directory form at science night and Global Cornell
 - Tracy can put it in the newsletter this week also

President's Report - [Corinne Dyksen](#)

- Teacher Lunch - huge thank you to parent helpers/donors! Dishes are in the lounge for anyone who left theirs.
- Sale of science fair boards - Friday afternoon at carline until 4:30pm - \$3 cash only
 - Science fair is open to all grades (53 entries so far!)
- DPC - Last meeting was on Security; next meeting is on 3/20 from 12-2:30pm at OPM and will be focused on Technology
 - February's meeting brought up a lot of questions regarding security
 - Jason Russell is our security coordinator
 - Changes will be made at Cornell regarding playground supervision, etc. (email was already sent out)
 - This summer a secure vestibule will be installed by the office and we'll retrain everyone how to enter the school
 - We've been very proactive in our security measures – we've been exceeding the standards that are required by the state
 - We mostly need to work on process changes – stricter rules about doors opening, training staff, and updating camera systems
 - OPS is looking at getting a school resource officer (plain clothed police officer at the high school, but this person may visit other schools) - concern about cost -

having this officer will be partially covered for 3 years, but after that, we are 100% responsible for cost

- Security questionnaire went out to all families – please fill out survey
- Dr. Coggins is working with us on taking preventative measures. Our hope is to prevent kids from wanting to harm others at all, before they even consider bringing weapons or inflicting harm.
- Tracy is our elementary rep on the district team with Dr. Coggins and Jason Russell (Risk Threat Assessment Team). They're working to develop threat assessment techniques.
- "See/hear something, say something." We teach this to children at the beginning of the year and throughout the entire school year.
 - How can we communicate our process to parents? We teach kids, but parents might not know what the process is.
- Kids are stressed, their mental health is not great (especially at high school level). More check ins might help as a preventative measure to help see which kids are struggling
 - Mysabers assessment is given as a screener to 2nd grade through 12th grade students 3 times a year (same time as NWEA testing)
- Interest in beautification where storage shed used to be
 - Nicki Berridge is willing to help take the lead on this
 - Her vision is to clean up the stepping stones and have a natural area
 - Meridian Township has Green Grant Program Applications
 - This grant may not be what we are looking for now, as the school will be torn down in upcoming years.

Grade Level Reports

- Kindergarten - Alison Hoepfner
 - Animal reports are going on this week
- First Grade - Lauren Mcwain
 - OG/Haggerty training seems to be working well!
 - Math and reading testing
- Second Grade - Kristin Hundt
 - Math - working on telling time
 - Literacy - working on breaking down words into sounds
- Third Grade - Courtney Rodziewicz
 - 2 and the zoo field trip went well
 - learning fractions
- Fourth Grade - Kristin Ritter
 - measurement testing has been postponed several times, but is finally happening

Fundraising Efforts for the 2022/2023 School Year

- Restaurant Night:
 - Culver's by Goldfish on **March 20, from 5-9pm**
 - Fliers going home on Friday
- Scrip Program:
 - Teacher Appreciation order sheet for gift cards will go home the week after spring break

PTO Sponsored Events

- Global Cornell: **April 28, 2023, 6-8pm**
 - Committee chairs: Kristin Ritter and Liz Luyendyk
 - 8 cultures so far (German, Scottish, Chinese, Indian, Lebanese, Mexican, African American, Korean)
 - Families will get passports to go around to each room

- ACTION volunteers from OHS are coming to help
- School Wide Reading Program: **Month of March 2023**
 - Laurie Keller - Author visit delayed because of snow day, now coming after spring break
 - K-2: The Secret Explorers and The Lost Whales
 - 3-4: Save me a Seat by Sarah Week and Gita Varadarajan
- Science Night: **March 20, 2023, 6:30-8pm**
 - Volunteers can enter at 6pm
 - Science projects will be delivered Monday morning at drop off
 - 20 tables are being delivered on Friday
 - Grant from OEF has been approved for \$350.00
 - Nature Discovery is confirmed (will set up in cafeteria)
 - Ecology (water bugs), Neuroscience, and DNA stations confirmed; 1 or 2 more would be awesome!
- Mileage Club:
 - Fitness finders have been purchased
 - We are hoping to be funded by MSU Health
 - Starts after spring break (M/W/F at lunch)
 - We need a coordinator... Margaret Cook might be willing
- Family Fun Night: **May 19, 2023**
- Field Day: **June 6, 2023** with a rain date of June 7th
- Teacher Appreciation Week: **May 7th-13th**
 - Brainstorm

Questions/Comments

- Parents are feeling disconnected from the school. Perhaps we can have more family events earlier in the year so people can get to know each other?
- How can we get more parents involved with PTO and volunteering? Rita will run a booth at science night to get volunteers for committees
- Kindergarten round up fliers about PTO – what is it, what does it do, events we host. Get kindergarten families involved right away.