

McKenzie PTA General Board Meeting Agenda and Minutes
September 11, 2020

- Welcome – Maggie O’Brien – 5 minutes
 - Call to Order/Purpose of Meeting/Agenda Review

- Introductions
 - Maggie O’Brien - President
 - Shauna Smith – President Elect
 - Gretchen Cappillo – Treasurer Elect
 - Leslie Hinchcliffe – Room Parent Elect
 - Christi Harrison – Treasurer
 - Seth Reinick – Community Builder
 - Suzanne Gayle – Parliamentarian
 - Ryan Olson – Community Builder Elect
 - Kate Schmitt – Ignite Elect
 - CJ Leahy – VP Communications
 - Robyn Schaefer – VP Communications Elect
 - Brandy Todd – VP Room Parent
 - Jane Tomlinson – Webmaster
 - Megan Virtanen – Fundraising Elect
 - Mary Fratini – Fundraising VP
 - Kelly Higgins – Enrichment VP
 - Dana Nasiakos – Principal

- Calendar
 - Ice cream social - finalizing date
 - Environmental Awareness day – finalizing details
 - Picture Day – October 13, Sign Up Genius will be sent

- Faculty Report -Christi Nebbia (see below)

- Principal Update - Dana Nasiakos (see below)

Committee Updates

Treasurer

- We put 70% in reserve last year in anticipation of this unique year
- We are currently reviewing what we will need to cut given the situation
- PTA Needs is replacing Ignite for this year, coordinating Ignite across all four elementary schools
-

Enrichment

- Ignite program is being reviewed across all four schools, will include both remote and in person

Room Parents

- Room parent spots are filled
- Will send out orientation information
- Room parents will help push Ignite through the classroom

Community Building

- Ice Cream Social – looking for new dates possibly 9/19 or 9/26, will advertise it
- Sharing Committee – More information will be sent soon
- Remote Family community building – setting up a committee, email Seth if interested

Communications

- Monitor form fill out by Wed night if you want something in
- Working on streamlining communication
- PTA Email letter will be sent to all families

Webmaster

- Be sure to check the website for important information

Faculty Report

Kindergarten: *ELA- We launched our new phonics program and introduced our Phonic's mascot- Mabel and elephant. We learned that Mabel starts with an M and studied her name. Next, we'll be studying each child's name in our classes. It's great for phonics, phonemic awareness and building community!*

Social Studies- We're into our All About Me unit and sharing about themselves by sharing a little person that they made to look like themselves. Not only are we building community with this activity but also speaking and listening skills as well.

Second Step- We also learned about Whole Body Listening- They learn the cuing system "eyes watching", "ears listening", "voice quiet" and "body still".

Math- We started practicing with numbers 1-5 and showing numbers in a variety of ways- a tens frame, with our fingers, unifix cubes etc.

We've also been teaching about the 6ft distance social distancing rule by talking about "eagle arms" to help them establish a "bubble" around themselves to help us stay safe at school. We were thrilled to see the children's faces this week during our first In-Person school day!

Art- We are beginning the year with our first art lessons talking about "What is art?" and how we can express our ideas and thoughts through art. We will focus on drawing and identifying lines, colors and shapes through story and art history.

Music: In-person Kindergartners are doing vocal exploration activities and beat keeping activities. I'm looking forward to teaching students in the building soon!

1st in-person: The first graders have been busy:

- getting to know their new classmates and teachers
- forming class goals for the school year and establishing class rules/expectations for learning
- reading and writing numbers to ten, showing multiple representations of a number, building vocabulary around comparing numbers

- building their independent reading stamina
- studying labels and names

1st grade Art: *Our theme for this month is inspired by The Dot, by Peter Reynolds and International Dot Day on Sept 15th. Students are learning about how to be confident artists and how to enjoy and value the art process rather than focus on the outcome. We began our first week with self portraits and are continuing to discuss abstract drawing with artists: Kandinsky, Mondrian, and Klee.*

Music: will be teaching the in - person 1st and 2nd graders during the 2nd semester of school this year.

1st grade remote: *We have been working on building our virtual classroom community and learning about being brave through our interactive read alouds. We are taking those lessons and applying to social and academic risk-taking. We have jumped into our phonics curriculum this week as well as math. This week we have been doing one-on-one running records with our students to learn about them as readers so we can meet them exactly where they are. We are becoming more independent by the day knowing how to use SeeSaw and Zoom without adult help!*

2nd in-person: *Second grade is starting off the year learning routines and expectations for our digital classrooms and our in person classrooms. We are learning how to navigate Seesaw more independently and how to ask for help to support budding independence. We are focused on community building activities both in person and digitally and how we can safely and confidently navigate our way in our new learning environment.*

2nd graders have returned to Art this year with lots of enthusiasm to create and express themselves. This month we are reviewing the elements: line, shape, color and pattern through different lessons studying Joan Miro, Andy Goldsworthy and Van Gogh using drawing and sculptural techniques inspired by nature.

Music-I will be teaching the in - person 1st and 2nd graders during the 2nd semester of school this year.

3rd in-person: *Third Grade is off to a great start! It's been so wonderful to see the students in-person and welcome them back into McKenzie. The Third Grade team has spent these first few weeks building our classroom communities and developing connections with our students and teachers. The students are also practicing foundational reading skills to set themselves up for a positive third grade reading life. We look forward to starting our first math unit next week. Finally, the Third Grade teachers would like to thank the parents for their patience and flexibility throughout the start of this school year.*

*In music we are taking advantage of **being able to sing since we are still remote.** For the month of September, in - person 3rd and 4th graders are learning "This Land Is Your Land" All 3rd and 4th grade students are taking the first rhythm assessment of the year (there are 3).*

4th in-person: *The 4th grade team has started the year off really strong! We are very impressed with how smooth the transition to this year has been. Last week we spent a lot of our time building our classroom communities and getting to know each other. We are continuing to do that this week, while also diving into curriculum. Students have begun developing their realistic fiction stories and are working with place value in math. We are so excited*

for this year and cannot wait to see the students learn and grow! *In music we are taking advantage of **being able to sing since we are still remote**. For the month of September, **in - person 3rd and 4th graders** are learning "This Land Is Your Land" **All 3rd and 4th grade students** are taking the first rhythm assessment of the year (there are 3).*

4th grade remote: We have been working on building community and getting to know our classmates. We have spent time learning how to do remote, including how to navigate Google Classroom and Seesaw. Ms. Cartwright has been reading aloud "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" and incorporating various ELA activities during this time. During SEL, students are learning about their classmates and Growth Mindset.

Principal Update

- *Thank you for the following Back-To-School celebrations from PTA:
 - An amazing welcome back bulletin board in our front lobby!
 - A delicious staff first day of work lunch.*
- *Thank you for the continued support and partnership throughout our reopening plans this fall. We know that this has been a stressful time for families, staff and many students. It is important for us to come together as a McKenzie community and support each other during this time. Staff is working extremely hard to engage students in meaningful instruction while adhering to extremely strict health guidelines within the building and unprecedented teaching conditions remotely. The education system has truly been turned upside down and we are so fortunate to have dedicated staff that is working tirelessly to meet our students' needs. Families are going above and beyond to support their children with remote learning, while also working within the house and outside of their homes. I think we can all agree that this is a stressful time for every adult stakeholder. I can say without a doubt that there is not one adult in our community that is not working around the clock to what is best for our kids. In saying all of this, I want to remind us that our number one priority is ensuring that our kids are happy, healthy, and safe.*
- *We've had a really great start to the school year here at McKenzie. Anthony and I were able to visit all of our remote and in-person classes. Students are excited to be back in school and learning alongside classmates whether in-person or remotely.*
- *We are working with students to find the best ways to celebrate all of our students this year. Paw Pride will look different, but will not go away! It's important to us that we are celebrating our in-person students and remote students. Our students have already brainstormed a list of amazing community-building projects and ideas.*

