
FLORHAM PARK PTA

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

APRIL 19, 2017

RMS MEDIA CENTER

Executive Board:

Stephanie Rauschenberger
President

Val Huang
VP Ridgedale

Alfie Zirpoli
VP Ridgedale

Kathy Henning
VP Brooklake

Jennifer Casola
VP Brooklake

Alexis Seubert
VP, Briarwood

Nicole Takla
VP Briarwood

Liliana Cannizzo
VP Arts in Education

Kristen Fox
Treasurer

Jennifer Pulice
Food Treasurer

Kimberly Rezzonico
Recording Secretary

Sarah Iodice
Corresponding Secretary

Call to order: President Rauschenberger at 7:05PM

I. Briarwood Principal's Update: Sherri Glaab

- We had a great Jump-a-thon Today- thank you for your assistance Alexis and Nicole and the PTA.
- Thank you again for our PTA and their generosity in helping to build our classroom libraries. Our children are thrilled at the added titles and we are excited about the progress they are making!
- Friday- Earth day Activities planned- experiment with reusable materials verse disposable. Taking a count of bags used tomorrow- Thursday verse Friday when we are encouraging children to use reusable containers for lunch items.
- BWD BUDDY event- school wide read aloud in the gym then children go with BWD buddies and paint blue and green rocks where we will create a school wide mosaic of the Earth
- First week of May- Teacher Appreciation- thank you to Mrs. Rittrivi and Mrs. Broyer and the PTA for organizing the wonderful events!
- May BWD Buddies- Tuesday, May 23- Game Day
- June BWD Buddies- Wednesday, June 21- outdoor activities
- Wednesday, April 26- the NED Show- thank you to Mrs. Cannizzo and the PTA for arranging.
- Friday, April 28- KDG Visitation- 1:30- 2:15pm
- KDG screenings- May 4, May 10 and May 15(Th, W, M)
- Our next Principal's Forum- Thursday, May 4: 6-7 PM-looking into holding it at RMS just prior to the Parent Cyberbullying presentation
- Thursday, May 28- PTA Assembly - Brain Show
- June 5- Step up day for grade 2 at BKL
- Wednesday, June 7- 2nd Grade School Play- Lisa Vanway and Paige Scott
The second graders are working hard on their production, The Mixed Up Fairytale. Students tell the story of authors Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm as their mixed up fairytale characters travel to the ball. 80 students participating in the play will be debuting their performance on Wednesday June 7th. We can't wait to see you there!
- Wednesday, June 14- at 9:30- KDG Celebrates- with opportunity for individual and group pictures at the conclusion
- Thursday, June 15- prek field day
- June 19- BWD Field Day- 12:45 (rain date- the 20th)
- Last day of School- Thursday, June 22

II. Brooklake Principal's Update: Steven Caponegro

- Wed. Flyer events/activities/reminders and the school calendar (Please check!)
- Jump Rope for Heart today (4/19/17) – It was a great success!
- Arbor Day-3rd grade will be planting saplings. Demartinis donated trees that will also be planted.
- PARCC testing taking place tomorrow (Gr.3-4 4/20-26, Gr.5 May 1-5), spoke with students about trying their best, not just on PARCC but in life (less anxious).. builds work ethic, etc.

- NJASK Gr.4 May 31
- Summer Assignments are being worked on and will be provided
- Coffee with Cap & the Grade Level Team - May 19th. Flyer sent to current Gr.2-4 parents. The anticipated schedule, major grade level activities, expectations, meet & greet with the current teachers, Q&A, will take place. Please RSVP.
- Spring Concert May 16,
- May 18 & 19-Spring Play Willie Wonka. Play will be held at Ridgedale-better equipment and acoustics.
- Human Growth &Development Gr.5 May 24-26. Selected online videos are only posted for online viewing on specific days due to copyright permission. Specific details are in the letter sent to the Gr.5 parents.
- Multicultural Dance Gr.4 - May 26
- Move-up Days - June 1 (Gr.5-6), June 5 (Gr.2-3)
- Career Day June 8th and DARE Graduation on June 9th
- BKL Climate/Culture Murals have been completed and they look beautiful
- Incredible learning environment with the leveled libraries and the implementation of the readers/writers workshop initiative. We have seen a dramatic improvement in reading levels and skills. As research suggests, this will impact all other core areas. We are continuing PD in ELA/Math 2017/18.
- Special Thanks to Mrs. Henning & Mrs. Cassola for their help as PTA building reps and part of ScIP Committee
- Special Thanks to the PTA specifically Mrs. Cannizzo for assemblies, Mrs. Pulice for the lunch program, and Mrs. Rauchenberger for the time and effort put forth as PTA President

III. Ridgedale Principal's Update: Peter Christ

- Thank you to the PTA for generously helping with the ELA classrooms by purchasing benches and book cases to store the classroom libraries.
- Thank you to the PTA and specifically Mrs. Cannizzo for arranging meaningful and powerful assemblies. As well as to Alfie Zirpoli and Val Huang as the PTA Ridgedale Vice Presidents who have been so supportive and full of fun and interesting ideas to bring to the school and the kids.
- April 27-Take your child to work day requires written explanation
- Golf Club begin April 27th for 5 sessions at Pinch Brook
- PARCC
 1. May 1-3-Math, May 4-5, 8 ELA
 2. Operating on a delayed opening schedule
 3. There should be no homework these nights. Please have your children to bed early, without their phones and a good breakfast
 4. Looking forward to seeing our children's performance. Plans are in the works to begin using the results of PARCC to impact educational decision making
- May 4-Assembly on Cyberbullying and the impact children in the digital world. **Evening Parent presentation**
- May 11-5th grade will come to RMS to see a preview of the musical Pajama Game
- May 12-13-Musical Performance of the Pajama Game on Friday night, Saturday afternoon and Saturday evening
- May 17
 1. We are hosting the County Solar Sprints that our Tech Club participates in
 2. Project Pride Fundraiser Walk-They provide counseling services and family therapy for those in need
- May 25th-Science Fair. **Moved from June 1st**. There will be an evening showing 6-8pm
- May 31-NJASK Science for 8th grade
- June 1st-
 1. Last Virtual Lab science lab with scientists.
 2. 5th Grade Move up Day (shadowing of current 6th graders)
 3. Orientation for 5th grade parents about what to expect in 6th grade
- June 6/7-Sixth Grade Field Trip to Longo Planetarium
- June 8-Spring Concert on the front lawn
- June 9-8th Grade Dance
- June 13-15-8th Grade Trip to Washington DC
- June 16
 1. 6th graders will turn in their Chromebooks
 2. RMS Picnic and Field Day (Rain Date June 19)
- June 20th-8th Grade Pool Party
- June 22nd-Early Dismissal-Graduation

IV. Prize Party – Jamie McGough

- We had 240 attendees and raised \$24,690.42 for our children and our schools.
- Jamie thanked everyone for their help and the everyone thanked Jamie for her tireless work to make this event such a great success.

V. Teacher Appreciation – Melissa Ritrivi

- We got a great response from families donating through My Food Days.
- Still collecting gift cards. If sending gift cards in, please mark them if they are for Briarwood or Brooklake
- There will be sign-up genius lists set up for assistance with food, set up, etc.. Ridgedale's is already live and Briarwood and Brooklake should be sent out next week.

VI. PTA Board Nominating Committee – Kelly Ewing

- Currently 3 Positions open and there has been no formal interest communicated so far.
- Without a President-there is no PTA. No PTA means among many other things:
 1. NO Teacher Grants
 2. NO 8th Grade Dance
 3. NO Carnival
 4. NO assemblies
 5. NO food program
 6. NO book fair
 7. NO track program
- We need four volunteers to serve on the nominating committee, 2 board members and 2 non-board members. The commitment on this committee is to meet one evening to review the nominations. Please contact Kelly Ewing if you are interested. Ewing517@aol.com
- All outgoing board members are happy to help transition the position to the new members.

VII. PTA Survey Results-Stephanie Rauschenberger

- Received 147 responses out of 636 families so far.
- Since Jenn Pulice, Food Treasurer, was not in attendance, survey responses regarding the lunch program will be discussed at the next meeting
- Q1-What do you think the primary function of the PTA is? Almost 60% said to provide programs and events to enrich children's school experiences. The only way we can continue to provide these programs and events is through the volunteerism of our PTA members.
- Q2-Would you prefer to eliminate fundraisers and a make a single donation at the beginning of the year? Almost 48% said they would prefer a mix of a single donation with less fundraising initiatives. 34% said no and 18% said Yes.
- Q3-We have noticed a decrease in volunteerism. If you fall into that category, what prevents you from volunteering? 42% said because they work/scheduling issues, 33% said that they do volunteer, 13% said because they have younger kids at home. 12% said they were either not interested or had other reasons.
- Q4-Which method do you primarily rely upon for PTA communications? 52% said weekly newsletter, 34% said all of the above, 9% said Facebook, 3% said website, 2% said none of the above. While many commented that they would like to see hard copy documents sent home with the children, the district has firmly committed to going green and that is not one of the options.
- Q5-Do you feel the PTA communicates effectively its objectives and initiatives? 76% said yes, 24% said no. The PTA will look at ways to communicate more effectively to increase these numbers.
- Q6-How often do you go on the school websites to view the document managers? 42% said weekly, 37% said a couple of times a month, 18% said monthly and 3% said never. While the PTA is not responsible for the document manager, we will discuss these results and comments with the administration to see how it can be improved.

VIII. Arts in Education – Liliana Cannizzo

- Cyberbullying presentation at Brooklake will only be for the 4th and 5th graders. The presenter felt that 3rd grade was too young for the presentation.
- May 4 at 7pm at RMS will be the Cyberbullying presentation for parents.
- For the NED presentation at Briarwood on April 26th, yo-yos will be available for sale a few days prior and is a tie-in to the presentation. While the company does not charge for the presentation, they sell the yo-yos to pay it forward to the next group. Information will be forthcoming on how to buy the yo-yos.
- We are looking to bring back the NY Giants motivational speaker that we had this year at RMS that was so well received.
- Please reach out to Liliana with any ideas or suggestions for future assemblies. lilianacannizzo@gmail.com

IX. Suggestion Box

- A question was asked about the lunch catering company contract and the food choices. Michelle's Catering has a three year contract and we are finishing out our first year. The district, PTA and Michelle's Catering made a large investment in upgrading our kitchens so that the food could be cooked on site. Regarding providing more "kid friendly" food options such as grilled cheese, pizza and hot dogs, reports are reviewed regularly to see what items are more popular and menus are revamped each ordering session to reflect that. The possibility of adding grilled cheese was brought to the catering company but unfortunately is not feasible. People commented that they had noticed that the menus this last session had a great selection and that the lunches are running more smoothly and efficiently now that the program is in place. People also commented that they appreciated the shorter sessions.

- X. Book Donations** – Book donations for the classroom libraries are encouraged at any time. If you have books you would like to donate, you can always bring them to your school front office.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:15pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Kimberly Rezzonico
Recording Secretary