

Westbrook PTA Meeting
Tuesday, December 1, 2015

1. Meeting called to order at 7:34 pm.
2. Approval of Minutes from October 2015 Meeting: Erika Newell
3. Treasurer's Report: Susan Higgins
 - a. Room parents may submit expenses for the Halloween parties by December 11. Room Parents, please note that you should not feel shy about submitting expenses, simply include your receipts! You do not have to pay for the parties out of your own pockets!
 - b. Results from the Scholastic Book Fair indicate that numbers will net over the \$2300 goal. We will have exact numbers by the next meeting.
 - c. More good news, Spirit Wear is in the plus.
 - d. Ledo Pizza Night check is in.
 - e. Our Artists in Residence (for 3rd and 4th grade) have been paid, as well as the stipends for Aqua Eagles.
4. Co-President's Report: Orly Isaacson and Leyla Kenny
 - a. **We have so many amazing volunteers to thank this month! A huge Thank you to all of the following:**
 1. **Joanne Jee** for helping with the coordination of the after-school clubs with Enrichment Academies.
 2. **Chris Barone** and **Val Parker** for their hard work and coordination with Westbrook's amazing, inspiring Artist in Residence Programs.
 3. **Melanie Fleeger** for her artistic work with the fun birthday board.
 4. **Maureen Kramer** and **Erin Harcourt** for hosting and attending to the BCC Cluster Meetings and representing Westbrook's needs amongst the cluster.
 5. **Karen Thornton** for welcoming new families and arranging the incoming Kindergarten coffee.
 6. **Helene Krasnoff** for arranging another delicious restaurant fundraising night at Chipotle.
 7. **Caryn Solomon** for keeping with up all the items in

- the Lost and Found and helping us locate our kids' belongings.
8. **Shaun Deschene** for coordinating and facilitating the Parenting Seminar on Diversity. **Janelle Wong** for joining the seminar panel.
 9. **Kari Swenson, Elisabeth Layton, and Regina Reilly** for delivering books and coats to our sister school–Viers Mill Elementary.
 10. **Erin Harcourt, Kerry Lawrence, and all Room Parents** for making sure all the Westbrook staff goes home over the holiday weekend with pies from our Westbrook families.
 11. **Laura Kolton, Kathy VanderHook, and An Nguyen** for arranging a very successful Chemistry Day where our kids got to see polymers in action via goop!
 12. **Ami Susan Petrucelli** for leading a successful Fall Clean-Up **and all the courageous families** who helped in the rain!
 13. **Clare Geller** for providing information about the GT program to interested families.
 14. **Katie Funk** for the arduous task of putting together the school directory and making everyone's social lives much easier.
 15. **David Kales and Maureen Kramer** for organizing a very successful 5th grade transition fundraiser at McDonald's.
 16. **Kari Swenson and Kenny Foster** for inviting Westbrook to hold a fundraiser at McDonald's.
 17. **Susan Higgins** for creating and distributing all the donation thank you letters.
 18. **Amanda Crider and Carin Levine** for running a successful and enriching Book Fair.
 19. **Kathleen McDermott and Nicole Schwenker** for setting up and selling tons and tons of Westbrook spirit wear.

- b. Co–VP Slot Open – This year there remains a spot on the executive board open. Join Jesse Nickelson as Co–VP this year and as Co–President next year. If you are interested, contact Leyla or Orly.

5. Principal's Update: Jennifer Lane

- a. Thank you on behalf of the staff for all the delicious Thanksgiving Pies this year.

- b. Thank you to parents for responding to our latest survey. (Returns were at 30%.)
- c. Thank you to the PTA for your ongoing generosity to bring training to the staff, arts integration, professional development for teachers, etc.
- d. Letter about Radon in children's backpacks went out today. There is a plan in the works to do some remediation. We are slightly above level, specifically in the main office area. More tangible facts from MCPS to come soon.
- e. Individual PARCC Score Reports (for students in 4th grade or higher) are in. Letters will be sent home to parents with the results of the test. If you would like to know more about what PARCC means, Ms. Lane is happy to talk about that with you. The results will let us know where our school falls compared to other schools. Ms. Lane notes that it was a more difficult test than in the past. PARCC is one of 2 main tests aligned to the common core. In MD we do PARCC. Ms. Lane will be happy to discuss more with parents at a parent coffee or evening outreach or simply feel free to call Ms. Lane on the phone.
- f. Before Thanksgiving, we had the 4th grade AIR opera about Chris Columbus, which matched the curriculum beautifully. This week the 3rd grade AIR program was featured at an assembly, writing parody songs about Greek Myths.

6. Teacher Liaison Report: Colleen Dahlem

5th Grade:

We looked at multiple sources to examine what really happened at the First Thanksgiving. We are conducting research on the Civil Rights Movement to discover how people make changes within a government system. We are getting ready to tackle electricity and magnetism in science.

4th Grade:

We had a visit from Doug Kammerer the meteorologist to discuss weather, an upcoming science unit. We are in the midst of writing our business proposals. We just wrapped up a sensational AIR performance focusing on explorers, tying directly into our unit on the history of explorers and early settlements.

3rd Grade:

We just finished our AIR writing parody songs about Greek Myths. In math we are continuing multiplication. In reading we are beginning to get into

informational texts after just finishing plays and poetry. In SS we are doing geography within Maryland and in science we are experimenting how hot and cold affect observable properties of materials.

2nd Grade:

In Math, Second Graders are using different strategies to solve 2 digit equations, such as number lines, models, and break apart. In Reading, students just finished using context clues, root words and text features to understand informational text. In Writing, students created brochures about their favorite places using adjectives to describe them. In Social Studies, students are using maps to locate continents and oceans. In Science, students are classifying objects from investigations of observable properties.

Kindergarten:

We had a wonderful in service with Sean Layne about incorporating artistic movement routines into all subject areas. We took a field trip to the Washington Monument to round out our unit on U.S. symbols. We studied measurement in math, weather in science, published personal narratives in writing. In reading, we retold fictional stories using the events and characters' feelings in the beginning, middle and end.

PEP

In October we worked on "My Family" unit-- discussed family vocabulary, where we live, etc. In November we worked on "Our Community" unit and talked about different community helpers (police officer, fire fighter, construction workers, etc.) and what they do. Our math focus has continued to be on patterns and sorting, as well as rote counting and counting with 1:1 correspondence. Our reading focus has been on identifying letters, concepts of print, and identifying names. Our writing focus has been on tracing lines and shapes, and creating representational drawings (of course we will work on all these indicators throughout the year).

7. Committee Reports

- a. **After-School Clubs** – Winter Session Registration begins Monday, December 14th at 8:30 pm. There is more info on the Westbrook PTA website www.westbrookespta.com.
- b. **BoxTops** – Fall submission raised a bit over \$200. Thank you, Everyone! The next submission will be in the spring. Please continue to collect and drop off BoxTops in the basket on top of the cubbies outside the Media Center.
- c. **Wellness Committee** – We will host the Potomac Lice Lady on

January 7th at 7:30 pm.

- d. **Auction Committee** – Will be online this year on February 2nd.
- e. **Trash-Free Lunch** – Will be on December 10th. We are still looking for volunteers to help on these dates. If interested, please let Chris Barone know.
- f. **BCC Cluster**
 - 1. We hosted the Cluster here in November. We discussed the new middle school. It will open 2 years from now when our current 4th graders hit middle school. It is a complicated process to decide how elementary schools will be districted for the new middle school, which will be located in Kensington. If you have concerns or thoughts, please be in touch with this committee. Erin and Maureen can communicate our desires and advocate on behalf of Westbrook. There is a boundary study currently in progress. One challenge this study seeks to meet is to maintain diversity at both middle schools. There are six elementary schools that will be divided between Westland Middle School and the new school in Kensington. Also decisions as to how the school will open with all three grades remain to be settled. (Will 7th and 8th grade students at Westland have to switch over to the new school?) Study will be revealed at the spring Board of Ed meeting. Then there will be a vote in November.
 - 2. We continue to stay abreast of the Westbard development. It may happen that all of the community input and feedback might be tossed out. There are great concerns for the growing population the development will bring, and what that means for our schools, as well as the redistricting to come to Westbrook and Westland.
- g. **Restaurant Night** – Chipotle raised over \$680. Next restaurant fundraiser is Pete's Pizza all day on January 25th.
- h. **Recess Rangers** – Need volunteers for both indoor and outdoor days. The PTA purchased new materials for indoor recess rooms, but we could use a few more new or gently used items: plastic storage bins, art supplies, art paper, Legos and blocks. Please contact Kathleen McDermott for more info.
- i. **Spirit Wear** – Is going on-line just in time for the holidays! We might go live this week. An announcement will go on the school list serve as soon as it's up.

8. Meeting adjourned at 7:36 pm.