

PTO General Meeting
January 21, 2016

Board Members Present DeeDee Snyder, Jen Arslan, Anne Piotrowski, Lori Tinari and Michele Rumbas

Call To Order 9:40 am

Presentation - The presentation was given by Dr. Deborah Van Aken (through CB Cares) on "The Over-Scheduled Family."

- Activities for children are important but not if they do too much.
- Being overscheduled can lead to stress.
- It's important to find the proper balance.
- Include family time into the schedule.
- Stressed parents are not good role models.
- Teach children techniques to counteract stress like yoga & meditation.

Look ahead at the schedule for the year. Never try to outdo the previous year, be mindful of overlaps of what is scheduled and look at the child's individual needs such as homework, sleep, social time and downtime.

Approval Of Minutes Minutes approved. 1st – DeeDee, 2nd – Denise Forest.

Fall Book Fair - Great success.
- Raised \$2, 859.
- New Chairs for Spring Book Fair, Anne Piotrowski and Michele Rumbas.

Fall Fest - Great success, mostly due to the Silent Auction.
- Raised \$10, 096.

Bingo Night - Raised \$1,045 at the Fall Bingo event.
- This event is in need of a new Chair.

- Spring Bingo is scheduled for March 18, 2016.

Secret Shoppe - This event is in need of a new Chair.
- This year the event raised \$760 though it is not a fundraiser.

Passive Fundraising - The PTO Board is looking for someone to organize and Chair all passive fundraising, such as, Box tops, Giant, Amazon Smile, etc.

Vegetable Garden - A Chair is needed for this program.

Yearbook - Denise Forest needs someone to shadow her to learn all that is involved in preparing the yearbooks each year.

District Background Checks - Just a reminder to everyone to take the time to get their background checks completed and get on the clearance list.
- There is an online training course that must be completed as well.

Sign Up Genius & Facebook - The PTO Board is encouraging parents to check out the PTO Facebook Page for updates as well as the Sign Up Genius page for the upcoming events to volunteer for.

60th Anniversary - Buckingham Elementary is celebrating its 60th Anniversary this year.

- The PTO Board is looking into various way to commemorate this.
- The PTO Board has looked into purchasing water bottles.
- An official vote is needed in order to make the purchase for the water bottles. (due to total purchase greater than \$500.00)
- The vote was, "All In Favor" of this purchase.
- There will be a "dress like the 1950's" day.
- Will incorporate the "Every Moment Matters" theme.
- Anne's neighbor, Margie Perry is a retired Buckingham Elementary School teacher, as well as an artist, and has painted a picture of the school and is donating it to the school.
- Denise will take a picture of this to include in the yearbook.

- Family** - Scheduled for January 29, 2016.
Fun - The PTO Board is adding the Soles4Souls shoe drive to this event.
Fitness - Soles4Souls collects new or gently used shoes.
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- Art** - Scheduled for February 2, 2016.
Expo - Volunteers are needed (1 per grade) to help with the setup.
- Ask the HRC's to send out information regarding Art Expo and the need for volunteers.
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- Chuck E Cheese** - The Chuck E. Cheese fundraiser event is scheduled for February 15, 2016 which is a scheduled day off for students for the Presidents Day holiday.
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- Buckingham Walk** - The Buckingham Walk will be an event to raise funds for the Make A Wish Foundation as well as for School Enhancements, such as, a Gaga Pit.
- The event is scheduled for May 13, 2016.
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- Gaga Pit** - See Attached information sheets.
- A special "base" will be installed so that the kids don't get injuries while playing.
- There is space on the playground.
- Mr. Durrie will instruct the kids on how to play.
- Other schools in the district have them.
- The game originated at summer camps.
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- New School Sign** - See Attached Picture.
- The current sign is rotted and needs to be replaced.
- The new sign will be made of a foam composite.
- The new sign will not have a message board.
- The funds were approved in last year's budget.
- The new sign will be the same size as current one and will be installed in the same space.
- The cost will stay within the approved budget.
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- Treasurer's Report** - See Attached.
- All Treasury Reports are posted on the PTO Website and in the

Principal's Newsletter.

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- Principal's Report**
- Discussed the Gaga Pit and New School Sign.
 - Family Fun Fitness Night (scheduled for Jan.29, 2016 6:30-8:00pm)
 - Students from CB East came to work with the Buckingham Students.
 - Kindergarten went on a virtual fieldtrip around the world. They compared holidays and weather in the USA to various other countries. They especially like learning about Childrens Day in Japan.
 - Third grade is finishing up their Motion Unit in which they teamed up with Mrs. Doherty and Quest.
 - The PEN students have been working on, Forensic Science in 2nd Grade, Architecture in 3rd grade, Creative Problem Solving Skills in 4th and the 5th and 6th grade students competed in a Robotics Competition that was held at Buckingham Elementary.
 - In Music class the 5th and 6th grades have begun rehearsal for the Spring musical "Schoolhouse Rock" and studying decades in American Music and Great Composers.
4th grade is working on their "Recorder Karate"
3rd grade will soon begin to learn to play the Bells and Boomwhackers
1st and 2nd will soon begin practice for the Spring Concert.

Meeting 11:30 am
Concluded

Minutes Respectfully Prepared by Michele Rumbas, PTO Secretary

