

**Wilder Elementary PTA Meeting
Tuesday, February 10, 2015**

I. Call to order and Introductions: PTA President, Marilyn Rogers

Each person present indicated whether or not they were a PTA member. This survey will be turned in to the National PTA. Wilder will receive \$500 after presenting the New State Assessment information this evening and turning in the survey.

II. Fourth Grade teachers and Friends: Mr. McKinley showed a video presentation of his Robotics class with the help of 4th and 5th graders in the class. This class meets twice monthly and focuses on skills in strategy, math and science. The theme this year is Innovative Learning. The video shown was produced by the Students in his class.

Fourth grade Teachers Mrs. Miller and Mrs. Holland were also in attendance and provided the PTA with further information about 4th grade. They use Technology for reading, writing and social studies and incorporate blogging in their work. The 4th grade piloted the PARCC assessment on line last week, taking a practice test.

III. Approval of last month's minutes: Motion to approve by Lori Robinson-Terry. Seconded by Amanda Gibson.

IV. Treasurer's Report- Kevin Bartholomew: Reviewed income and expenses since Jan. meeting, pointing out there are some funds being held by the PTA (non-PTA funds) which will be used by those owners, such as monies raised by 4th grade at Oktoberfest, which will be used for their class Field trip.

V. Vice-President- Linda Freeman-Walker:

- Market Day: Orders are due Friday, February 20. There are some changes coming in March. Wilder will no longer have a Market Day Rep. Linda will be polling the current customers this month to determine if they want to continue to have the option to pay by check or on-line, or if they would be OK switching to completely On-line payment. This would eliminate sending checks in to Market Day after the pick up. Orders will be due on Saturday now instead of Monday starting in March.

VI. Volunteer Coordinator's report: Amanda Gibson and Angie Hornyak:

- Dance-a-thon: Scheduled Friday, Feb. 13. A DJ/instructor has been hired to lead the dancing for the classes. There will be a prize (to be determined) for the class that collects the most money for the dance-a-thon. PTA would like to purchase a new giant movie screen for Wilder with the money raised from this event. This would eliminate renting a screen each year for special events. There may be an end of the year pizza/movie party planned.
- Planning will be starting for the Ice Cream Social scheduled 3-26-15
- School Supply orders for next year will begin in April. Orders will be On-line only.
- Thank you to Lori Robinson-Terry for all the work she did on the Holiday Cookies and the Souper Bowl events for the teachers and staff

VII. Mr. PTA Liaison Report Goldner: attached.

VIII. Principal's Report-Dr. Hazlett: Thanked the PTA Board for being Pro-active in participating in the Webinar earlier this week regarding the New State Assessments and bringing the information to the PTA meeting to present tonight.

She reminded everyone that the purpose of the staff at Wilder is to serve the children and help them find things they love about school, and to help them to grow up and be successful. They do not want them to stress regarding assessments. This process is a learning curve for everyone. She also said this past Friday, Feb. 6 was a Waiver Day and the Teaching staff participated in 3 Learning sessions. Afterwards they came together to share the learning. They are committed to the children and if any child is having problems, please contact their teacher or the school counselor. The score on these tests is just one piece of data used to help make decisions regarding the education of the child.

IX. Westerville Parent Council Report-Janice Freeman: Reminder to everyone that anyone can attend these meetings. She asked Dr. Hazlett to email or call parents, especially those of the younger children, and invite them to attend these meetings, which are very informative regarding what is going on in the Westerville school District.

Reflections winners were highlighted at the meeting. Marilyn said there will be 50 students who will go to the State competition. Wilder had 9 student entries this year. Most of those students went to the District finals. From the District, some of those students go to State. It's not too early to stare now, thinking about next year's competition. The theme for next year is "Let Your Imagination Fly".

The Bowl-a-thon will be held at the Columbus Bowling Palace.

Volunteers are needed for the Allergy Action committee, The Handbook Committee and the District Scholarship Committee. There is a Teacher Appreciation Grant and we will be finding out more about that. Other persons available in the District for assistance are an AV person, Curriculum Coordinator and Insurance Director.

X. New Business:

- March meeting: There will be discussion regarding changes to the PTA By-laws and Fundraising for next year.
- New State Assessments:

Marilyn shared a presentation regarding the New State Assessments. The new tests are designed to help measure student's skills in relation to the new education standards. They are no longer multiple choice tests but are designed to measure skills such as problem solving and critical thinking. They will help empower parents by letting them know how well their children are learning the skills being taught. Some Ohio Teachers were involved in how the tests were developed.

The English portion of the test will measure skills such as comprehension and how students use this information to make persuasive arguments. Math will measure understanding and reasoning skills, not just knowledge of basic math facts. The tests will take 2-3 days, depending on the grade level, and tests are 75 minutes each. The tests are designed to measure real world skills, the student's ability to read and understand, to think analytically and apply what they have learned.

The test doesn't compare to the OAA. The PARCC will help identify which students need more support and those who need to be challenged. Hand-outs were available:

- 1) Helpful Information for Families on Assessment, which provides many helpful On-line links for families
- 2) Moving Beyond the Bubble, which includes more detailed information regarding the tests.

There was time after the presentation allowing for questions and answers.

Mrs. Holland commented that the adults generally stress more than the kids do about the tests. The tests are new, and it will take some time to adjust. This is a new learning curve as the school begins taking the New Assessments.

The calendar was reviewed, noting **Spring picture day is Tues., Feb 17 (not Feb 19)**

Reminders:

Wilder Blood Drive, Thur., Feb. 12

Dance-a-thon, Friday, Feb. 13

Fifth grade, baby pictures and dedications due Friday, Feb 13

Sign up on-line for the Bowl-a-thon Feb. 21

Wilder crew night, March 14

Meeting adjourned, 8:45 pm