

Winn Brook PTA Meeting
October 6, 2022
7:30pm



PTA Meeting Minutes

Approved at PTA meeting on Jan 12, 2023

- **Foundation for Belmont Education (FBE)** – *Nomita Ganguly, co-president*
 - Volunteer run organization that serves all Belmont public schools and provides funds primarily through grants that teachers apply for
 - Host several activities and events that help build community such as Apple run, spelling bee, Share a little sunshine, STAR awards, outstanding teacher awards, etc.
 - Volunteer opportunities available at link above
- **Welcome & Introductions** - *Co-Presidents Fitzie Cowing & Erika Roberts; Vice President Sarah Boyle, Anita Mecklenburg - Principal*
- **Winn Brook Parent Teacher Association (PTA)** - *Fitzie*
 - Description & Purpose
 - How to Get Involved - [Google Form for Volunteering](#)
 - PTA is connected to PTA National which is helpful for support and lobbying. PTA is a partnership between parents and teachers striving to enhance student learning and enrich the lives of students in the school. It also provides a forum for parents to obtain knowledge and voice their opinions about what is happening in school as well as participate in their children's educational experience.
 - PTA links families to important school and community information, hosts fun & educational events for families, and raises money to support the specific needs of our school.
- **Highlights from 2021-2022 School Year** – *Erika*
 - Return of Kindergarten (& 1st Grade) Popsicle Playdates
 - Return of Welcome Back PTA Breakfasts
 - Return of Library Volunteers
 - Purchase of [flipFORMS](#) for Music Room
 - Return of Ice Cream Social, Bake Sale (usually around election days)

- Return of 4th Grade In-Person events (like Halloween Party)
- Return of In-School Enrichment; this year we are also hoping to do field trips
- **Enrichment Programs – Sarah**
 - Examples of those that come to school include Tanglewood Marionettes, Discovery Museum, Mass Audubon
 - For field trips they go to Peabody Museum (2nd grade), Habitat, Concord Museum, Harvard Museum of Natural History
 - Each grade year submits a request for 3 enrichment programs and our goal is to fund them fully. Upcoming events will be communicated by teachers and room parents.
 - Parents usually chaperone these events; chaperones are organized by the teachers.
- **Fundraising – Fizzie**
 - Everything the PTA does requires money. In the past, parents did a lot like selling wrapping paper, pies, etc. But based on feedback, we did away with all that and in its stead are requesting, if you can, to please donate to the Annual Direct Appeal.
 - So far ~37 families have already donated to the Annual Appeal!
 - Annual Direct Appeal - Suggesting \$125 per Family
 - [PayPal Donation Site](#)
 - **Suggestion from the Attendees:** make it apparent in the PTA emails how much and how to donate right at the top of the email, not buried below
- **Extracurriculars – Lydia Kogler & Kathy Marcos**
[\(winnbrookptaextra@gmail.com\)](mailto:winnbrookptaextra@gmail.com)
 - Email went out today, 10/6, extracurriculars offered 4 days a week M-Th; 7-8 weeks per session, 3 sessions a year
 - Last year there were a total of 10 classes, this year we have 20; in full swing it would be 30 classes
 - Classes get full very quickly but there is a waitlist
 - Ms. Duggan and Ms. Bean are the monitors to make sure they get to where they need to – if we can get more consistent volunteering, we could potentially get it back up to 5 days a week
 - These extracurriculars are self-funded with dues; usually add on a little more than cost to generate some funds

- If anyone would like to teach something, or knows of any outside organization that would be good – please bring it to Lydia and Kathy’s attention
- This is different from the independently run before- and after-school program ([Winn Brook ExL](#)); you can do both Extracurriculars and ExL
- The Extracurriculars team needs more support, please consider volunteering (at-home email and phone support in addition to monitor positions)
- **[Safe Routes to School \(SRTS\)](#)** – *Trish Kapur*
 - Give kids a safe way to walk to school, bike, get to school
 - Spread awareness that walking and biking are good for the environment
 - If driving, safe parking and driving awareness and education
 - First “Walk to School Day” - Wednesday October 12 – encourage families that are close enough to walk, walk. Those that drive, park further away and walk at least part of the way to school. We will be giving out stickers and bookmarks for participants.
 - [MA Anti-Idling Law](#) at Schools Reminder – it is illegal to idle in a school zone in MA, regardless of the time of day or time of year. Rule of thumb, if you will be stopped for 10 seconds or more, turn off your engine. It is better for your car, saves gas, improves the local air quality, and is better for our students’ health.
 - [Winn Brook Arrival and Dismissal Map](#) is available on the tables and also available on the PTA SRTS website – please read it to get familiar with rules that keep our kids safe! Know where you can and can’t park!
- Motion to install New PTA Officers passed
 - Secretary - Meenal Bagla
 - Treasurer - Patricia Kapur
- Next PTA meeting – January 12, 2023 7:30pm
- The current 3rd grade class will be in Winn Brook School for 4th grade next year.
- Next year will be the 4th graders and 3rd graders last year here and would love to hear from current 2nd grader parents/guardians on their thoughts on the celebratory activities that happen for the class “graduating” Winn Brook. Do we do events together with the 3rd and 4th graders? Separately?
- Other resources and reminders noted below
- Q&A
- Adjourn ~8:30pm

RESOURCES & REMINDERS

Parent-Teacher Fall Conferences

Online scheduling opens on Friday Oct 7th, conferences begin October 19th!

<https://www.belmont.k12.ma.us/bps/Parents/Parent-Teacher-Conferences>

GoFundMe for Dasilva Pina Family

Consider supporting Winn Brook's own Dasilva Pina Family after a devastating fire.

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/dasilva-pina-family>

Parent Webinars - "Leaders in Youth Mental Health Series"

Led by experts in their field and sponsored by McLean Hospital, join these informative events live on Zoom or watch those previously recorded On Demand.

https://healthcare.partners.org/streaming/Live/McLean/McLean_SCS.html

Belmont School District Reconfiguration News & Updates

Stay up-to-date on the construction and opening of the new Belmont Middle School and reconfiguration plans for Chenery and our elementary schools.

<https://www.belmont.k12.ma.us/bps/Administration/District-Reconfiguration-Transition>

Winn Brook Arrival & Dismissal Plan

Find important information about drop-off and pick-up at Winn Brook.

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1vFdN7ynskMi6BWog7Ln4RHvysibUWDvc_mpzpjfASUA/edit#slide=id.g12f0582f866_0_17