December 2025 PTO Meeting

December 9, 2025, at 8:30am

View PTO Meeting Slides Here

Attendees: Olivia Rodriguez, Michelle Mazurkiewicz, Nicole Jala, Nick Lenzi, Colleen Herzog, JW, May Flam, Alina Prescornita, Sarah R.P., Lee Ann Townes, Sarah Whitfield, Amy Anenberg, Lisa Del Vecchio, Cailin Donovan, Nikki Nachimow, Danielle O'Donnell, Peter Chu, Kristin Karotkin, Lauren Reid, Chrissy Badger

Administrative Attendee: Juliana Addi

Location: In Person at Connors + Virtually via Google Meet

Facilitators: Michelle Mazurkiewicz & Nicole Jala

Notes: Colleen Herzog

Meeting Start/End Time: 8:35-9:45am

Action Items:

[More details on all items listed here can be found in full minutes below]

- Want to help stock faculty lounges and monthly treat trolleys? Click here.
- Have feedback about the Halloween Dance? Email connorspto@gmail.com
- Want to contribute to the school-wide holiday gift collection? Send via Venmo (@connors-pto) or Zelle (connorspto@gmail.com) by 12/15 (please include a note indicating *STAFF HOLIDAY GIFT*).
- Review the many ways to Support the Connors PTO!
- **Stay Connected and "In the Know"**
  - Join the Connors School PTO Facebook Group
  - Visit and bookmark our PTO Website
  - Sync our PTO "Live" Calendar to your phone
  - Email us at connorspto@gmail.com to join our email distribution list
  - Contact connorspto@gmail.com to volunteer + share ideas/feedback

Meeting Recap:

AGENDA

- **November Recap [Michelle]**
- **SWAG [Michelle]**

- **Holiday Gifts & PTO Liaisons [Michelle]**
- **Holiday Spirit Week: School Plans [Michelle]**
- **Holiday Spirit Week: PTO Activities [Michelle]**
- **Save the Date: Bingo Night [Michelle]**
- **Save the Date: Morning Movie [Michelle]**
- **HPEF Online Giving [Nicole]**
- **District Events [Nicole]**
- **Upcoming Dates [Nicole]**
- **Support the PTO [Nicole]**
- **Preview: January PTO Meeting Speaker [Nicole]**
- **Stay Connected [Nicole]**
- **Guest Speaker: Lindsay Cormack, Author of How To Raise a Citizen**

November Recap

- Halloween Dance Do-Over:
  - Thank you to everyone (committee members, parent volunteers, HMS volunteers, & Connors admin/staff) who made this event a success!
  - Feedback so far has been positive! The event seemed really well received, especially improvements like lights/sound and quiet activity room, but if anyone has suggestions, please feel free to reach out.
- ThanksGIVING Dinner Baskets:
  - HUGE THANKS to the amazing generosity of the Connors community and to the many volunteers who donated to and assembled 25 dinner baskets!
  - Per Ms. Addi, while information about who receives the baskets remains confidential, she was able to say that the school did receive thank you emails, photos, etc. so the families seemed very appreciative.
- Thanksgiving Class Crafts
  - Thank you to PTO Liaisons for coordinating classroom crafts/activities for Thanksgiving!
- Thanks to those who purchased Square 1 Art and supporting the Art Program at Connors!

SWAG

- Thank you to those who ordered from the online sale. Orders will be coming in and distributed next week.
- There will be a SWAG Table Sale at Connors Rocks the Holidays on 12/19 (selling in-stock items, including plush koalas)
- Swag Swap Drop:
  - Collecting outgrown Connors spiritwear – drop off at the table sale on 12/19 or bring to any PTO meeting between January and March
  - Items will be professionally laundered and offered at a discounted price at a special Swap Sale in the spring.

Holiday Gifts & PTO Liaisons

- PTO Initiative – Connors Faculty Holiday Gift Collection:
    - Cash gifts will be distributed to approximately 40 faculty members
    - Contribute by 12/15 with note *STAFF HOLIDAY GIFT* via Venmo or Zelle
- Thanks to PTO Liaisons for handling winter-themed activities (coordinated across each grade) AND holiday gifts for homeroom teachers, a portion of which will be allocated to science and related arts teachers.

Holiday Spirit Week: School Plans

- Connors Rocks the Holidays
    - 12/19 at 9am (grades 3-5) and 10am (grades K-2)
    - Only parents and guardians due to limited space
    - PTOLs will have reserved seats
- School Spirit Week:



Holiday Spirit Week: PTO Activities

- 12/17: Staff Surprise (Lotto Scratch Offs) + Marshmallow “Guess How Many” Contest
- 12/18: Hot Cocoa with a Cop, sponsored by Hoboken Police Dept & Connors PTO
- 12/19: Smores Basket Giveaway at Connors Rocks the Holidays
- 12/22: Staff Breakfast + Candy Canes for All!
- 12/23: Holiday Song Trivia + Homeroom Prizes

Save the Date: Bingo Night

- Thursday, Jan 29th @ 6pm in Connors Gym
- Tickets on sale week of 1/5: This sells out fast, so to make it equitable, Ms. Addi will broadcast to the whole school on Class Dojo/email at the same time (exception for PTOLs who have early access to tickets as part of their PTOL perks).
- RSVP ONLY

    - limited capacity; family household members only
    - non-transferable tickets; waitlist enforced in order
- For Sale: Pizza + Snacks + Drinks
- Sign Up Genius: donations of snacks, drinks, prizes + day-of event help
- Prize Donations (something to start thinking about as you receive holiday gifts) – can start bringing them to the school to donate after the holiday break:
    - New in box/package toys & gifts (~$20 or less) from holidays/birthdays
    - Gift cards welcome
    - Larger/more valuable items on case-by-case basis *(for Bingo or PTO raffles)*

Save the Date: Morning Movie (2/21)

- Hosted at Hoboken Grace's movie theater on February 21st at 10am
- Open to Connors families only, free to attend!
- Pajamas welcome!
- RSVPs will be necessary to track numbers, but we do not anticipate exceeding the capacity limit (175-180).
- NOT drop off!
- Movie: TBA

HPEF Online Giving

- Your support fuels programs in: arts, literacy, college & career prep, financial literacy, mental health & wellness, special needs programming, and so much more!
- Donations will be matched dollar for dollar up to $17,500 by two anonymous district families
- Check with your employer re: gift matching
- Donation of $250 or more receives a free gift, while supplies last
- Goal is $75,000
- Thank you to those who stopped by the coffee table on the morning of 12/9 – several donations were received! – and thank you to the Hive for donating coffee!
- Upcoming Community Events:
    - Schmitty's & the Snack Bar will generously donate $1 for every beer purchased from 12/9 through 12/13 – Thank you to the Schmitt families!
    - Mathnasium Partnership – Register for Chess Night on 12/12 and Art Night on 12/19 (see flyers on slide for additional details)

District Events

- Holiday Cookie Decorating, hosted by Hoboken High School's Student Government, on December 13th at 12pm ($5 admission per person)
- Winter Concert on January 21, 2026, at Hoboken High School – Chorus performance at 6pm and Band & Strings at 7:30pm
    - Tickets are limited to 4 per family
    - Only available at door
    - $5 for one show; $8 for both shows

Upcoming Dates

- Upcoming Dates (all of which can be found on the PTO calendar) –
    - Hoboken Tree Lighting (optional grades 3-5): 12/11 (5pm)
    - Connors Rocks the Holidays @ Connors Gym (including swag sale + swag swap): 12/19 (9am for gr. 3-5); (10am for gr. K-2)
    - Winter Break – 1pm Dismissal on 12/22 + No School on 12/24-1/4
    - Return to School: 1/5
    - January PTO Meeting: 1/13 (8:30am)
    - MLK Jr. Weekend – 1pm Dismissal on 1/16 + No School on 1/19
    - District Elementary Holiday Concert (grades 3-5) @ HHS 1/21 (6pm)
    - Connors Koala-ty Career Day: 1/22 (9-10:30am)
    - Connors Family Bingo Night: 1/29 (6pm)
- NOTE ABOUT THE LOST & FOUND:
    - Check out the Connors Lost & Found outside on 2nd Street + at 12/19 Holiday Show.
    - All unclaimed items will be donated over the winter break, and we will start fresh for 2026.

Support the PTO

- Spotlight on Minted for the holiday season – you save 20% and 10% goes back to Connors – and Little City Books Holiday Book Fair (last day was 12/9)
- Refer to Meeting Slides (or the PTO website) for more ways to support!

Preview: January PTO Meeting Guest Speaker

- Christy Gaudio, K-12 Supervisor of ELA and G&T, will be speaking about the CogAT Assessment and the Johns Hopkins CTY Program

Stay Connected

- Stay connected by attending PTO meetings, reading weekly “PTO Corner” emails, and PTO’s section of the Scoop emails.
- Join Facebook Group!
- PTO website has everything – entire page of links
- Sync the PTO calendar!!
- Email us at connorspto@gmail.com

Guest Speaker: Lindsay Cormack, Author of “How to Raise a Citizen”

- Thank you for joining us!
- Her book, How to Raise a Citizen, is available for purchase on Amazon.

THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING!