

Grant PTA General Meeting

Tuesday, Sept 14., 2021 6:30pm, via zoom

Approved 11.9.2021

Meeting call to order

Presentation: COVID-19 & Kids w/ Dr. Joe Zwas

PTA invited Dr. Zwas to field parent questions and discuss COVID-19 and kids.

- Q: If my daughter has allergies and in the morning she says she's tired and her throat hurts, what should I do?

A: Ask yourself is this out of the norm? IF it is normal, then check for a fever. If a fever is present, then go through the motions to stay home, get tested, and follow protocol.

- Q: If I normally time my other vaccines, can my kid get the covid vaccine at the same time?

A: Yes, you can take vaccines at the same time

- Q: Will boosters be coming out soon?

A: Pfizer has been recommended for immunocompromised people (for sure 18 but not sure about 12+) Reduces symptoms but doesn't stop you from getting it.

- Q: How worried should we be about the touching of everyday things in the school setting?

A: The main mode of transmission is aerosol, but if you touch a surface that someone else touched that has it, it can spread if you touch your mouth/nose. Fomites can transmit viruses but aren't as easily transmittable. Wearing masks helps not touching your mouth/nose.

- Q: Can we start a running club?

A: If it's an open environment and people are spaced. If you start it up, it would be recommended to know who is running by who in case of the need of contact tracing so the whole thing doesn't have to be shut down.

- Q: Any recommendations on a "good" mask for kids?

A: Seems that cloth masks with 2-3 layers per North Carolina mask requirements. Not the masks with the round vent because whoever wears it can still spread. N95 masks are the best. Surgical masks are next best. Cloth masks are third. Gators are not the best. Having a good seal over the nose is good!

- Q: What are ways a parent can help anxieties of kids or emotional needs with getting covid.

A: Make masks a "normal" thing. Make it a teachable moment, some people who have underlying symptoms will have bad side effects. Flu can kill people also 150-200 kids die of the flu every year. Kids in general, can get MISC later like 6 months later.

- Q: Reading aloud in class, can the mask be lowered if all other students are masked?

A: There is still a risk, and will increase the risk, but probably not a huge risk if all others are masked.

- Q: How can a kid sign up for the covid testing program? Will they get a placebo and not the actual vaccine?

A: Go to a website www.clinicaltrials.gov. Yes it's possible to get the placebo. 2 out of 3 participants get the vaccine. After the study is finished, people are still followed for the result, and they may un-blind it once it's approved for the placebo volunteers to get the vaccine after the fact.

Principal Update – Michele Cain

- 1st positive COVID-19 case of the year. A letter was sent out indicating that it was a Non-Close Contact.. Going through the process to find out who were close contacts. If your learner was a close contact, you'll get another letter stating Close Contact. 3rd letter is the covid positive letter. In a perfect world the close contact letter would be sent first, but it doesn't always happen that way. In this circumstance, all close contacts have already been contacted.
- She is creating specific boundaries to what people's responsibility is for communication. Who is to do what? Health vs office vs teachers. Lines are slightly crossed at this moment so please have patience and grace. Nursing is understaffed at the moment. There are seating charts for everything from classrooms to lunch seating, to carpet seating, etc. for ease of contact tracing.
- Question from parent: has drop off always been this hard?

Treasurer's Report - John Boyle

- \$250 teacher stipends will go out. There should be an additional \$150 in stipends at the end of Oct
- Art & Science teachers salaries
- Fiscal year starts July 1 and goes through June 30th
- On target for budget at this time.
- Fundraiser scheduled at Lefty's on 9/23/21 - back to school night.
- Crack Shack fundraiser date TBD

Grant community foundation -Carolyn Muhlstein

- The Foundation is a 501c3 non profit and fundraises to support STEAM. Last year raised \$60,000.
- Giving campaign begins in October. Target is \$80,000 & 80% participation. Ice Cream party for classes who reach 75% participation.
- Email grantk8imagine@gmail.com for inquiries
- Foundation meetings are on the 1st Tuesday of every month at 6pm. Alternating zoom and in-person. October meeting will be over zoom.

Get Involved at Grant

- Follow PTA Google Calendar
- Join PTA
- Community Scavenger Hunt coming up. Families will be put in a drawing to win lunch with Principal Cain.

Volunteer Needs - Shira Bicknell

- Need Gala chair volunteer – takes place in the spring.
- Gina Jacobs is going to be a Membership chair
- Only 4 more room reps needed.
- Need Jog-A-Thon committee members

Halloween Carnival – Holly Amaya

- Presented the option to have the fundraiser at Mission Hills Nursery. Only essential volunteers are allowed on school site – which is why it can't be at school.
- Planned for Saturday, October 23rd at Mission Hills Nursery in the lot where they keep the Christmas trees.
- Nursery will charge a modest rental fee. PTA to add the Nursery on the PTA's general liability insurance policy.
- Capacity will be 250 people max
- 3 hour event – with not everyone coming at the same time.
- 1 booth per class - Need volunteers
- Cost will include games & activities would need tickets or a wrist band and would be purchased & a few are donated
- Staggered start is an option
- Each classroom should have a holiday carnival communication person (or by room rep).
- Contact Holly to volunteer hollyamaya@gmail.com

Round Table Discussion

- Walk to school day is on Oct 6th
- PTA Meetings will be hybrid this year. All pm meetings are on Zoom, and every other month there will be a shorter meeting in person on campus after drop-off (15 minutes) hosted with snacks. Each meeting will include an educational/interactive speaker.
- What's up with Drop Off/Pick Up? Start time is governed by the district. Can't change due to bus times. Can't go to staggered time unless the district directs it.
- Traffic Control/ Safety Patrol – Historically, older kids in 6th grade, and would train the next kids for Safety Patrol, but online learning prevented that. Police department trains the kids and does it for the school. Principal Cain requested a traffic analysis team from the school police officer. There are maintenance needs with the red side walks, difficult to see where it starts and stops. There are 2 years of parents who haven't experienced the traffic plan that was in place before. People need to be trained. CANNOT PARK IN THE RED. And then the kids who are crossing the crosswalk can't be seen. Scary.
- PTA Member: Concern with Middle School bag weight. Can there be a classroom set of books so students don't need to carry them home? No, because textbooks are old and not enough to go around and not available online. Many books were not been returned from virtual school, so the district might have to do something to replace them.
- PTA Member: If all kids are issued chrome books, why not get a digital curriculum? Principal Cain mentioned that the school is now receiving another 0.2 library assistant 1 day per week. The future of knowledge consumption is digital and will need staffing to manage the library, textbooks and computers.

Smitha makes a motion to adjourn. Rachel seconds. All in favor.

Adjourned at 8:22pm