

PTO Meeting  
Spring Creek Elementary  
March 12th, 2024  
6:00PM

- **Officer Bernier, School Resource Officer**
  - State College Police Department
  - Crisis Negotiator Specialty
  - Attends National and State School Safety Conferences each summer
  - There is not an SRO at each school,
    - National Standard is 1 SRO per 1,000 students.
    - One full-time SRO at High School, two part time officers that share elementary & middle schools
    - SRO officers visit elementary schools when issues arise.
    - Regular patrols monitor student arrivals some days at schools
      - Officers are encouraged to do this in the event there is a call
      - Helps kids become comfortable with officers both at school and in the community.
  - Security at high schools and middle schools are there to provide security and enforce rules, SRO's are not there to enforce rules or monitor behavior. If an issue escalates, an SRO officer is called.
  - **Safety Drills:**
    - Evacuation Drills (no longer called fire drills) designed to get away from the building, practiced monthly
    - Stay Put Drill- twice per year
    - Severe Weather Drills- twice per year
    - Bus Drills- twice per year
    - Run/Fight/Hide- is not practiced at an elementary level
      - Information can be found on SCASD website>Resources>Family Resources>Emergency Operation Plan
  - At home we can help our kids to feel safe when talking to SRO's and police officers.
    - Can help children understand how & why safety drills are important (at an age appropriate level).
    - Practice emergency preparedness in the home.
    - Make sure school has updated emergency contact information.
    - SafeToSay: Method of anonymous reporting has been very effective in bringing attention to issues. At the middle school and high schools it is widely used. Using the "see something, say something" language is important.
      - There is a pathway to violence, and this pathway can be interrupted with reporting of suspicious behavior.
      - Emphasis on the idea that you aren't tattle-tailing, but instead are helping the individual.
      - Parents should know they can also use this program.
    - Phillipsburg, Bellefonte, Bald Eagle all have metal detectors. SCASD does not. We also do not have bag policies like other Centre County schools.
    - For additional safety measures parents would like to see, the School District should be consulted.
    - Site Assessments for each school were completed by the police department for SCASD.

For questions, please reach out to Paul Brigman.

**PTO HawkTalk:**

- **Family Game Night- Thursday, April 18th, 6PM-8PM**
  - Culmination of Million Minutes

- Flier will go home April 5th
- Ideas for Library & Gym
- Book Bingo
- Order Ahead Pizzas
- 10 Volunteers Needed
- Game Exchange- bring a game, take a game
- Possible PTO \$\$- Printing bookmarks, inquiring on pricing with PawPrints
  - Will ask parents to donate a snack if Wegman's isn't able to provide donuts.
    - For March 27th
    - Hannah will look up ordering donuts
    - Decided PTO will cover donuts for school.
    - Skinny Pop for allergy, from Sam's Club
- Book Fair will be held Wednesday, Thursday, April 17th and 18th
  
- Passion Pals Showcase Night- Friday, May 10th
  - Still working on details
  - Chance for families to come together and celebrate a great year
- Financial Requests- Nurses office asking for \$150, did not receive replacement clothing donations (for when children have accidents).
  - We will try to do a quick campaign for items to come in, if not, PTO will fund.
- Fourth Grade Field Trip to Penn's Cave, with reduced grade funds, they will run short.
  - PTO will fund
- Andrew T-Shirts, will scrap Option 1, will go with option 2 & 3, ask for baseball 3/4 sleeve tee for baseball option, ask for stickers. Trucker hat with softball logo? Andrew will create link for people to shop.
- Will potentially move April meeting to May.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 10th, 6:00-7:00 PM  
 Topic: Moving on! MNMS, Delta Middle and what to expect...

PTO Meeting  
 Spring Creek Elementary  
 February 14th, 2024  
 6:00PM  
 15 Minute PTO HawkTalk:

- Budget Review
- Financial Requests:
  - 5th Grade Trip- Mrs. Roth
    - Wednesday, May 22nd
    - Carnegie Science Museum (ties to 5th grade curriculum and builds into what they will learn in middle school)

- Go to stadium where Steeler's play, talk about turf
  - Nice way to end the year for 5th graders
  - Fullington Bus
  - Trip Approved by PTO
- Follow-up with Sandy Constable regarding Bike Month gift cards
- Fundraising
  - Spirit Wear
    - Happy Valley Custom Tees
    - Launch with Gardner's
    - New Design Idea mock-ups
    - Hannah will manage fundraiser
- Teacher Appreciation Week
  - Updated canvas tote
- Events
  - Friday, May 10th- Passion Pals Showcase
    - Demonstrate, Display, Performance
    - About 25 Passion Pals Groups
  - Thursday, April 18th- Book Fair/Million Minutes

Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 12th, 6PM-7PM

Topic: School and Student Safety with special guest, Officer Bernier

PTO Meeting  
 Spring Creek Elementary  
 December 13th, 2023  
 6:00PM  
 Virtual

- Calie (Treasurer, not in attendance), No Update
- Funding Request
  - Mrs. laneiro, requesting money for Passion Pals snacks. We need to ask clarification on whether money is for snacks or supplies. An idea of budget, \$50 per month is doable, Will revisit next month
  - Request from Sandy Constable, \$100 to purchase gift cards from Barnes & Noble and Walmart, gift cards will be given to students 30+ days of exercise outside of school
    - We do not know how many students participate.
    - Ashley will follow-up with Paul on this
    - Are there building funds that can be used towards gift cards?
      - Paul said this year funding has been spoken for, but either way, funds would not be allowed to be used for gift cards.
      - PTO approves Bike Calendar Money Requests, with the caveat that more information is provided for next year.
  - No responses received for Camera Purchase asks, PTO ordered a few that will be dropped off on Friday by Calie.
  - Response to Request for Fiscal Year 24 Financials
    - Multiple PTOs responded similarly, asking for more information.
    - District is looking for inequalities amongst schools
      - Concerned that district will defund some schools if they are raising more money
      - We feel we shouldn't have to answer to district for funding, or be penalized for raising funds
        - Donors can be from all over, not necessarily the school's immediate area.

- Will not prepare a financial statement for tomorrow's meeting
  - If parent, teacher or donor asks for financial statement, we will provide that information.
- **Urgent Request for Yearbook Photos**
  - Very few pictures for yearbook at this point.
  - We need about 500 pictures by January 1st to have a yearbook.
  - Susan would usually email teachers every few weeks reminding to upload pictures.
  - Option to email link to Google Drive for families to upload pictures
    - Potential privacy concern
  - Will make a yearbook work. Will continue asking teachers to upload picture and families can email their pictures to us to add
- **Birthdays/Retirees/Babies/Weddings/Etc.**
  - Food or gas gift card
  - Do we want a set amount?
  - Special Circumstances- ?
  - Budget- Could use line item "PTO Gives Back"
  - Ashley to provide email addresses for Mrs. Sachdeva and Mrs. Baney
    - Hannah will send \$30.00 Doordash Gift Cards to them via email
- **Hopes & Dreams for Spring Creek**
  - Parent and Teacher Conferences in the Spring
  - Parents to attend Winter Singalong
    - Is there an option for Virtual Link?
  - Back to School Night, after school starts?
    - Could back to school night be combined with conferences?
  - Some kids probably really benefit from seeing classrooms before school starts, maybe two separate events? Open House later in the year.
  - Bring back Daddy Daughter Dance? Maybe it could be a Caregiver Daughter Dance? A lot of pushback

**PTO Meeting**  
**Spring Creek Elementary**  
**November 14, 2023**  
**6:00PM**

- Introductions
- District Communication
  - SCASD (from Annette) asking for fiscal year financials, request sent without context. District looking to "reword" how they interact with "booster clubs". District says they do not seek to have more than "oversight authority".
  - PTO is not a booster club. There is no mention of PTO in District's Policies and Guidelines.
  - PTO is it's own 501c, has never been asked to submit this information before.
  - Mr. Brigman does not have any other information.
  - Ashley will reach out to Randy Brown copying Paul Brigman asking for a call/meeting to discuss further. She will also let Annette know we are in talks on how to respond.
- Financials
  - Photography Club
    - We are in need of (6) cameras for the new photography club to have for Yearbook.
    - PTO will ask the community to donate a camera.

- Hoping to take advantage of Black Friday Deals.
- Projecting \$100 per camera.
- Mrs. Darlington will create an Amazon Wishlist including cameras and SD cards.
- As a last resort we can ask for donations of used cameras.
- Cleaning Products Request
  - Product request for Norwex Cleaning Supplies. Unfortunately we do not have the funds to provide this for every classroom, so it will be denied.
- Passion Pals
  - District grant received by Library for Passion Pals. Funds are no longer needed from PTO.
  - PTO is trying to be more organized this year so Funding Request Form needed for any purchases.
  - Reimbursement needed by Mrs. Conklin for funds spent on Passion Pals.
  - Mrs. Conklin and Mrs. Snavelly will resubmit form for reimbursement.
- Hawk Hop
  - \$19,865.72 total raised!
- Upcoming Fundraising:
  - Apparel Sale
  - Gardener's Candy

Miscellaneous:

- Each teacher has \$50 gift card to buy books at the Book Fair
- Harvest Fest is Friday!

**Special Guest: Mrs. Darlington**

**Topic: Extracurricular Activities**

- Intramural open to 4th & 5th Graders
- Very popular with students
- 3 Seasons- Fall/Winter/Spring
  - Fall :
    - Fall Sports, Bowling at Northland Bowl (cost involved)
    - Students bused to Northland Bowl, Parents pickup there
  - Winter:
    - Skiing at Tussey Mountain (cost involved)
    - Volleyball
  - Spring:
    - Track & Field
  - Swimming
    - Students bused to Natatorium at High School
    - Swim Test Required
- All 4th and 5th graders receive fliers advertising Intramural.

Choir:

- Offered to 4th and 5th graders
- Parents will receive an informational email after Thanksgiving
- Practice held during school day this year.
- Rehearsals will rotate with Band and Orchestra.

Other Activities:

- Lacrosse
  - State College Warriors, open to Kindergarteners & older. Practices begin in March.
- Girls on the Run would be great to start after school.
- Nittany Valley Cross Country is inclusive, affordable and fun.
- Penn State Saturday Art School

- 9-11 on Saturdays during the school year
  - Art on display with reception
  - Budget-Friendly
- Scouts of America
  - A lot of opportunity for community service, leadership skills, outdoors
  - Brandy Jolly, Troop Leader
  - Josh Kirby, Troop Leader
- CPA MMA- Mixed Martial Arts

**Next Meeting:**

**Wednesday, December 13th, 2023**

**Topic: Cookie Exchange**

**Bring your cookies, recipe to share and a container to take cookies home in!**

**PTO Meeting  
Spring Creek Elementary  
October 11, 2023  
6:00PM**

- **Introductions**
- **PTO Minutes:**
- Meeting Format: Quick PTO Minutes followed by Presentation
- **Hawk Hop:**
  - \$2350 raised so far, goal is \$20,000
    - Please send in donations, Due October 20th
    - Mr. Brigman will present to students if goal is met
    - Hawk Hop is the largest fundraiser of the year
    - Students and Teachers will wear T-shirt
    - More information can be found on Facebook and PTO Website
- Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities:
  - Book Fair- November 15th-17th
  - Fall Harvest- November 17th

- Costume Parade will be Wednesday prior to Teacher Conferences, parents are welcome to watch parade in Fogelman Park
- Next PTO Meeting: November 14th, 2023
- Treasurer's Report:
  - Field Trip & Classroom Supplies allowance is \$500 per classroom.
    - If teachers go over budget, a form can be filled out to approve additional funds.

**Shannon Messick:**

Volunteering at SCASD

- Many volunteer opportunities in SCASD (Teachers, Athletics, CEEL, Band)
- 2023 Policy and Procedure Forms are printed and available at meeting.
- State Law requires individuals to obtain clearances in order to volunteer with children.
  - Visitors/Guests (guest speaker, mystery reader) not required
  - Volunteer (someone providing care, supervision or guidance during interaction with children).
- Safety is the most important reason for the policies.
- Required Forms & Clearances
  1. Policy & Procedure Form
  2. PA Child Abuse History\*
  3. State Police Criminal Record\*
  4. FBI Criminal Background or Self Disclosure Form
  5. Mandated Reporter Training
    - \*Free for Volunteers
  - [www.scasd.org/volunteer](http://www.scasd.org/volunteer)
    - Contains most up to date information on required clearances and steps necessary to be cleared as a SCASD Volunteer.
    - VIPS office maintains a database showing all cleared individuals; all SCASD staff has access
- Policy & Procedure Form needs to be completed annually.
- Once all forms are completed, please allow VIPS office 5 days to process.
- Clearances are required to be renewed every 5 years
- If you are unsure of whether your clearances are valid, please email [volunteers@scasd.org](mailto:volunteers@scasd.org)
- VIPS Office will communicate with you through email address listed on forms.
- Printed copies, or screenshots of clearances are okay to submit to VIPS.

**PTO Meeting  
Spring Creek Elementary  
September 12, 2023  
6:00PM**

- **Introductions**
- **Mrs. Sachdeva** 3rd Grade Teacher
  - Hoping PTO can support Country of Origin Flag Initiative (\$6.95- \$7.95) each.
  - Plans to send out survey each year asking families if they would like to participate. When there is a new country of origin, flag will be added.
  - PTO approves \$25.00 per year, money to rollover each year and cap at \$100.

Zoom had been muted until now.

- New PTO bylaws, QR code for review
  - Planning to have changes approved at October meeting.

**Paul Brigman**

- Thanks to parents for attending meeting.
  - School is committed to partnership with families. Invitation to share thoughts, ideas and suggestions.
- April Rizzo to provide simple overview of curriculum and resources.
  - Take home message: Delivery of big ideas, school is here to help
  - April's role is to support teachers and act as liaison between curriculum office and frontline educators.

### Special Speaker: April Rizzo, Instructional Coach

- 10th year as an Instructional Coach
- Curriculum Process
  - Based on state and national standards, committees review resources that align with curriculum and make recommendations to the board, plan for professional development for teachers prior to and during implementation
- Reading
  - Core Reading Resource:
    - Intro to Reading from HMH
      - Grounded in current research as evidenced from Ed [reports.org](https://reports.org) and includes vocabulary, comprehension and foundational skills.
  - Support Resource:
    - Enhanced Core Reading Instruction (ECRI) K-2 (Further supports phonics)
      - 3 hour delays will be dedicated to these resources.
      - Classrooms that used ECRI last year have been very successful and district feels strongly that program is beneficial.
      - Scarborough's Reading Rope Graphic- "Many Strands Are Woven into Skilled Reading", all programs need to work together to create skilled readers.
      - ECRI used for older grades when student's reading levels need extra support.
- Writing
  - Core Writing Resource: Units of Study in Writing
    - Workshop approach to invite student choice and differentiation in writing
    - Teach grammar during writing time and support transfer of correct grammar and spelling to student writers.
- Math
  - Year 5 of "Bridges of Mathematics", from Math Learning Center
    - Grounded in current research as evidenced from Ed [reports.org](https://reports.org) and includes conceptual understanding and procedural fluency.
      - Program has been great helping students find procedure to math that works best for them.
  - Support Resources:
    - IXL (grades K-5) & Reflex/Frax (grades 2-5)
      - To support additional math skill work and math fact practice.
  - Bridges: How is Math Learned?
    - Conceptual- to understand the meaning
      - Example: building arrays to see groups of numbers for multiplication
    - Strategies- to apply strategies as a bridge between understanding and automaticity
      - Example, the nines strategy
  - Automaticity- to recall facts quickly, efficiently, and correctly over time
- Science
  - In collaboration with Dr. Carla Zembal-Saul, PSU & SCASD created own science units.
    - Units are grounded in phenomenon and content storyline.
    - Instruction is framed around Claims, Evidence, and Reasoning achieved through hands on experiences and science talks.
      - Example: Cockroaches- hands-on, inquiry based, students have a real-life experience with the cockroaches, a lot of reasoning through it and student interest.
- Social Studies
  - Will be using Inquiry Journeys as core Social Studies resource.
    - Some teachers are "early adopters" and have started this year.
    - Social Studies units are inquires that start with a question about the world around us.

- Based online so that the information is fresh and new, rather than outdated.
- Unit by Unit Communication
  - Available on district website
    - [SCASD.org](http://SCASD.org)> Academics> Curriculum Grades K-5> Elementary Curriculum> Grade \_\_\_\_
  - Questions throughout the year can be directed to child's teacher.
  - Biggest resource is reading to and with children, audiobooks.

Reminders:

- Next Wednesday, September 20th, first PTO mixer at Voodoo Brewery, 6PM.
- Next PTO Meeting is Wednesday, October 11th at 6PM.
- More information regarding Hawk Hop to be sent home soon.
- Follow PTO on Facebook for more information.