November 2025 PTO Meeting

November 11, 2025, at 8:30am

View PTO Meeting Slides Here

Attendees: Olivia Rodriguez, Michelle Mazurkiewicz, Nicole Jala, Nick Lenzi, Colleen Herzog, George Weinberger, Elena Castineira, David Weinberger, Nikki Nachimow, Peter Chu, Amy Duskin, Rachel Ciccarella, Chrissy Badger, Lisa Padilla, Danielle O'Donnell, Sarah Reever-Pickerel, Shep DiCesare, Lauren Reid Hurst, Achint Sethi, Bruna Pinto, Celine B, Courtney Guyer, Kaitlin Usinger, Manan Doshi, May Flam, Meera, Meg Tesser, Meghan Berry, Richard Qian, Lauren Loffredo, Rosie Colosi, Mayank Pathak, Sy Q, Emily Janocha, Lisa Del Vecchio, Monika Belur

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: 8:35-9:40am

Action Items:

IF YOU WANT TO…

- Help stock faculty lounges and monthly treat trolleys? Click here.
- Give feedback about Halloween festivities? Email connorspto@gmail.com
- Volunteer for the Halloween Dance Do-Over? Sign Up Here.
- Order SWAG from the Online Holiday Sale? Click here
- Support the Connors art program? Shop your child's Square 1 Art Project here.
- Donate to the ThanksGIVING Dinner Baskets? Click here.
- Contribute to the Booster Fundraiser? Venmo @Connors-PTO or Zelle (PTO email)
- **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

- **October Recap [Michelle]**
- **First Annual Career Day [Courtney]**
- **SWAG Online Holiday Sale [Sarah]**
- **Square 1 Art [Michelle]**
- **ThanksGIVING Dinner Baskets [Michelle]**
- **Little City Books Holiday Book Fair [Rosie + Michelle]**
- **Coming Up for PTO Liaisons [Nicole]**
- **HCC Holiday Market Gift Drive [Michelle]**
- **Many Ways to Support the PTO [Michelle]**
- **Winter Concert [Michelle]**
- **Upcoming Dates [Michelle]**
- **Stay Connected [Michelle]**
- **Support the PTO [Michelle]**
- **Preview: December Meeting [Michelle]**
- **Guest Speaker: Principal Addi**

October Recap

- Our Halloween Costume Shop leaders (Nikki N & Chrissy B) + the volunteers who made the Costume Shop a success!
    - Feedback?
        - Ms. Addi – Several children needed last minute costumes on Halloween and it was super appreciated and well-received by the children
- **Thank you to PTO Liaisons** for coordinating class crafts/activities
- Thank you to Halloween Dance Committee and volunteers who helped set up before the dance on 10/30
- Thank you to all who donated funds and snacks for the Dance
- **Halloween Dance Do-Over/Boo-Over**
    - **New Date:** November 13th!
    - **Same Times:** Grades K+1 @ 6-6:50pm and Grades 2-5 @ 7:10-8pm
    - Location: Depends on weather, but it's looking like a cold week, so likely indoors in the gym + quiet craft room in the Science Lab
    - Sign up HERE to help with set up, clean up, and/or during the event!

First Annual Career Day

- Thursday, January 22nd, 9:00–10:30 am
    - Parents will present for 15–20 minutes at small stations to groups of 4–5 students at a time.
    - Students will rotate between stations. (4x)
    - Goal is 4–5 different careers per homeroom.
    - Classroom assignments will depend on number of volunteers and variety of careers represented. No guarantees that you'll be with your own child. Parents can only be assigned to one classroom.
- COMPLETE INTEREST FORM BY NOV. 14TH!

SWAG Online Holiday Sale

- DEADLINE TO ORDER IS SUNDAY - 11/16!
- 1 of 2x each year to order specialty items (different items in winter/spring sales – so if you see something you like, get it now)
- These items ONLY AVAILABLE ONLINE; place orders through vendor website!
    - Some color options are nested, etc. so look around to make sure you see all the options.
- Items will be delivered in time for holiday gifting (to school then distributed)
- No way to extend the sale because we want to ensure that the swag is delivered in time for holiday gifting.

Square 1 Art

- More information / sample will be coming home.
- WANT TO SHOP NOW? No need to wait.
  Click here and enter New Jersey, Connors, and child's First Name and Last Name.
- Proceeds will be returned to the art program here at Connors for new, fun, exciting, and creative projects!
    - Last year, this initiative raised approximately $1,400 – all of which was earmarked specifically for the Connors art program.
- Contact our art teacher Ms. Patience with questions.

ThanksGIVING Dinner Baskets

- DROP OFF DEADLINE is 11/24 at 8:30am
- 25 dinner baskets for Connors families
- Perishable + non-perishable foods, beverages, paper goods, FD bags, gift cards
    - Fresh Direct bags are preferred and we need a LOT of them (few bags per "basket")
- Monetary donations to PTO welcomed!
    - We use monetary donations to pick up remaining items on 11/24
    - We also provide families with a gift card to get other ancillary groceries as needed for their Thanksgiving meals.
- Non-perishable items: Drop off at the Connors front door from 11/11 until 8:30am on 11/24. Bins by security.
- Perishable items (including turkeys): Drop off on 11/24 (at 8:30 am)
    - If you cannot bring it on 11/24, pick it up on Sunday and give it to a friend
    - OR make a note when you sign up, include your phone number, and a PTO representative can pick it up on 11/24 on your behalf
- Sign up here: Connors PTO: Connors ThanksGIVING Baskets 2025
- Question: What if you want to give cash or check? Answer: You can give to a PTO officer OR you can send via venmo or Zelle.

Little City Books Holiday Book Fair

- When you are shopping for holiday books, games, puzzles, etc., you either mention Connors in store or enter "Connors" in the Comments box at online checkout.

- Stock up on gift cards!
- November 28th – December 8th
- 20% of all sales go to Connors PTO
- FYI, our in-school Scholastic Book Fair is in the winter

Coming Up for PTO Liaisons

- Thank you to grade-level PTO Liaisons, who use the PTO Booster Fund budget to coordinate with teachers for holiday-themed crafts. Upcoming activities are:
    - Thanksgiving activity / craft
    - Winter-themed activity / craft
- We continue to welcome donations to our PTO Booster Fund specifically earmarked for all classroom holiday activities/supplies; Venmo or Zelle Connors PTO and note Booster Fund! Thanks to all who have donated already!
    - There are 20 classrooms with $30 budget for holiday activities (i.e. $600 for Halloween, $600 for Thanksgiving, $600 for Winter Holidays, etc.)
- Class Holiday Gifts for Teachers
    - 2 separate collections – one collected for homerooms by PTOLs and one collected by PTO for general staff
- More details on all to come from Nicole Jala/PTO

HCC Holiday Market Gift Drive

- Hoboken Community Center (HCC) is collecting items for annual Holiday Market
- Donate NEW + UNWRAPPED gift items
  for children of all ages (see list on flyer)
    - *Can even buy books at LCB Book Fair!*
- Drop off at Connors by Dec 9
- Amazon Wishlist - can buy from here and drop at school or send straight to HCC, put note from Connors family
- FYI – Hoboken Grace has a gift drive too, if anyone wants another option

Many Ways to Support the PTO

- Spotlight on Minted for the holiday season – you save 20% and 10% goes back to Connors
- A flyer with 5 Ways to Support Connors PTO this Month will be going home in backpacks

Winter Concert

- This year's District Elementary Winter Concert will take place JANUARY 21!
- Hoboken High School Auditorium
- Two performances
    - Chorus @ 6pm
    - Band & Strings @ 7:30pm
- Students in both should stay for both
- 4 Tickets per family (available at door)
- $5 for one show. $8 for both. CASH ONLY!

- Rehearsals will take place during school; students will be bussed to HS for 1 rehearsal
- FYI from Sarah: “Connors Rocks” shirt was inspired by Mr. Azzarto – you buy it in the online swag sale and then wear it to Holiday/Winter Concerts!

Upcoming Dates

- All of these dates are in the PTO calendar!
- FLAGGING – Makeup Picture Day & MP1 Theater Showcase

UPCOMING DATES

Connors Calendar of Events
Sync the Connors PTO Calendar

Halloween Dance DO-OVER!	11/13
Winter/Holiday Swag Sale	Through 11/16
ThanksGIVING Care Baskets Drive	11/11-11/24
MP1 Theater Showcase (Ortiz, Schultes, Rodriguez)	11/21 (10am)
Picture Day Make Ups	11/20
Thanksgiving Break – 1pm Dismissal (no PTL)	11/26
Thanksgiving Break – No School	11/27-11/28
Little City Books Holiday Book Fair	11/28-12/8
December PTO Meeting	12/9 (8:30am)
Connors “Rocks the Holidays” @ Connors Gym	12/19 (G3-5 @9am; K-2 @10am)
Winter Break – 1pm Dismissal (no PTL)	12/23
Winter Break – No School	12/24-1/2
District Elementary Winter Concert (grades 3-5) @ HHS	1/21 (6pm)
Connors Career Day	1/22 (9am)

Support the PTO

SUPPORT THE PTO

Share these with family + friends!

Raise Right

- % of all gift card purchases to PTO
- % of online shopping to PTO
- **Visit** www.raiseright.com
- Use Enrollment Code 2S9QPDASA8MS

MabelsLabels.com

- 20% back to Connors PTO
- **Visit** www.MabelsLabels.com
- **Click** Support a Fundraiser
- **Enter** Connors + select our school
- **Click** “Get Shopping”

VOLUNTEER - events, committees, etc.

Minted.com

- Use code FundraiseConnors for 20% off
- 10% back to Connors PTO

Box Tops

- Download app + select our school
- Scan or email your receipts
- $ earned for qualifying items

Other Ways to Help

- Goods/Services - students/staff/raffles
- Donate $ or Items Needed for Events
- Sponsor programming / activities
- Connections / Assemblies / Comm Svc

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

Preview: December Meeting

- Author Dr. Lindsay Cormack – How to Raise a Citizen

Guest Speaker: Principal Addi

THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING!