
In Attendance

Andrea Christopher, Sarah Hess, Ashley Welter, Andrew and Nicole Bolthouse, Jess Messerli, Molly Penberthy, Beth Bobeldyk, Randy Husted, Darin Adams, Mindy Kramme, Haley Iehl, Grace Butler, and Jenna Flugum.

5th Grade Report on Des Moines Trip & Principal's Corner (Andrea Christopher)

- Ms. Bobeldyk shared about the 5th grade trip to Des Moines. Fifth grade has been learning about biomes and students got to visit the botanical gardens! POWWER helped fund the trip.
- Update on the outdoor pergola – received a private donation of \$14,000 to help cover the cost of the outdoor classroom and POWWER will be chipping in the remaining amount. The new outdoor space will be adjacent to the south parking lot, garden, and pre-k/kindergarten playground. Plans are drawn up and construction will likely begin in the spring. Darin asked if the school would be interested in having pre-k/k size picnic tables for the outdoor space as he can donate these. He can also help with getting good pricing for regular-sized picnic tables. Ms. Chris will work with Darin on the picnic tables!
- Partners in Education
 - Candeo Church – Cody Cline has been a fantastic partner. Candeo has helped in numerous capacities (volunteers, donations, etc.). Also established a Candeo college student/UNI partnership working with 1st graders on literacy.
 - Jen Bainbridge with ReMax Realty, Urban Pie, and Scoopski's are also great supporters of our school!
- There are a number of items the school could use donations for including waterproof gloves (all sizes), underwear (girls size 10/12), leggings (all girls sizes), sweatpants (all sizes for both boys and girls), and individually packaged snacks (e.g., goldfish, granola bars, etc.).
- Orchard Hill's leadership team met and discussed purchasing IXL as a math supplement for all grades this year. The cost is \$595 and they would like to cover the cost by utilizing a portion of each grade levels' allocated dollars from POWWER, which was approved at the meeting.
- A reminder about the morning drop off line to keep the line moving. It can be challenging in the winter months since students have more belongings to take to school each day but need to keep the line moving.

Literacy Information & Slides from Mrs. Valiev and Mrs. Switzer

- Tuesday, December 6, from 4:30-5:30 pm is Literacy Night for kindergarten-3rd grade.
- Jessie Switzer joined Orchard Hill as the second reading teacher this year.
- Ms. Chris played a video from Mrs. Valiev and Mrs. Switzer that gave an overview of literacy, science of reading research, etc. She will share this in an email to families.
- Orchard Hill has a Book Room that has literacy resources for small groups and is available for all teachers to utilize. Some resources available include assessments, phonics chip kits, phonics lesson library, decodable books, etc.
- Professional development will begin in January for new curriculum called Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA) which will be implemented next school year.

Updates & Treasurer's Report

- Teachers have been turning in receipts for supplies which is great. Butterbraids was the biggest source of revenue within the last month.
 - Roughly \$43,000 in checking.

- Hospitality report – Conference meal was a success and with leftovers we were able to feed teachers multiple meals. Used some Fun Fair leftovers (pop, water, etc.) as well. Winter parties scheduled for December 22.
- Hy-Vee receipts – First request to turn-in receipts will be later this month for submitting them in December.
- 123 students sold 896 butterbraids, raising over \$5,300 for Orchard Hill. Pick-up is this Thursday from 4-6 pm.
- First popcorn day on Friday! Three popcorn machines ready to go and every class will get a bin of popcorn. Supplies have been donated so far. Looking to see about sponsoring (perhaps sponsor name on marquee out in front of school) or asking for a small charge to covering costs for spring 2023. Potentially looking to do a competition between classes to keep the floors clean on popcorn days to not leave a mess for custodial staff.
- Gift wrap fundraiser is planned for Saturday, December 10, from 2-4 pm. Looking to do a greater push this year to hopefully get more participants since we have all of the supplies. Will also advertise with butterbraid pick up. Maybe put together a coloring sheet for students to complete and send home with the details.
- Penny Wars are also coming up, January 23-27. Plan to use some of our student leaders to help keep daily totals. Since most grades were in the negative last year due to lots of silver coins turned in, Justine Rinehart suggested we could flip the thought process this year and have pennies negative and silver coins positive.
- Fun Fair discussion
 - 6th grade voted on Fun Fair theme for this year. Under the Sea and Beach themes are the top two themes right now. Consider doing door decorating contest.
 - Ramadan is March 22 - April 21 so we may push the date back to April 28.
 - Finding volunteers to help is a challenge. Going to try doing a volunteer push with Peet Junior High and Cedar Falls High School (CAPS program, former Orchard Hill students, sports teams, etc). Ms. Bobeldyk mentioned that Troy Becker might have thoughts on how to get sports teams involved with volunteering. We may also have another UNI contact to get more college students.
 - Small table conversations about people and businesses that may be able to support Fun Fair.

Next Meeting

Adjourned at 8:00 p.m. Next meeting will be held December 13 at 7:00 pm.

Minutes taken and submitted by Jenna Flugum.

PURPOSE STATEMENT

"...to promote the welfare and educational values of children and youth at Orchard Hill Elementary School..."