

Minutes of the Pleasantdale PTA, April 5, 2011

President, Kelly Hansen called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Correspondence – Secretary, Kathy Shah read thank you notes received from **Maggie Smith, Mrs. Maita's Class and Mrs. Arroyo and Mrs. Sarwark's Class** thanking the PTA for the books provided during *Read Across America* week.

Treasurer's Report – Treasurer, Alli Gulliver provided the following report read at the meeting: As of **March 31, 2011**, the Pleasantdale PTA's cash balance was **\$32,527**. This includes income of **\$3,167** mostly from Shamrock Shake. There were expenses of **\$2,690** mostly for 8th grade and Reading and Literature.

Minutes – The minutes of the last meeting of the Pleasantdale PTA were approved as written.

Administration Reports

Superintendent, Mark Fredisdorf discussed the issue of mandated consolidation of schools. He mentioned that this issue seems to be quickly taking a backseat. He met with our state representatives and the issue seems to be mostly in the study phase at this time and not gaining any real traction. On a different note, he mentioned that Pleasantdale will be hosting a presentation on cyberbullying as this is becoming more and more of an issue in all schools.

Elementary School Principal, Matt Vandercar wished to thank the PTA and in particular, **Paula Ogurkewicz**, for coordinating yesterday's assembly, *I Love This School*. He felt it had a very positive message. He also wished to remind all that Experience Elementary will be held tomorrow evening with an open-house format. Lastly, the Annual Spelling Bee will be held on April 28th and 29th. He feels each year's bee builds on lessons learned from the previous bees. One difference in this year's competition will be the absence of a universal study list provided to the students. He has received positive comments concerning this change.

Middle School Principal, Meg Pokorny wished to remind everyone that the middle school musical will take place on April 15th and 16th at 7 p.m. **Sharon Collins and Tony Tatina** are co-producing the performance which will be *Willy Wonka*. On April 18th, progress reports will be issued and on April 21st, Middle will host *All About Us* from 6-8 p.m. with an open-house format. There will also be a meeting for 4th grade parents that evening from 5-6 p.m. prior to *All About Us* to serve as an introduction to the middle school. In the last week of April, the 6th and 7th grade parents meetings will be held.

Bernie Lucas reported for **Elementary School** as **Staff Representative**. Her report was as follows:

Preschool - Preschool is learning about Spring. We will be planting and exploring.

Kindergarten - Our current theme is Plants and we have been reading books, drawing the life cycle and writing down facts we learn. This week we are planting green beans and we plan to measure the growth and track on a graph.

1st Grade - The first graders are going to Cernan Space Center on Thursday. This is a wonderful culminating field trip after studying about space. In Math, we are learning about telling time. We are looking forward to Experience Elementary on Wednesday and showing our parents all the fantastic things we do in school.

2nd Grade - Second grade is looking forward to a visit from meteorologist, Ginger Zee, on Friday, April 8th. We are also looking forward to our trip to Lincoln Park Zoo on April 21st and the conservatory to kick off our plant unit.

3rd Grade - The students are very excited to lead their parents around at Experience Elementary.

Language Arts - We are busy reading the book Sarah, Plain and Tall and have been working in cooperative groups to complete points to ponder.

Science - We just started chapter 4 in science focusing on animals. All the students have completed their animal reports and are very excited to have them on display for Experience Elementary.

4th Grade - We are studying land, climate, resources, and economy of the United States region by region. Also, we are studying the life cycle of plants and their place in various environments. Soon, we will have an in-school field trip titled "Agriculture in the Classroom." We are doing all types of writing including poetry, reports, and realistic fiction.

ART

KDG – This week we are working on seed collages to go along with the Plants unit in class

First graders are reviewing foil tooling techniques and are creating flowers on foil

Second graders are finishing up their 3-D paper masks. The masks have exaggerated human characteristics and look pretty silly.

Third graders are working on a "worms-eye drawing" of a city skyline. We discussed perspective and how to design buildings in a city.

The fourth graders are starting a stained glass project this week. They will be creating designs and using "glass deco" glue to fill each design with transparent colors.

P.E. - We will spend most of our time going outside playing softball, kickball and starting track and field unit.

Library - This year's winners for the Monarch Award are:

1. Rhyming Dust Bunnies by Jan Thomas
2. Mudball by Matt Tavares
3. Bad Kitty Gets a Bath by Nick Bruel

The week of April 4, the 3rd and 4th graders will be voting for their favorite Bluestem book.

Spanish - In Spanish and Art, the 1st graders are learning about Mexican Markets and making traditional Mexican crafts.

The 2nd graders are learning about jungle and farm animals. The 4th graders are starting to learn the words they need to know in order to do a presentation entitled "how to construct a sandwich" in Spanish.

Ruth Burke reported for **Middle School** as **Staff Representative**. Her report was as follows:

Grade 5 - Outdoor Ed was an amazing experience! The weather was gorgeous and the kids walked away being very skilled in survival, birds, orienteering, and team building. Many even became an expert at table etiquette, reducing waste at meal times, singing karaoke, or rolling up a sleeping bag. The students had the first outdoor campfire in over 4 years eating smores and all! Two students were chosen to leave their mark on a board at Lorado taft which represented our school. They drew an eagle. Why? They said, "We saw many eagles there and some of our fondest memories were of the elementary school when we were eagles. We are proud of being tigers, but we can't forget about being an eagle!"

We are headed to Rome next in Social Studies and come check out the life size periodic table that the students created in our hallway.

Grade 6 - All the students had a wonderful time working together designing and building their advisory houses. The students' designs needed to include personal representation of each member then tie it into a whole structure that stood independently. This actually was a great practice for the Spanish home unit that the students are studying this month.

Grade 7 - Be on the lookout for 7th grade detectives. They are learning how science is applied to the world of forensics. John Sella an investigator with the Criminal Intelligence Unit from the County Sheriff's Department discussed some of his experiences as a CSI and techniques he uses to collect evidence. Students may choose to use these newly discovered detective skills while researching persuasive writing topics in composition class.

Grade 8 - Two big hot tops in 8th grade are the history of WWII and astrology. Although they will carry on without them, the 8th grade students are missing their student teachers as their journey into their own classrooms continues.

Exploratories:

Modular Technology:

- 5th: The 5th graders are applying their word skills by creating newsletters about a favorite topic. They are continuing to increase their typing speed while getting used to correct fingering. We will be moving into spreadsheet skills next where students will create tables and charts and even learn how to apply formulas. They are working hard and are a great group to have in class.
- 6th: Newsletters are also being created by the 6th graders, though they are applying higher skills and also becoming familiar with "Publisher" while creating an additional version. Their focus in typing is on learning the top row and hard to type words and symbols. Next, we will work on cyberbullying and related issues. After this, the moment they have been waiting for will arrive as we begin working on the modular technology units. They are very excited to begin this rotation.
- 8th: The 8th graders are continuing to work on the modules. They are currently finishing up their 2nd rotation and will begin the 3rd this week. They end each module by writing a journal about what they learned, the impact of the technology and their thoughts about the future in this area. They are working hard.

Art

5th grade just finished creating their clay bears and are about to glaze them. We have quite a collection including the Easter bunny bear, the Julia Child's bear, and many bears that are just back from spring training for the Cubs and the Sox.

7th and 8th grade have just about finished the last round of chalk drawings for the year and are moving in to print making. There is also an Art Show at the La Grange Library for the month of April. Many of our 5th, 7th and 8th grade artists will be on display.

Physical Education

All grades are gearing up for their best Fitness Performance on three fitness tests; push-ups, 10 minute run and sit & reach test. We will be testing and retesting throughout April and May. Our 8th grade students have an opportunity to participate in L.T.'s Fitness Day on May 3 and May 5 if they qualify in the top 85th percentile on 6 fitness tests. We want to remind all of our students that we will be going outside as much as possible for our soccer and track units, so students should plan to have sweatpants, sweatshirt or a light jacket available in their PE locker. Also, they should have outdoor gym shoes that they can change out of after class so they don't track mud into the school.

Health

6th and 7th grade are finishing up their units on body systems. Both grades levels will be moving on to the nutritional unit. 7th Students will learn how create the food guide pyramid based upon the serving sizes recommended for them. 8th grade will use MyPyramid.gov to help them make judgments about important nutrients their body needs everyday compared to the recommended amounts.

Unfinished Business – The Chair was unaware of any unfinished business.

New Business – The Chair was unaware of any new business.

Committee Reports:

Reading and Literature –

Write Stuff – Chair, Linda Thorell, could not attend the meeting, but provided the following report read at the meeting: We are gearing up for the final prompt of the year. For the final prompt, we are going to ask our kids to write anything that is fiction. They can write a short story, silly poem, or cartoon. We experienced our greatest success this year with the cards our kids made for Children's Memorial Hospital. A total of 305 students participated, with several kids making more than one card. The following is a note received from the manager of children's services after receiving the package with the cards: THANK YOU so much for the very cheerful, colorful and fun cards. They are just in time for the spring weather and will brighten the patients' days. They will certainly bring many smiles....as well as spark creative ideas for crafts they can make while they are here. Please extend our appreciation to everyone involved. It is evident that they were made with much compassion and caring.

ES Readers- Chair, Jenny Corcoran, could not attend the meeting, but provided the following report read at the meeting: There are 74 students signed up to participate in the final ES Readers' Night on Thursday, April 14. The students will be reading *Diary of a Worm* and *Diary of a Fly*. Both books are written by Doreen Cronin, who gave a presentation at Pleasantdale recently. After the books are read, each group will discuss them and complete book-related activities. A fun snack will be served to conclude the evening

MS Readers - no one to report

Paw Prints – no one to report

Eighth Grade- Tammy White could not attend, but provided the minutes of the last meeting of the Eighth Grade Committee which were read at the meeting. A copy of the minutes has been attached at the end of this meeting's minutes.

Legislation – Chair, Rajer Shah could not attend and provided the following report read at the meeting: The Candidate Forum was held on March 22nd. The feedback from attendees was very positive. The audience asked great questions and was engaged from start to finish. I think the PTA and candidates provided a great service to our community. Thanks again to all our volunteers. Good luck to all of our candidates.

President's Dinner - Vice Presidents, Christine Franco and Jennifer Hawbaker reported that plans for this year's President's Dinner are well under way. Invitations to Chairs have been mailed and a flyer reminding all of the event will appear again in the next Friday Packet. The President's Dinner will be held at Salerno's in Hodgkins on April 29th at 6:30 p.m.

PTA Special Lunch – Linda Thorell also provided an update on Special Lunch which was read at the meeting: The final special lunch of McDonald's will take place on April 27th. We are changing restaurants this year and they are willing to deliver which will be greatly appreciated! Elementary school projections indicate that 340 orders will be placed for hamburgers and cheeseburgers.

Room Representatives – no one to report

Shamrock Shake- Jennifer Rohrbacher could not attend but sent the following report (received post-meeting): Thank you to everyone who came out to the Shamrock Shake. Once again we had a great turn out. A great big thank you goes out to **Lisa Uckerman and Jennifer Hawbaker** for stepping up and taking over the event for me that evening. A thank you goes out to **Mr. Woltman** for spinning some great music. For one last thank you goes out to all of the volunteers who stepped up to make the night go so smoothly. I hope you enjoyed the Shamrock Shake as much as I did putting it all together.

Open Forum –

Cultural Arts Chair, Paula Ogukiewicz, reported that she was pleased that every class had a program this year. As Mr. Vandercar mentioned, students enjoyed the assembly, *I Love This School*. On April 28th, the elementary school students will experience a performance by two professional harpists so that students of each grade can be introduced to the harp.

Performing Arts – Chair, Christine Franco reported that the musical will be performed on April 15th and 16th. PTA was able to provide \$630 of support for the event and the monies purchased an industrial-grade sewing machine for costumes, etc.

President, Kelly Hansen wished to remind all chairs to return their committee folders so that they may be updated for the next school year. She also announced that the next meeting of the Pleasantdale PTA will be held on Tuesday, May 3rd at 7 p.m. in the Admin. Building.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

