



LONGFELLOW PTO NEWSLETTER

Together We Make A Difference

March 2016

Reminders:

- No School - 3/15
- All School Lunch - 3/18
- Spring Break - 3/21-3/25
- Restaurant Fundraiser - 3/31 and 4/1

Executive Board:

Co-Presidents:

Staci Rusch

Denise Swanson

Co-Vice Presidents:

Karen Conkle

Manal Omar

Treasurer:

Kelly Beerheide

Secretary:

Kim Woodin



All School Lunch

The Longfellow PTO will be sponsoring an All School Lunch on Friday, March 18th for students 1st grade and up.

We will be serving cheese pizza from Pizza Hut, carrots (no dip), and Oreo cookies.

Food services will not be available.
You may send lunch from home that day.

If you would like to volunteer to serve lunch, please contact Linda Lindeman at 847-691-8101 or at LindaLewensky@gmail.com if you are interested in helping out.



Thank You!

Thank you to all the parents who volunteered to be room parents for the classroom Valentine's Day parties. Everyone had a great time, and all your efforts are appreciated!

Cindy Templer

Manna Gift Cards

Thank you for everyone's support in purchasing gift cards through the Manna gift card program! Every purchase big or small has allowed us to reach our goal in earning a great profit for our school. But why stop now when there's still time to order gift cards as teacher gifts, birthday gifts, or everyday shopping? Let's continue to earn money to support Longfellow! So be on the lookout for next month's order form, and thank you so much for your support!



Don't Feel Like Cooking?

Our next restaurant fundraiser is scheduled for Thursday, March 31st AND Friday, April 1st at Culver's! That means you have TWO nights to pick from! Hope to see you there!

PTO Executive Board

Slated to be your Longfellow PTO Executive Board for the year 2016-2017:

Ellyn Burnett - Co President
Denise Swanson - Co President
Karen Conkle - Co Vice President
Manal Omar - Co Vice President
Billy Adolf - Treasurer
Stacy Dudek - Co Secretary
Kim Woodin - Co Secretary

We will be voting on this slate on 4/14/16 at our April meeting. Also at our April meeting we will be presenting the slate for the 2016-2017 Committee Chairs. Packets will be going home and available on the website for you to fill in which committee's you are interested in helping out in. Being on a committee allows you a unique opportunity to stay connected to Longfellow staff and students. Take the time to see where you want to help out! You won't regret it!



Bingo Night: Thank You!

Thank you to everyone for attending Bingo Night. Not only did we meet our fundraising goal, we doubled it!!

We would like to thank all those that helped that evening. From our talented MCs Scott Weinberg and Nelson Gord who kept the night rolling, to the Bingo committee members, Ellyn Burnett, Stacey Sieczkowski, Vanessa Skiles and Denise Swanson for your dedication to making this a night to remember. Also, a big thanks goes out to our 50/50 raffle volunteers for selling out all 1,000 tickets (Vicki Herda, Kristin Damm, Andrew Suchomski, Ronda Whippo and Geoff Raef)!

To the Longfellow PTO board, Girls Scouts, Boy Scouts, all the companies that donated, and to all the parents that volunteered that evening, we thank you!

You all brought your appetites and you showed your love for the new prize wheel. Your support for the Longfellow Longhorns is simply amazing and appreciated.

See you all again next year!

Teacher Appreciation Week

We will once again be looking for volunteers to make and/or bring items for teacher appreciation week during the first week of May. Let's show our Longfellow teachers just how much we appreciate them! A volunteer sign-up will be sent out next month!



BOX TOPS DUE FEBRUARY 13TH!



Clip Box Tops and earn cash for Longfellow!

For every 10 box tops collected, you'll be entered into a monthly drawing for great prizes!

Clip Box Tops from hundreds of your favorite brands including Ziploc, Nestle, Pillsbury, Kleenex, Hefty, General Mills and more!

Place 10 box tops on your collection sheet and return it to school! Have more than 10 box tops to turn in? Put them in a plastic baggie, write your child's name and teacher on the bag and send it to school!

Every 10 box tops turned in will enter your student in the monthly drawing!

Winners will be selected and prizes delivered to your student's teacher.

The classroom with the most box tops collected at the end of the school year will win a class prize!



*For a complete list of participating products please visit boxtops4education.com.

Box Tops are redeemed for cash to purchase educational items for Longfellow Elementary.

Thank you to the following students for donating Box Tops in February! Keep turning those box tops in!

Alexandra Allmaras Kerrigan Bahary Ryan Bahary Jack Berberet Kamila Berrios Alexandra Bielski Emily Bielski Matthew Burnett Johnnie Caldwell Taylore Camel Carmie Caringella Lucia Caringella Christian Chernik Joshua Chung Kayla Cichy Gavin Cloninger Christopher Conkle Josh Del Villar Jordan Dudek Madelyn Dudek	Jarret Dumlao Connor Fitzsimmons Lacey Gord Hannah Gurtz Hannah Haas Sam Haas Shawn Hinrichs Lexi Josephson Kora Kipley Lucy Kummerow Natalie Larkowski Blake Lasek Gracie Lee Jorge Lopez Taylor Meyer Jacob Moodhe Emily Omansky Kaylee Oczkowicz Angela Pasdo Zoey Perlman Arianna Pozniak	Jenna Pullega Patrick Pysz Phoenix Rivera Scott Roser Ava Sanders Martin Schadegg Michelle Slawinski Olivia Sniady Kayla Snyder Melissa Soderberg Gabe Steele Colin Suchomski Abigail Swanson Brennan Watson Sammie Watson Bella Whippo Madison Wong Ethan Wright Nathan Wright Charlie Wu
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Here are the current class standings:

1. Mrs Cowan's 5th grade class-799 box tops submitted
2. Mrs Kaiser's 2nd grade class-759 box tops submitted
3. Ms Conlon's K classes-756/710 box tops submitted
4. Ms Siegel's 1st grade class-754 box tops submitted

Also, the standings by grade!

1. First grade
2. Fifth grade
3. Fourth grade
4. Second grade
5. Kindergarten
6. Third grade

And finally the winner of this month's drawing...Jenna Pullega from Ms Cowan's class! Congratulations!

March 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
				PTO Meeting		
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
		No School		Board of Education Meeting 7:30	All School Lunch	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	Spring Break	Spring Break	Spring Break	Spring Break	Spring Break	
27	28	29	30	31	April 1	April 2
Easter				Restaurant Fundraiser at Culver's	Restaurant Fundraiser at Culver's	

February 4, 2016 PTO Meeting

Secretaries Report:

- Reviewed correspondence
- Reviewed minutes from January PTO meeting – minutes approved

Treasurer's Report:

- First deposit for ad space for Bingo night
- Craft Fair – check went out to pay for final expenses
- \$250 short on coupon books
- Gift cards: January went out – only \$33 short of annual budget
- Check cut to Culvers for movie night
- Assembly check cut for 'Class Act'
- Valentine's Day party checks went out to the teachers

Principal's Report:

- RTI Roles and Responsibilities
- Discussed Tier 1 vs Tier 2 (Core and Core Plus) child needs for learning.
- Tier 3 children need something separate, but are still not considered special education kids.
- There is a 6-8 week program to determine if a child is making progress or not – if not, then there is a process gone through to determine if they qualify for special education.
- This process occurs each and every day and parents are contacted as needed throughout the process.

Teacher's Report:

- Differentiation: Considers students' readiness to learn and understand concepts.
- It's the teacher's responsibility to understand their students and get them what they need to succeed.
- See attachment for details of techniques by grade level

Vice President's Report:

Committee Reports:

All School Lunch: March 18th – be on the lookout for volunteer requests

Assembly: 2nd assembly February 25th: Tom Sharp: percussionist from Manheim Steamroller

Bingo Night: \$475 more deposited for ad sales for total of \$575. Pre-orders went out today, Need bingo cards, NEED 2 more volunteers selling raffle tickets. Up to 90+ donations – still waiting on Shedd Aquarium and White Sox.

Book Fair: Week of April 25th – Mon-Thurs

Box Tops: Sending out another batch in March

5th Grade Luncheon: Pulling together quotes from vendors and meeting with the committee to make decisions. Need to get the times of the luncheon – checking with Mrs. Pitti.

Gift Cards: Forms have been sent out

Got 2 Run: Official email: May 21st at 8 a.m. – 2.62 Mile run. www.got2run.org for registration. Flyers will be going out.

Ice Cream Charity Fundraiser: Pre-orders are due Friday, 2/5 for 2/10 fundraiser for St.

Jude's children's hospital – 4-8:00p.m.

Movie Night: Success! Deposit still coming

Nominating Committee: Board is looking for volunteers for the board next year – Co-President and Treasurer are definitely open. Presented in March and voted on in April.

Parent Daughter: April 8th: Paint canvases like last year unless someone has another idea
Restaurant Fundraiser: \$240 for Dengeo fundraiser. Save the Date: February 24th is
California Pizza Kitchen in Deer Park.

Room Parent: Valentine Parties in the classrooms on 2/11.

Teacher Conference Dinner: E=blast went out to sign-up and volunteer to bring food

Yankee Candle: March 17th will begin and everyone who put in an order will get their name in for a raffle.

Old Business: None

New Business: Mrs. Doerre has 2 1st grade students to ask for PTO's help to win a visit from author, Jan Brett. 1st graders have been making posters and telling people. 2 students also went on the speaker during announcements at school. Contest ends May 4th.

Can PTO request just our school to vote to move up from our current 24th place.

Next PTO Meeting: 3/3/16 at 7:00 in Teacher's Lounge

Grade Level Information:

An example of how we use assessment to guide our instruction is...

K - After giving our benchmark testing in the winter. I noticed that a majority of our students were very weak in phonemic awareness. I then incorporated mini lessons to target this one area of reading development for the whole class as well as individually meeting with students who need even more individualized support .

1st - This was the first year the first grade teachers administered the DRA reading assessments. DRA reading assessments are completed in grades 1-5. The DRA assessment is a tool used by teachers to identify a student's reading level, accuracy, fluency, and comprehension. Once levels are identified, an instructor can use this information for instructional planning purposes.

The teachers this year were able to use this information in several ways. From analyzing the DRA assessments, as well as on-going fluency assessments, the teachers can determine what reading level is appropriate for each child. We use this to determine both the stories they read during guided reading in class, but to know the best level of reading homework the child should receive to do after school.

The data also highlight reading strategies that the students are both successful in using or not currently using. The assessment data drives our instruction in the classroom to make sure that we address the needs of the students during our whole group reading and guided reading lessons.

Because the data is collected at least two times a year, we can get an accurate picture of the student as a reader during several points of the year and make sure they are getting the individualized instruction they need.

2nd - Reading Skill: The second graders are currently in the middle of a study of author's purpose. The students are examining different texts to determine whether it was written to persuade, inform, or entertain (or any combination of the three). It has been so fun to tell

them before reading a story that they need to be detectives. . . that by the end of the story they'll need to pick a purpose and defend their choice. The perspectives that they take and reasons they have are so fun to hear. We have also created a really cool "Author's Purpose Pie" to help them visually see and remember the three main purposes authors have when creating literature.

Math: Our journey through our Everyday Math series continues; currently we are focusing on multiple addend addition through the use of partial sums. The students are acquiring this strategy nicely and it has been AMAZING to see how their overall math sense, which we have been attending to with great consistency this year, has made introducing this concept a much smoother process. We've even thrown quite a few number stories their way and they are tackling them without struggle.

Be on the lookout for some upcoming opinion writing pieces from our second graders, next week we launch our opinion writing unit with the help from the good old OREO cookie. (Don't worry, we're not feeding them, Oreos definitely aren't in the fruit vegetable or hard cheese category. Boo hoo.)

Science: In science we are winding up our states of matter unit. We tackled some BIG vocabulary words like condensation, evaporation, freezing and melting so that the students will fully understand the ways that matter can change. It was especially fun to watch the kids realize that matter can change back and forth between states multiple times.

Social Science: This week has also meant the kick off of our "This Land is Our Land Unit." This unit will encompass so many different topics, but we're starting by discussing terms and concepts like goods vs. services and discerning between a want and a need. This has launched some nice discussions about how people choose to spend their money and being a good steward of what you have been given. The Oreo is an acronym for : Opinion, Reasons, Examples, Opinion (restated)

3rd - The third grade team uses anticipatory sets, pretests, math boxes, exit slips, observations, and summative assessments to determine if students have mastered concepts. We then can use a guided math structure to reinforce concepts that were not mastered or to differentiate for students that have mastered ideas.

4th - The fourth grade team assess students both formatively and summatively, and we strive to incorporate project- and inquiry-based activities. Students complete these activities both independently and in cooperative groups.

Reading/Writing - Students work at their individual levels to complete Reading and Writing Workshop activities. Activities and rubrics are standards-based. Spelling lessons are completed online through "Spelling City."

Math - The Everyday Math curriculum lessons build upon each other, and a summative exam is given at the end of each unit. Resources and study guides have been made available through Google Classroom.

5th - The fifth grade team utilizes math boxes, entrance and exit slips, formative and summative assessments and informal observations to strategically and heterogeneously group students into guided math groups. These groups are continuously flexible and students get many opportunities to work one on one with teachers and each other.

Other - Formative assessments are informal check-ins on student progress during the learning process. Typically these are not used for grades, but rather for informing instruction. Summative assessments are more formal in nature and are used to assess student learning at the end of instructional units.

Assessments exist in a variety of formats, and are not just quizzes or tests. Assessments can be differentiated, as well as conducted in many ways, to truly measure student understanding of a topic and/or concept.

Committee Reports:

All School Lunch: Pizza bought with pizza hut gift cards, carrots, oreos and water bottles.

Bingo Night: Ellyn

Birthday Book Club: More books going to the LMC every month. Thanks for your support!

Book Fair: It will be held the week of April 25 with evening hours on the 28th (there's a new kindy parent meeting that night - shout out to Mrs. Pitti for finding the opportunity).

Box tops: Keep turning those in!

5th Grade Luncheon Update: We met a couple of weeks ago. We have broken up into some sub-committees to research options for:

Entertainment

Food

Decorations

DJ give-aways & other student give-aways

Slideshow

****We want to keep as much information "under wraps" as possible, in order to keep it a surprise for the kids!****

We have a DJ hired and are looking into other entertainment options

We will be having a meeting after spring break to see where the sub-committees are with their tasks.

Gift Cards: Another order is going home this week (maybe next week) and cards will come in right before spring break.

Movie Night: Our second movie night was a great success. Over 150 kids were in attendance. Our final movie night will be April 15th and we will be doing the special separate movie for the 5th graders. The movies might be The Good Dinosaur for K-4 and Star Wars VII for 5th grade (still in discussion)

Parent Daughter: Unfortunately, we had an event planned with an art studio...painting canvases, but it fell through due to higher pricing than last year. We do have an idea in mind, we may have to change the date to the event. We will keep you informed.

Restaurant Fundraiser: Helene will be there

Room Parent: We had our last classroom parties for Valentine's Day on Feb 12. We would like to thank all the parents for their hard work and time devoted in making these parties a success for the students. Teacher Appreciation is coming up next and we will want the room parents to help with specifics for their teacher.

Yearbook: Yearbook: sale is on going. Last day to turn in paper order form (\$18/book) is March 15th. Last day to order online (\$15) is March 31st.

Yankee Candle: I have the Yankee Candle fund raiser scheduled from March 18th through April 8th, and returning the order forms by April 15th for the guaranteed Mother's Day delivery. There are some great prizes to raffle off (one entree per order)...