



Willis Elementary PTO Minutes

10/24/23

Starting time: 9:02 AM

Jessica Tripoli, Colleen Laughlin, Mindy Buckley, Kathy Price & Dr.Katie Fradley, Alie Freund was absent due to illness

2nd PTO Meeting 2023/2024

- Welcome Everyone- (Mrs. Price & Dr. Fradley)
- Thank you all for coming
- Special Guests- Beth Grogan & Kathy from Manatee County, Financial

Introduction- Magic Mittens (Beth Grogan)

- The story of how it started
- As of now, its making a difference in 9 schools and approximately 730 children receive gifts for Christmas because of others generosity
- How you can help

Spirit Days/Nights (Mindy Buckley)

- October- Slim Chickens, Monkees, Jeremiah's, Carousels & Blaze Pizza, Home Coffee Brand
- As of today we have received \$1,456. 91 for Spirit events
- November 1st- Slim Chickens & Jeremiahs spirit night
November 10th- Tropical Smoothie will be added & giving back 25% for those who mention Willis. November 17th- Dress down day & carousel's at the park

Updates (Jessica Tripoli)

- Congrats to Mrs. Rahn for being named Willis Elementary's 2023/24 educator of the year & to Michelle Yochim for being named Willis Elementary's 2023/24 Support Employee of the year
- Thank you to East Manatee Fire rescue for visiting Willis & teaching the children about fire safety
- PTO recognized Custodians for national custodians day.
- We are truly thankful for our school, staff, students & parents
- Kindergarten Lunch help is still needed if you would like to sign up, please go to the PTO website
- The past month was very busy, fun & successful-Events: Bingo Night, Book fair, Desserts with Dads & Booing of the staff, a huge thank you to everyone that made these possible

Upcoming Events:

- Bubble Run info/update- (Sarah Langdon)
 - There will be a bubble show during the run
 - Shirts have been ordered
 - Home Brand Coffee- Will be there on 11/9 & will give back 10% of purchases to the school
 - Give Butter- sign up for students. Parents plus sign up for a free ticket to let us know if you plan to attend

- Mrs. Price & Dr. Fradley, You must sign up/RSVP by Friday 11/3. Please make sure you have completed your volunteer form online to Manatee County.

- Holiday Shop (Missy Weinandy)

- No preview dates, December 13th-15th
- Media center- Polar Express Theme
- 20 Min per class/each student will be given a polar express ticket
- Jess Tripoli, Mindy Buckley, Colleen Laughlin & myself went to Tampa to see some of the new Holiday Shop items. Several pictures were taken by Mindy. There will be a sneak peak coming soon on facebook.

- Spring Fundraiser (Carolyn Osterhout)

- Budget- waiting on Bubble Run
- Per grade level- Themed baskets
- Looking into having a QR code at the event so you can bid on baskets/pay for all, Even those that are unable to attend. We are excited & will update as we get closer

- 5th Grade Committee- (Kim Larsen)

- The theme- Wild about Willis/ Neon Green shirts/ working with Aquarius
- Ceremony Venue has been reserved
- Asking parents to send in baby photos ASAP
- Next meeting will be at Starbucks

- Staff Appreciation (Sam Bebe)

- an anonymous amazing parent has donated November lunch for staff scheduled - 11/15 Boars Head

- Budget & Finances (Colleen Laughlin)

- Bingo night was \$500 loss, suggesting in the future to not have pizza maybe a snack cart that maybe wheeled around during the event

- Mrs. Price would love to have the event again in the spring if time allows.
 - Trunk or Treat- Not asking parents to donate candy, rather donating cans of food to help others in need
 - Last month PTO purchased Step Ladders for decorating our amazon school. We purchased enough for each grade level, please be courteous & leave them in the hallway so others can find them
 - Please refer to the online- monthly posed financials if you have any questions
- Some of the Attending parents of meeting had Q & A (Mrs. Price/ Parents)
 - Welcoming ideas
 - Finance questions
 - Being on the same page
 - Bubble Run- clear transparencies on the goals
- Principles Report (Mrs. Price)
 - Thank you for the visiting guest
 - We are excited about the Trunk or Treat
 - If you know of any businesses that want to support Gecko awards please send them our way
- Teachers Report (Dana Eddy)
 - Thank you to PTO, We all are truly happy for all that you do. You always have our best interest & I would never question anything financially. Again, thank you for taking care of us this year

- Secret Santa (Emily McLaughlan)
Last year the school helped six families for the holidays. If you or someone you know would be interested in helping please have them reach out to myself or Mrs. Morales. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Meeting adjourned: 10:23

