



## Nixon Elementary School

**PTA Minutes**  
**January 18, 2012**

# MINUTES

### **PTA Board Members**

Audra Sarafin – President  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President-KellieAnn Keyes  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President- Christine O'Connor  
Secretary- Susan Mendelsohn  
Treasurer- Rob Geraci

### **The Second Grade Presentation**

Mrs. Vaccaccio's class presented their unit on Our Countries, Our States.  
Mrs. Milde's class presented a unit on the Seven Continents.  
Mrs. Quinty's class presented a unit on inventor, Benjamin Franklin.

### **Kindergarten Presentation**

Mrs. Brajer's class shared their writing excerpts and art on Winter snow. They also performed their snowflake dance.

Mrs. Cullen's class shared how they write in their journals and sang their Letter Song.

Both Second grade and Kindergarten presentations showcased the learning in their classrooms and were very entertaining.

### **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes from the November 15, 2011 meeting were read and approved.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Beginning balance as of October 31, 2011. The ending balance as of December 31, 2011 is \$20,793.94. Report was approved and filed for audit.

### **Correspondence**

Thank you letters for the classroom books, smartboard, dance and science show.

### **Old Business**

No old business was reported.

### **Principal's Report**

Mrs. Lynch was out sick for the meeting but Christine O'Connor read from notes provided.



## Nixon Elementary School

### PTA Minutes

January 18, 2012

**Roxbury Register-** Nixon School was one of the highlights in this past week's Roxbury Register column entitled, Roxbury Round-up. Our new Community Relations Director, John Bellochino, just began this column and will continue on a weekly basis.

**School Wide Character Education Focus** – Fairness... even our youngest Nixon School members, our Kindergarteners, are doing an amazing job with our morning announcements.

**Bucket Fillers** – The official Bucket Fillers will be joining all four elementary schools in March. A majority of the funding is coming from R.O.M.A. C. thanks to a request that Officer Feeney put forth for the district. R.O.M.A.C. is donating \$3,946 towards the four assemblies and two staff trainings that will come with the visit. To complete the payment to Bucket Fillers, each PTA is being asked to consider putting \$276 towards the program. Mrs. Keyes and Mrs. Geraci have volunteered to spearhead book sales linked with the visit. Mrs. Lynch will contact them in the coming week to coordinate the sales.

**Parents as Reading Partners** – February 16 @2:45 PM (Friday, February 17<sup>th</sup> is an in-service day).

**Making Headlines** – Returning this year. Fourth Graders will participate in lessons with the Making Headlines facilitators beginning on February 7<sup>th</sup>. The product will be a school newspaper created by each 4<sup>th</sup> grade class. Thank you to the PTA and the school district for supporting this worthwhile project.

**St. Jude's Math-a-Thon** – currently this is scheduled to launch on February 13<sup>th</sup>, however, we are still in need of someone to help facilitate this program. If you are interested, please contact Mrs. Lynch ASAP.

**NJASK Analysis** – Analysis of the NJASK continues. Mrs. Rawding, our new Supervisor of Applied Sciences, shared with our third and fourth grade teachers and Mrs. Lynch an analysis by mathematics clusters. Our strength lies in Numbers and Numerical Operations. The work that everyone had been doing in regards to Basic Facts has certainly helped! One area that we noticed a trend, as well as an area for continued improvement, is Patterns and Algebra. Additionally, she helped us to identify students who are border-line in each of the cluster areas, so that we can better address student need. Additionally, Ms. Wnuk has used the writing samples from the NJASK that the State provides us, to create a resource of exemplars for staff, absent of student names. This will be very useful to our staff, as they seek to provide our students with models that exemplify the expectations set forth by the State. I am asking the PTA for a suggested meeting date when I can invite Mrs. Rawding and Ms. Wnuk to visit, so as



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### PTA Minutes

January 18, 2012

to share ideas with everyone that can help support our students in their attainment of expectations.

**School Safety Team** – our school based committee was planning on designing and launching a school climate survey; however, the Anti-Bullying Specialists, under the direction of Mrs. Prestamo, and in coordination with a Rutgers Cooperative Project, will be creating and launching a district wide survey in the coming months.

**PTA Reflections** – Mrs. Stein, our PTA Reflections coordinator, has notified us that we have two Nixon students who are Morris County winners for Reflections! Congratulations to Jaclyn Grady for her Musical Composition and Sheniah McDonald for her Photography entry. Their entries will now advance to NJPTA for state level judging. Judging takes place in February/March and winners are announced in late March/early April.

**Report Cards** – electronic and launched on February 13.

**School Store** – has been successful. Special thanks to Mrs. Sparano, Mrs. Mendelsohn, and Mrs. Shuman, as well as the third grade teachers, for their help in getting the school store up and running successfully. As shared with Mrs. Sarafin, in order to align with district protocol, the funds will have to be handled differently. Having the funds go through the PTA will be best.

**School-Wide Enrichment** – begins January 24<sup>th</sup>. If interested in helping out with a class, please contact Mrs. Lynch ASAP.

**Science Supplies** – we have a host of Science supplies that need to be organized so that we can efficiently make use of them. If there is a parent volunteer or volunteers that would like to help us organize these materials, we would greatly appreciate it! Mrs. Lynch envisions that it would take a couple of hours to complete. work would be best on a Thursday or Friday, or a Wednesday afternoon so that the supplies can be sorted in the Media Center when Mrs. Hawthorne is not there.

### Committee Reports

**Family Fun** – the New Years dance went well but with less attendance than last year. The dance contest with prizes was a big hit. Bingo night will be held on 2/3.

**Scripps** – made a little money. If you have a need to purchase gift cards, please use the Nixon account on the Scripps website. Our PTA will receive a portion of the sale.



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### PTA Minutes

January 18, 2012

#### **Cultural Arts:**

2/3 the Living Abe Lincoln will be visiting Nixon school at 2PM.

2/7-21 Making Headlines will be working with our fourth graders. Each class will learn how and create their own newspaper. This workshop is funded by our PTA and the district equally.

3/2 We will have a book signing event with author James Preller. The books range in cost from \$4-\$17. Kristen Grady has volunteered to help that day.

**Book Swap** - takes place once a month during lunch. More volunteers are needed. Please contact Patty Padakis if you can lend a hand.

**Teachers Grant** – So far, 13 speakers for smart boards, 8 cameras, and feet and chains for PE have been purchased by the PTA.

**Yearbook** – Flyers for the Nixon 2012 yearbook are out. Order your yearbook by February 3<sup>rd</sup> (Nixon's Family Bingo Night) and receive one free \$2 booster. Order deadline is March 5<sup>th</sup>. Cost of the yearbook this year is \$12 plus \$2 for every booster of 100 characters or less. Any questions, contact [deidresparano@hotmail.com](mailto:deidresparano@hotmail.com).

**Nixon's First Annual Community Book Swap** – Nixon school along with Troop 586+ will be conducting a community book swap on February 11<sup>th</sup> from 10 to 2. We will be collecting children's and adult books. Stop by on February 11<sup>th</sup> and swap out all the books that you have read and collected for some new used books that you have been dying to read. Come out and support the school and Girl Scout Troop 586. If you have any questions please contact deidresparano@hotmail.com.

The next PTA meeting will be on February 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00PM