

Rensselaer Park PTA

January Meeting Minutes

January 13, 2021 via Google Meet

6pm

Present via Google Meet:

Jill Manupella, Sarah Huls, Elaine Garrett, Terri Sanderson, Peter Allen, Julie Allen, Adam Gregoire, David Hamilton, Melissa Santarcangelo, Sara Brandenburg, Jamie Cavanaugh, Mr. and Mrs. Breton, Rob White, Jason Blackmur

Meeting called to order 6:02 PM by Jill Manupella

Treasurer's Report—Terri Sanderson

We have \$425 in Save Around sales recorded, although our take back portion will be less, based on the number of total books sold (the amount will vary from \$10-\$12.50 per book). We are awaiting a \$12.99 refund from Amazon that was charged in error.

Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report by P. Allen, seconded by White.

Secretary's Report—Elaine Garrett

December Meeting minutes sent before meeting for review.

Motion to approve December Meeting Minutes made by P. Allen, seconded by Gregoire.

Principal's Report—Mrs. Santarcangelo

There is no opening update at this time as we await the school budget from Gov. Cuomo by February 1st and keep an eye on the high covid case rate. Remote learning is continuing with good work done by teachers and students to stay engaged.

3rd Grade Report—Mr. Hamilton

ELA: In this unit on Fiction, the students are reading Charlotte's Web, which illustrates this month's virtues of perseverance, growth mindset and risk taking.

Writing: We are looking at parts of speech, beginning with nouns and soon moving on to action verbs and adjectives.

Math: The classes are working on the area of shapes, with comparing and looking at square units and measuring side lengths in centimeters. We were able to use a Gizmo lesson on area as well. We are also working on the 7s in multiplication.

Science: We are doing a Biome study, focusing on the rainforest. Mrs. Gibson and Mrs. Frater (Cornell Cooperative Extension) will be helping us with our biome projects with digital enrichment activities.

4th Grade Report—Mr. Allen

ELA: The students are learning to identify nonfiction strategies like main idea, important details and vocabulary words, which they will incorporate while researching their own nonfiction articles on a topic of their choice. For this project they will learn to disseminate information and learn to paraphrase.

Math: They are working on 2 digit by 2 digit multiplication and on I-Ready diagnostics (for both math and reading).

Science: We continue to focus on forms of Energy and how it can transform between phases, and transfer between objects. This ties into our interactive read aloud, The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind.

Social Studies:

Black History Month Project: The students are working in pairs to research and write a profile on an individual who has had a positive impact on our society. These will be presented to families in February.

We are also continuing our study of Native American explorers.

Mrs. Juliano and the Reading teachers have launched the Ronald McDonald House Reading Fundraiser for the month of January. Mr. Hamilton congratulates his student Juliana Cavanaugh for raising \$250 so far.

5th Grade Report—Mr. Gregoire and Mr. White

Math: We are in a long unit on long division, and teaching the standard algorithm method; the “old school”, traditional way most adults have learned. This unit will help prepare for bigger numbers in middle school. Fraction will begin soon, with equivalencies, all operations and mixed numbers covered. This will be a two month unit.

Science: We continue in our Earth biomes unit finishing the biosphere, and looking at energy and matter. We are using NearPod’s interactive slide lessons and also virtual field trips via Generation Genius to look at animal adaptations in the biosphere. Next up is hydrosphere, with the atmosphere and geosphere in February and March.

Social Studies: no new material to report, as we are conducting our I-ready assessments and standards mastery with mid-year diagnostics.

ELA: This month is also tied to a perseverance and growth mindset, like in Mr. White’s class read aloud of Fish in a Tree.

Mr. White’s students will also “visit” Mr. Hamilton’s class to read to the group. Students also have a template for the Ronald McDonald fundraiser to easily log minutes as they read. In today’s ELA curricular meeting, they discussed the nonfiction unit now starting. Many teachers are taking the opportunity to link to current events by reading texts that explore themes of social justice, civil actions, and government actions.

Old Business—Jill Manupella

None for this month.

New Business—Jill Manupella

The rescheduled Picture Day is this Friday, January 15th, with about 50 students signed up thus far.

We will be hosting a Paint and Snack virtual art event in February, the Friday before winter break, depending on Mrs. Greene's and Mr. Hopkins' schedules. It will be a free guided art activity and cookie decorating event. We are ordering supplies (already arriving!) for 150 participants and will have a pickup night at the bus loop.

We were awarded a \$1000 grant from TikTok to promote a themed event on Internet Safety. We will look more into ideas, with one being a type of Clue game event.

Mr. Hamilton thanked Mr. Blackmur for informing the TES and RPES faculty of Greg Tang's (national math curriculum expert) FREE live presentations. This is significant as his events are usually fee based, but Mr. Tang wanted to aid remote learning as we continue to endure the pandemic. Five thousand students from across the country attended his January 12th online event. It was a great review for multiplication and division. He is also offering Professional Development for teachers.

Meeting Adjourned by Jill Manupella at 6:21pm.