

PTO Executive Board Meeting
Friday, March 16, 2018
www.montvalepto.com

Presidents' Report (Debra Stephans and Melanie Paxinopoulos)

- Approved minutes from 1/12 meeting
- Past Co-President Carolyn Roche presented the 2018-2019 PTO Board Nominations:
 - Melanie Paxinopoulos (Co-President), Judith Thomas (Co-President), Tara Hill (VP Fieldstone), Kristin Zoelle (VP Memorial), Jessica Panagiotou (Treasurer), and Teresa Barry (Secretary)
- Look for blast in Wednesday Folder for 4/21 Trivia Night
- Cycle Bar fundraiser will be at the end of April

VP Report on Class Parents (Cindy Merlino and Tara Hill)

Memorial:

- Upload your pictures from class celebrations to the yearbook app or website
- 4th Grade Class Parents: Upload and confirm the correct name to display with your child's baby picture and purchase your child's 4th grade tile art
- Toolkits: PTO members can purchase toolkits starting next week through mid April via the PTO website and will be available for pick-up in June

Fieldstone:

- Class Coordinators are working on preparations for the 5th grade World Cafe on Thursday, March 29
- Final Fieldstone Friday for 5th & 6th grade is Friday, March 23 and need Co-Chairs for next year
- Teacher Appreciation Luncheon for Fieldstone will be May 4
- Fieldstone Career Day is June 12 and need volunteers to come in and speak to the students about their careers

Treasurer's Report (Annette Vozzolo)

- Results of January & February fundraisers (Square 1 Art - \$2,262, Memorial Book Fair - \$2,700, Box Tops - \$600, Fieldstone Fridays - \$250, Hot Food Session 1 - \$13,500, NY Jets Fundraiser - \$1,100, Parking Lot Auction - \$350, and Winter Carnival - \$1,100)
- PTO Sponsored Assemblies (Fieldstone: Franklin Institute – “The Traveling Science Show” - \$845; Memorial: 4th grade – “Welcome to New Jersey” - \$775, Kindergarten – “Weather Wizards” - \$992, Liberty Science Center - \$965, “Playful Earth” - \$1,000, and “The Brain Show” - \$1,600)
- International Day on 1/19 cost about \$450 for paper goods
- Please support the remaining fundraisers for the next 3 months such as Toolboxes, Trivia Night and the Memorial School Yearbook

Corresponding Secretary (Mrs. D'Amaro)

- Organized teacher volunteers for the Winter Carnival, had the Kindergarten assembly, and International Day was a big hit for the students
- Will continue to support PTO fundraisers by asking for teacher volunteers

Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Darren Petersen

- Presented to the Board of Education on 3/5 about school safety and security measures and met with faculty
- Newtown, CT school shooting happened in December 2012 and raised alarm
- Since 2013 Montvale has taken the following school safety and security measures to protect our students and staff:
 - Installed window film at entrances, added security cameras that Montvale PD has access to, installed intercom and strobe light announcement, doubled bandwidth for technology back-up, perform active shooter drills, added defibrillators via MAL, reinforce new identification system, replaced older doors, train staff about the danger of social media and how to monitor students' mental health, added lights outside, revised crisis manual for emergency, faculty and staff will receive annual crisis management training on 3/26 with a retired FBI agent, Montvale Police conduct walkthroughs, perform security audits, and conducted an unannounced drill with state police
 - What we can do: Respond appropriately, effectively communicate with parents and staff, debrief for moving forward, be aware of warning signs, reinforce school procedures and restrict access to building, continue relationship with community, provide workshops with staff and practice drills with students, recognize mental health issues, improve facilities with double buzz system to slow people down (create a mantrap), reinforce protocols for visitors, and Superintendent's Office will communicate to parents
- "Enough As She Is" presentation by Rachel Simmons will take place on 3/28 with other school districts @ 7:00pm at Emerson High School to share strategies for raising girls

Art Teacher, Ms. Escoffery

- Three art fundraisers are the Square 1 Art, 4th Grade Tiles, and April Art Show
- Square 1 Art is in Georgia and Memorial School has worked with them since 2016
- Thank you for new art tables via grants
- Spring Choral Performance & PTO Sponsored Framed Art Show and Sale will be called an Evening of the Arts from 3:00pm-9:00pm on 4/26
- "Lighted Path of Kindness" will be an installation of luminary lighted bags designed with human kindness and compassion via the Character Education Department and Guidance Department
 - Request for additional funding for lights. Guidance Department will provide the bags.
- Inventory of last year's art was done without codes

Principal of FMS, Mrs. McCormack

- Thank you to Mrs. Merlino (VP Memorial) for organizing Toolkits and improving the quality of products
- Thank you to families for organizing Hoops for Heart event, which raised \$4,500 at Fieldstone for the American Heart Association
- National School Walkout for Gun Safety will happen on 4/20 with parent permission for 17 minutes of quiet reflection
- Safety precautions include visitor sign-in and staff talked to students about safety concerns
- Revised pick-up and drop-off routines in circular driveway at the front of Fieldstone to reduce traffic
- 3/23 report cards will be available on Genesis
- 3/26 is a professional development day to discuss security issues
- Fieldstone will start its fourth Expressive Arts Cycle on 4/13
- Big the Musical will take place at Fieldstone on 5/11 and 5/12
- On 3/21 twenty students will attend the Model UN Conference at New York City and will compete against other schools
- 3/29 is World Cafe Day and Spring Recess is coming up
- 6/12 Career Day - Mr. Scherer asks that volunteers sign up on the web for 7th and 8th grades

Principal of MES, Mr. Collier

- Kindergarten has a leprechaun trap and one student asked, “Will you share gold with me?”
- Adam Gidwitz was the visiting author for grades 3 & 4
- Grades 1-4 report cards will be available on Genesis on 3/23 after 4:00pm
- 3/23 is the 1st & 2nd Grade Choir Concert and Montvale Police will walk through Memorial School during the AM/PM shows
- Kindergarten Orientation will take place on 4/11 @ 7:00pm in the Multi Purpose Room. We currently have 80 students registered.
- Can’t use the Kindergarten path when the Lightning Detection System (LDS) goes off – students must be picked up at the front of the building – Principal and Assistant Principal will devise a plan for LDS dismissal
- Thank you to the PTO for curriculum enhancements and field trips

Assistant Principal of MES, Mr. Pellegrino

- Montvale Summer Institute (MSI) will be available an hour before recreation camp at 8:30am and extend its hours to 2:30pm
- Grade 5 MSI Boot Camp will take place on July 21-25 at Fieldstone for two hours (one hour of math and one hour of LAL)
- MSI registration is open now and classes will be taught by teachers
- Thank you to PTO for a lot of character education
- Will prioritize Fieldstone MSI blast because it’s new and then will send a blast to Memorial parents

Meeting adjourned.