

Walt Whitman PTA Meeting Minutes
November 2, 2022

Meeting called to order. October meeting minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Nothing new to report. Please remember to submit the check request and revenue collection forms which can be found on the PTA website.

Correspondence: Nothing new to report.

Presidents Report:

Our Fall Festival was a huge success. Thank you Marina Meyerowitz and Cara Kaplan for planning such a great event. Thank you to all of the parent volunteers. We created a Snapfish account to upload any pictures taken at the Fall Festival. The username is Waltwhitmanpta@gmail.com and the password is WaltWhitman.

PARP was amazing. Thank you to the teachers who participated in the skit at the opening and closing of PARP. The kids really enjoyed it.

Pie sale is live. Please place your orders online. The pies and breads are from White Post Farms

Space saving committee has been working hard to submit a letter to Dr. Rogers and the BOE.

Thanksgiving feast is going to be amazing.

Please join the PTA to help out at events and participate in all of the great events we plan. You need to be a paid PTA member to join events and participate.

Our FB and IG accounts are for WW children only. You will also only have access to Directory Spot if you are a paid PTA member.

Mr. Snyder's Report:

PARP was amazing. PJ night was a big success. The opening and closing skit for PARP was amazing. The community read was great as well. The BOE and teachers read to the kids as well as some older kids. Everyone enjoyed the milk and cookies.

NWEA scores are posted in the backpacks section of the parent portal. If you are a new parent to the NWEA tests, please feel free to reach out to me to explain the results.

The COGAT results should be out in mid-November for the 3rd, 4th and 5th graders who took the test.

Parent conferences are coming up on election day, November 8th. People will be voting at the school as well. November 9th, 14th, and 16th are also evening conferences. If you have any issues scheduling, reach out to the office.

We are closed for November 11th for Veterans Day.

November 24th starts Thanksgiving recess.

Curriculum Enrichment:

The circus is coming to town on December 5-9. We are using the national circus project and they will be here teaching all your children some circus skills.

The grand finale will be the 5th graders - they will be performing for the parents on dec 9th. 5th grade parents stay tuned for details on the timing for the performance coming soon.

Cultural Unity:**A) Unity Series**

Attached is the flyer to promote the Unity Series. The Unity Series encourages people to upload a video that simply shares warm wishes, shares a tradition, or showcases something special to them. This year the Unity Series will focus on holidays that the school district is closed for. We will be keeping the Flipgrid open for some time since this is the first one, so encourage people to upload even though the holiday has passed. We don't have exact dates as to when we will share the finalized Flipgrids so while it is still open, please participate and upload a video.



Council_PTA_Unity_Series_Flyer.pdf

B) Buddy Program

We also continue to promote the buddy program and encourage people to sign up on the Syosset Council of PTA's website.

Discount Card:

We still have some cards left to sell. You can order by going to our pta website. Please contact me if you have not received a card you ordered. Thanks!

Directory Spot:

Directory Spot – Michelle Kim will be handling the online directory this year. Feel free to send any questions or requests to her email (michki21@gmail.com).

1. The DirectorySpot is an online directory that you can access on the web or phone through an app.
2. You must be a paid pta member to access the directory. Please go to the memberhub and purchase your annual pta membership.
3. I have gone through the directory and reached out to a few parents via email to confirm their child's sibling to combine the family information as well as missing contact info. Unfortunately, there are still a few children in each grade that have missing info. If you are a parent representative of a class and you have an email for a child with missing info from class parent letters that were given out, please fwd it to me.

Family Fun Night:

Please join us for our first ever silent disco on Thursday, November 17th in the Walt Whitman gym. The 1st session for K-2 will be from 7-7:45 PM. Session 2 for grades 3-5 will be from 8-8:45 PM. Snacks will be available for pre order and limited amounts will be on sale in the cafeteria. RSVP is required! 150 headsets will be available per session.

This event is free for all WW students. You must be a WW student to use a headset. Please note this is not a drop off event.

We will need parent volunteers so please be on the look out for a sign up.

Thanks so much and we can't wait to see everyone at the silent disco!! Please reach out if you have any questions.

Fifth Grade Committee:

The fifth grade Friday night lights event was a huge success, thank you so everyone who came! Attention 5th grade parents- we are currently working on the yearbook. An email was sent out letting you know what pictures we need for you to submit.. please upload to the link that was provided by Thursday, November 17th. Please reach out if you need any help or have any questions. Next week, November 9th we will be taking the fifth grade photo! The children will all receive their fifth grade tee shirt which they will wear for the photo and the circus and more events throughout the year.

Circus week will be held from December 5-9th. The fifth graders will learn circus tricks throughout the week and then fifth grade parents are invited to the performance on December 9th. The time will be announced but it is def during the day.

We are still selling the awesome new Walt Whitman car magnets for 5 dollars each.

Save the date- January 22nd will be a fifth grade social at the Syosset Woodbury skating rink. More details to follow!

Health, Nutrition and Safety:

The Health, Nutrition & Safety Committee participated in the Syosset High School Health Fair on Wednesday, October 19. The Committee's table was interactive, encouraging students and teachers to participate in breathing/meditation exercises from Smiling Mind. Students and teachers scanned QR codes for exercises and got to choose a colorful stress "star"/ball featuring motivational quotes.

The Committee is working on its Fall Resource Guide and is currently researching guest speakers for parent and student assemblies.

Holiday Boutique:

We are excited to be hosting Holiday Boutique in the library this year on Thursday, December 15th and Friday December 16th. The set up will be similar to the book fair. We will be selling items for the children to purchase for the holidays for family members/friends ranging in price from \$0.75 to \$20 from our traditional vendor, Little Shoppers. We will also be selling items from Top Trez ranging in price from \$3 to \$30. Please send your children in with cash or check that day. In the past, we have also provided for students who may not have the economic means to shop at Holiday Boutique with the help of Mr. Snyder. If you would like to contribute, please let us know and we will provide the money to Mr. Snyder so he can provide to the students in advance of the sale. If you are a family in need of any assistance, please let Mr. Snyder know. We would love for all of the children to be able to buy gifts for their loved ones. We will need parents to volunteer for our committee to help with set up, help the children shop and pack everything up at the end. Please contact myself or Cindy Ho if you are able to volunteer. There will be a sign up going out on signup genius tonight.

Parent Resource Group:

Parent Resource Group is presenting Don't Press Send virtually on November 15 at 7:30pm. The flier will be distributed shortly and sign up will be required.

Please join us for a Parent Presentation:

Your child and technology: A parent's guide to a kind and safe cyber community. Parents of all grades encouraged to attend.

Parents you will learn:

- How to provide guidelines + strategies to navigate social media.
- How to create a healthy balance with technology
- Use mindful techniques in your home

- How to protect your children from engaging in illegal and potentially dangerous online activity.
- How to teach and enforce technological responsibility through kindness by strengthening empathetic skills.

Pie Sale:

The pies and breads come from White Post Farms. There are some gluten free options. The order form is online on our website. The pick up is at Courtney Schlow's house on November 22, 2022.

Reflections:

Reflections submissions are due the Friday. It's not too late for your child to use their creativity to reflect this year theme "show your voice". There are several categories to choose from if you haven't already started and still want to participate. It's a fun and very busy time of the year but why not see what your kids can create in a little time crunch. You may be surprised at how little time it takes to put something together. If they are like mine they always leave their homework to the last minute anyway (not that I'm promoting such behavior). I have not received many submissions yet so hopefully there will be some last minute entries. Please reach out ASAP for any applicable rules. Thank you to those who have submitted.

SEPTA:

We are always looking for members to join SEPTA. It's the best \$12 you can spend. It goes towards scholarships for special education kids. November 22nd is the next meeting. There are also great speakers at our SEPTA meetings.

School Store:

Thanks for continuing to support our school store by sending your children with money! If you are interested in volunteering, there are still spots left for some grades or feel free to contact me the night before or the morning of because we sometimes have last minute volunteer cancellations. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions!

Space Saving Committee:

The space saving committee has met. There is a document being circulated to present at the BOE meeting and with Dr. Rogers. The goal is to make more space at Walt Whitman.

Thanksgiving Feast:

On Monday, November 21st we are happy to resume hosting our annual Thanksgiving Luncheon for an estimated 75 senior citizens from the area. It is one of our most special events. The senior citizen guests are treated to a delicious Thanksgiving meal donated by our parents and local merchants (PrimeTime Butcher, White Post Farms and Holiday Farms) and enjoy entertainment by the students. Next Wednesday, November 9th, we are holding an optional indoor recess for students who wish to participate in making picture frames for our guests. Thank you to parents who have already signed up to be a volunteer. Please consider making a donation towards food, gift cards and paper goods necessary to make this event a success. Thank you for your support! Please let us know of any questions.

Cindy Ho made a motion to increase the budget for Thanksgiving Feast. Karen Ostrick seconded the motion. The PTA voted and approved to increase the budget.

Upcoming Dates:

November:

- 11/9 - Parent-Teacher Conferences
- 11/9 - Picture Retake Day
- 11/11 - NO SCHOOL Veteran's Day
- 11/17 - Fall Family Fun Night

11/22 - SEPTA General Meeting 7:45pm
11/24 - 11/25 - NO SCHOOL Thanksgiving Recess

Spirit Dates:
Every Friday