



**O'Hara Elementary PTO
General Meeting
Wednesday, November 18 at 9:15am**

MEETING NOTES

Welcome (Jessica Simms)

Fundraising (Dawn DiPasquale)

- **Mask sale open** - it will stay open until November 26. Order here: <https://shieldsewbroidery.tuosystems.com/stores/foxfoliday>
- **Dine & Donate at Primanti's** - THIS THURSDAY at the Harmar location. Delivery is free just for O'Hara families this Thursday. You can also do curbside or takeout. 20% of proceeds will be donated to O'Hara PTO. Make sure to mention the O'Hara fundraiser.
- **Book Fair** - it's complicated during Covid and more info will be announced as it's available
- **Square One Art** - ordering will be online only this year and families will need to have the items shipped directly to their homes instead of to the school. Despite many attempts, shipping fees will be incurred between \$7-12, or free if order total is over \$75.
- **Winter Hat Spirit Sale** - Fox Chapel "beanie" style hats will be on sale starting in the next week.
- **Amazon Smile** - please check to make sure that when you are shopping on Amazon, that you are signed up to donate to O'Hara through Amazon Smile. Contact Melissa Marlo for a tutorial: vicepresident@oharapto.org.

President Updates (Jessica Simms)

- **Student Directory** - is being printed and will be distributed in December. This is an open committee position for next year, since the current chair will be moving onto the middle school.
- **Finalized Budget** - will be posted to the O'Hara PTO website in the coming days. The school has asked the PTO to buy sit-upons/stadium style seats for each student at the school so that they don't get wet when eating lunch outside on the ground.
- **New Communications Co-Chairs** - Meredith Levy and Gabe Ferry
- **Open committee positions** - there are lots but specific needs are for PALS (Parent Advocates for Learning Support) Chair, Box Top Collections Chair.

- **Holiday Collection for Staff** - be on the lookout for an optional collection of funds to give to the school's secretaries, custodial staff and lunch and recess monitors as a holiday bonus.

Vice President Updates (Melissa Marlo)

- **Recess Supplies Amazon Wish List** - everything has been purchased on the list. The school community was very generous, and especially Pechersky Orthodontics, who purchased the remaining supplies on the list this week.
- **Lunch and Recess Volunteers Needed** - any parent who has time to volunteer to be a monitor should contact Dana Rofey at RofeydL@upmc.edu. Parents need clearances and should be available during any preferred time slot during the hours of 10am-2pm. Although the school would like to have volunteers who have signed up on a consistent weekly basis (through Dana), same-day volunteers are okay. But please call the front office to let them know you are coming so they can print your badge. More volunteers are especially needed to stay for the latter hours during 4th and 5th grade lunch/recess. The school and PTO is encouraging parents to stay to help out with classes besides those of their own kids, if possible.

Committee Chair updates

- **Homeroom reps and 5th Grade Day (Sarah Blask)**
 - **Holiday parties** - scheduled for December 23 from 2-3pm. They will be virtual, similar to Halloween. 4 volunteers per class are needed for planning and executing activities (virtually). These volunteers are encouraged to share ideas for activities with each other (across classes/grades) to make executing the parties a little more fun and easy. Sarah will be in touch with homeroom reps about the planning for this. Virtual students have their supply pickups on December 9th, so materials for the holiday parties for virtual learners should be complete by then.
 - **5th Grade Day** - volunteers needed for planning committees and day-of responsibilities. It will take place during the first week of June. Many 5th grade parents may need to renew their clearances because they have expired. They are encouraged to check this, which may entail getting new fingerprints. Sarah suggested the UPS store on McKnight road. Make an appointment in advance and then it takes less than 5 minutes to complete and the results come back within a day. Email Sarah if interested in helping with 5th Grade Day - sarah.blask@gmail.com
- **O'Hara Foxes Club (Meghann Jones)**
 - The OFC is an after school enrichment program that will begin again in January, but will be in a different format. The winter session will be fully virtual with registration starting in December and classes starting in January. The following programs will take place: kitchen club, science lab, book reading club, art club. OFC is looking for more volunteers to help sort online registrations and forms and organize data. Email ofc@oharapto.org if interested.
- **Teacher Appreciation (Kristie Madden)**

- The PTO will continue to show our teachers appreciation this year, although it will look a little different. The Curbside Coffee luncheon was a success for the teachers on their first day of 5 days in school. The PTO also bought the teachers a cricket for the teachers lounge. If you are interested in helping with this committee, please email vicepresident@oharpto.org.

Comments and Questions

Closing (Jessica Simms)