



**O'Hara Elementary PTO
General Meeting
Wednesday, September 14, 2022 at 9:15 am
O'Hara Elementary**

Meeting Notes

Melissa Marlo (President)

Welcome and PTO Board introductions. Volunteers are how we work. Committee sign ups are very important and present in the back of the auditorium. We welcome Randy Stager as our PTO Website Webmaster, who is already making changes. Help get the word out about events and activities by loving posts, resharing and more. This allows the algorithm to have it seen more. TAG is going through a revamp with the help of the art teachers. Looking for a person interested in being chair of this committee.

Principal Update: Dr. Batis

Academics-Moved up intervention start dates. If parents have a concern about their child and their progress, please request a student focused meeting. Students are monitored every 4-6 weeks to evaluate progress. Social and emotional needs are being addressed by our guidance counselors, who will be starting small support groups. Teachers are currently working on who they would recommend for these groups. Again, reach out if there are any concerns!

A new program principal has been hired. We are hoping that Mrs. Trout will be able to begin in November. We are looking forward to welcoming her!

Multicultural night will take place on Thursday October 20th. If you are interested in hosting a booth or performing, contact Senorita Taylor.

Halloween celebrations will take place on Friday, October 28th, which is also a half day.

Logistics are still being figured out.

Kate Malyszka (VP)

This is Kate's first meeting as VP and introduced herself. She is excited for her role on the PTO Board.

Norb Garbisch (Treasurer)

Discussed the budget and what all the numbers mean. Will make it available on our website. Our reserve is there for the event of emergency, but also for needs, like the sidewalk. You can find the budget under the Finance tab of the PTO website.

Meredith Levy (Secretary)

A monthly email will be sent from the PTO via Sandy Shank in addition to our weekly emails. All committee chairs will have access to a Google Form to ensure their committee's information is included. Always open for suggestions on better ways to get information out.

Gabe Ferry (Social Media)

Please continue to like and love and reshare posts to reach more people. Open to any suggestions for changes or ways to get more people reached.

Floor Open to Committee Chairs:

Teacher Appreciation (Kristy Madden): This is last year as committee chair and looking for someone who may be interested in being the chair for the next two school years. The committee is trying to do something once a month for our teachers and building staff. Committee welcomes any donations, either sponsorship or direct monetary donations. All the committee's work culminates towards Teacher Appreciation Week. If you're interested, email teacherappreciation@oharapto.org.

Homeroom Reps (Melinda Burdette): People interested have submitted their interest. There are 1-2 reps per homeroom. We are back to allowing 4 volunteers for classroom parties. Any questions or concerns, email homeroom@oharapto.org.

Party Planning Committee (Erin Klienman): Some confusion, Melinda (homeroom rep chair) is the person to reach out to with questions related to volunteering. Party Planning Committee has nothing to do with that aspect of the parties. Busy getting ready for Halloween parties and gathering materials. An Amazon Wish List has been created for materials and items to help with party activities. Pick up for materials by the homeroom reps has been moved to Erin's house. There will be an opportunity to join with packing and gathering, both easy tasks and busy work probably 10/15 or 10/16.

Multicultural Night (Diana Hitter and Beatriz Conte): Diana and Bee are the chairs along with Senorita Taylor. The event will occur on Thursday, October 20th beginning at 5:30. If you'd like to host a country table or perform, contact multicultural@oharapto.org. Performances are about 5-10 minutes long.

Green Foxes (Suzanne Dugan): Always looking for more parent volunteers. Stopped cap collection while they figure out what to do with existing caps since the intended company is no longer fielding donations. Pens and markers are still being collected and sent for recycling via

the BIC program. Emily Glick has acquired 1000 trees and plants (native to the area) for distribution via the Chesapeake Bay Association.

Teacher Committee (Miss Fanning): A big thank you for all the things we do and teacher appreciation work. The Family Engagement Committee, led by Mrs. Cavaliere will continue to reach out for donations and parent volunteer opportunities. Learning Centers are once again allowing parent volunteers. These activities will take place from 10/17-10/24.

Box Tops and Amazon Smile (Laura Serrao): Link to both are at the bottom of every weekly email. It's easy to donate to Amazon Smile, which also works with Whole Foods. Download the Box Tops app. Now you just scan your receipts and submit via the app.

PALS (Laura Serrao): PALS is getting started for the school year. It is a program to help parents advocate for the needs of their children, either requiring more support or gifted support.

Wrap Up: Next meeting will be October 12th at 9:15. 11/22 and 3/23 are expected to be evening meetings.