

Symmes Elementary PTO General Meeting
Thursday, September 14, 2017

Call to Order/Introductions

Camilla Millar

- ★ Facebook Live, please be respectful
- 4th grade drum and song performance w/ Mrs. Bethune – preview for grandparent's day
 - You'll Be in My Heart - Tarzan
 - Count on Me – Bruno Mars

Teacher Representative Report

Cathy Jones

- Cathy Jones is the teacher liaison for Symmes - 4th grade teacher
 - Thank yous
 - Fall gifting money – used for extra supplies for classrooms
 - Peacebuilders shirts for staff and students
 - Grandparents' Day snacks
 - Monarch Night
 - Kindergarten update
 - Pajama Day on Monday 9/18 – will be working on graphing and sorting activities
 - 2nd Grade update
 - Partnering with sister school Maple Dale Elementary – working on problem-based learning activities and data sharing (field trip planned for Oct).
 - Introduction of new Goal Math program is going well.
 - 3rd Grade update
 - Working on identifying nouns and verbs
 - Learning how to choose 'just right' books for reading
 - First Birthday Bash was a success
 - 4th Grade update
 - Also piloting new Goal Math program
 - Constitution Day celebration planned for Monday, 9/18
 - School Gardens
 - Julie Paterson has requested volunteers to help maintain the garden spaces.

Principal & Assistant Principal Report

Anne Van Kirk/Jessica Ralston

- ★ Enrollment update
 - 514 students – higher enrollment than past few years
 - Student count includes 5 Kindergarten classes, 6 2nd grade, 4 3rd grade and 5 4th grade classrooms - all rooms are full
- ★ Digital Citizenship Modules
 - Promotes online safety and responsibility using modules tailored to each grade level.
 - Interactive lessons require login by students.
 - Teacher-led discussions about appropriateness of online content.
 - Instructs students on topics such as strong passwords, spam, positive community interaction, and how to properly cite online research sources.
 - Drawbacks – some topics were too advanced for grade levels (such as identity theft)
- ★ Crisis Drill
 - Information was sent home last Friday

- o *All students were evacuated beyond the library and practiced how to account for all students and faculty in the event of an emergency.*

★ MAP reports

- o *Tests taken (grades 1-4) first full week of school are used as a benchmark assessment.*
- o *Winter section will measure expected growth and identify improvements and any adjustments needed for the remainder of the year.*
- o *Scores due to come home next week.*
- o *MPG = primary MAP test for 1st graders.*
- o *Starting in 2nd grade MAP tests will not be read aloud to students so some dips in scores are to be expected.*
- o *NWEA is website for more information.*

★ Aviation Station

- o *Converted school bus with science, math and technology (STEAM) activities.*
- o *Will visit each elementary school 3x per year for 1 week.*
- o *Homework help and internet access will be available in some neighborhoods with reduced resources.*

★ Peacebuilders

- o *9/21 is National Peace Day*
- o *Assembly is planned for 2:30 pm, students will complete a pinwheel activity (parents invited).*

★ Grandparents Day

- o *320 attendees currently signed up*
- o *Activities are planned by grade level.*
- o *Grandparents will then go to media center for refreshments and 4th grade performance.*

Family Math Night – 10/12

- o *Problem solving activities for families and exploring new math concepts.*

Monarch Night – 9/14

- o *6 stations of butterfly activities will be set up and an informational video on butterflies.*
- o *Picnic dinner (inside or outside depending on weather)*

President Report

Camilla Millar

★ Thank you for your membership! <https://www.sycamoreschools.org/Page/3048>

- o *Check out new PTO website and Facebook page.*
- o *Directory Spot web app is coming soon.*
 - *Symmes will give everyone access instead of just PTO members.*
- o *Symmes Ambassadors – new program designed to help our international families with questions and communications.*

★ Open Chairs: Book Fair, Co-Chair:Teacher Appreciation, Field Day, Wellness Warriors, School Supplies (Feb-Aug 2018), Bridge Books, Dodge Ball (Spring Fundraiser), Great Gatherings

★ Carnival: Sponsorship, Publicity, BidNBuy Co-chairs,Cake Walk, Games Co-Chair

★ Sign up as a volunteer online: <https://www.sycamoreschools.org/Page/3051>

Treasurer's Report

Ashley Werthaiser

★ Budget Report and approval

- ★ Reimbursement forms available online for PTO related school functions
 - o *Must submit original receipt for reimbursement.*
 - o *PTO cannot reimburse sales tax – use tax exempt form for PTO purchases.*
 - o *Submit forms to Treasurer in office mailbox*
 - o *To submit cash please call Ashley directly to coordinate.*
- *Motion to approve budget made by Camilla – budget approved*

Developing Growth Mindsets

Beth Hill, Symmes Counselor

- *Introduction – Beth is in her 4th year at Symmes (also works at Montgomery) and also worked in Special Education for 8 years.*
- *Growth Mindsets –*
 - o *Definition - attitudes and expectations of ourselves that affect our daily activities.*
 - o *Positive mindsets set us up for success.*
 - o *Carol Dweck (author and educator on this topic) suggests more factors than just IQ or ‘god-given talents’ (such as creativity, environment and interests) impact our overall success*
 - o *Fixed vs. Growth mindset*
 - *Fixed = “you got what you got”*
 - *Growth = attitude that we can foster, mold and increase our skill sets*
 - o *Fixed mindsets - can cause self-doubt, fear of failure and refusal to take risks, and the need to prove ourselves and intelligence.*
 - o *Growth mindsets – suggest that it is ok to feel new things are hard and uncomfortable, to ask questions and to fail and try again. It is the belief kids can control outcomes in their lives with effort and practice, learn from mistakes, find joy in learning, and build emotional resilience.*

VP Family Involvement

LaToya Goshen

- ★ Family Fun Night Sept. 28, 6:30, chair: Dana Auer
- *Free event with bingo, pizza and prizes and cookie sampling*

VP Ways and Means

Patricia Barros/Kenna Wahlquist

- ★ School Supplies Recap
 - *Supply kits were a success so we will be using same company next year. We will benefit from discounted cost and will offer online ordering and payment.*
- ★ Cookie Sale Kick-Off: Sept. 28, chair: Jackie Ogden
 - *Otis Spunkmeyer samples*
 - *Backpack packets coming home 9/28*
- ★ Hassle Free Fundraising
 - *Simple check donation option, information also coming home with cookie dough packets.*
- ★ Free Money (seriously!): Kroger card and Amazon Smiles
 - o Go to www.krogercommunityrewards.com
 - select location. On next page, choose "enroll"
 - if you have an account, then log in... if not, create an account (bottom of 2nd column)
 - find "community rewards" and select Symmes Elementary PTO as your organization

- If at some point you need an organization number... ours is 81716
- Amazon donates .5% of the price of eligible AmazonSmile purchases to Symmes. Shop on amazon as usual (works with Amazon prime). The only catch is that you must shop through the Amazon Smile site (it is the exact same shopping experience). Bookmark <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/31-1340714>. and use it to make your purchases.
- ★ Cash for Trash (Box Tops, Campbell's labels, Tyson labels)
 - Earn money for Symmes by simply doing a little clipping! These products all offer cash incentives to our school when we send in their labels. You can send in box tops at any time via backpack mail...each teacher has a box outside their room for collection. Also, watch for further information about classroom collection contests!

VP Student Programs

Alison Petermann

- ★ Symmes Steppers: Lauren Gall, Bekah Erkh, co-chairs
- ★ Symmes Stars: Sunny Pitt, Tulika Prasad, co-chairs
- ★ Green Team: Elizabeth Kays, co-chair
- ★ Spelling Bee 4th grade spelling bee: October 19, Ash Goel, chair
- ★ Girls on the Run – 5k race prep

Recording Secretary

Leigh Grause

- ★ Directory: DirectorySpot, district wide (except high school)
 - *We have received approval and a discount code to purchase the app, should be available for use soon.*
- ★ Symmes Circular
 - *Send in information about your upcoming events for inclusion in the monthly newsletter!*
- ★ Name Tags
 - *Name tag lanyards are hanging by the aquarium. Please let Leigh know if you still need one or have any corrections.*

Corresponding Secretary

Linda Mackey

- ★ Symmes Ambassadors: Jackie Ogden, Chair
 - *Transitioning new families and non-native English speakers*
 - *9/21 event with Dr. Patricia Barros on Keys to School Success in a Foreign Country.*
- ★ Teacher Appreciation:
 - *Committee forming – needs volunteers*
- ★ PTO Parking Space Drawing
 - *Ali Rollins winner of the parking spot*

Adjournment