

Union Valley Elementary PTO Meeting Minutes

Date: October 11, 2016

President, Krista Mitchell called meeting to order at: 7:00 pm

President Report:

President Krista Mitchell welcomed everyone to the meeting. We have a lot of super fun PTO sponsored events scheduled for this year. We are excited for a new year and the memories we are going to create. Thank you to everyone for coming out. We love to see new faces. It is a lot of fun to be a part of the PTO. We are so excited to see you.

Principals Report - Mrs. Elwell:

Welcome! It is great to see everyone. I can't believe it is October already. Typically, we welcome everyone at these meetings and discuss what is occurring at Union Valley.

Today, October 11th, we had our second assembly of the year, our anti-bullying assembly.

Upcoming Events:

- Interim report cards are coming home for the older grades on Friday, October 14th
- The first marking period ends on November 16th and November 23rd report cards will come home.
- Picture Day is this Friday, October 14th
- Book Fair starts on October 13th during their normal library day.
- Our club programs have kicked off this month:
 - SNAP program for grades 3-5 has started. This program is designed to help students who need a little extra assistance.
 - 5th grade Champ programs – fall and spring – This program is for the 5th grade only. Right now, the club program consists of a STEAM club, Music, and Zumba.
- Friday, October 21st – Kindergarten is going to Storybook Land
- Family Game Night – Friday, October 21st
- November 14 (9:30am – 10:45am) and November 15 (1:40pm – 2:45pm) – In honor of American Education Week, Union Valley will host an open house for parents to experience their children's routine and classrooms. More info to follow.
- Please be on the lookout for three important letters coming home soon:

- Halloween letter outlining this year's plan will be sent home on 10/17
- Parent Teacher Conferences – Half Day (12:55 dismissal), the last week of November
- American Education Week paper for the open house.

Teachers are scheduling parent and teacher conferences now. Your time will be confirmed in a letter that is scheduled to be sent home on Monday, November 14th.

Please note that there are many days off in November: November 8th – 11th and again for Thanksgiving – November 24th – 25th

Ms. Jackson:

Ms. Jackson loved the celebrity scoop night. She loved seeing everyone and the short volunteer time slot was wonderful because of personal commitments. PTO may want to consider the time slot idea for future events.

Membership:

We have had another good year for membership with 133 members, including 99 voting members, and 34 requests for more information. We are still accepting membership and will continue to update us.

\$718 was raised for the PTO (218 were donations for spotlight lunches and 5th grade committee). Thank you to our generous donors!

We have had more people volunteer for the individual events throughout the year than ever: Thank you everyone!

Box Tops Committee:

We just finished up the summer box tops. We have 8,496 box tops currently. We are looking to receive around \$1,000 profit from this batch. November 1st will be the first submission. We should receive the first check by the end of the year. Thank you for everyone that helped put this submission together. If you send them in counted, that would be amazing. Batching them in 25 or 50 counts would be great. PTO is going to send out something to make it easier.

Holiday Shop:

December 6th will be the single day holiday shop. Our goal is to extend the hours a bit: 4pm – 8pm has been suggested. We are working with Ms. Alexander to reconfigure the library to make it work. We are going to have a larger gift wrap and check out area.

We are working on purchasing all of the holiday shop gifts for this year. One thing to consider is our check-out process. We are looking into alternative gift wrapping options. More to come.

5th Grade Committee:

We are looking forward to an exciting year for our 5th graders. We have the Halloween Party coming up on October 31st. It will be a spooktacular time!

We gave out a little welcome back gift to each 5th grader on the first day of school. We are trying to make their last year at Union Valley memorable.

Additional 5th grade activities being scheduled:

- Skate Night –Sunday, March 5, 2017 * 5:30 – 7:30
- Fundraiser Restaurant Night – PDQ is a possibility - TBD
- Yearbook cover contest - we are working with the yearbook committee to finalize the details.
- Pretzel sales will be starting soon. The delivery day will be spirit day each month.
- 5th Grade Social - April
- A very special thank you to Rose Ravoni for donating the 5th grade t-shirts this year!

Staff/Student Appreciation:

To show our appreciation to the wonderful staff at Union Valley, we host a few appreciation events throughout the year:

Back to School Lunch was held the day before school started. We provided a welcome back gift and lunch to our teachers to show our appreciation.

Next staff event will be held on November 16th for our beloved school support staff. We are providing them with breakfast and a small gift. We need help staffing this event. 9am is the start time. We need help setting up and cleaning up. Please be on the lookout for the sign-up genius.

Teacher Holiday Gifts – please let us know of some ideas for what the teachers need.

Spotlight Student Lunches: honor our monthly recognized students. Each student selected receives the reward of lunch with Ms. Elwell and Mr. Ferguson. They happen on three consecutive days and we need helpers for this event. It is only an hour long and pretty easy to help out. Thank you to the 19 people who signed up to help. October 25th, 26th, and 27th from 12:20 until 1:25 is the next group of events. Please sign up to be added to the sign up genius.

Santa visits classrooms: This will be held the last full day before winter break. We will need a Santa and some volunteers.

School Store:

Thank you! We had 3 volunteers for the first school store and it was a huge help. It is super fun and cute. It would be great if people could keep volunteering.

Yearbook:

Please take and upload any events you taken: first day of school, family game night, Halloween, etc. Flyer went home on October 11, 2016 with instructions for uploading your photos. We are also happy to help upload. Please just send them in.

5th grade yearbook flyers will be coming home soon. Please send in baby photos for our 5th graders. It would be great to get as many as possible. The cover contest will also be announced to the 5th graders very soon. We encourage all 5th graders to submit a cover. The teachers will vote. 1st place will appear on the front cover and 2nd place on the back cover. Theme for this year is “Lasting Imprints.” (Generate memories that they will take with them.) The cover contest submissions will be due on December 16th. Winners will be selected before break.

We would love if the teachers could submit pictures again this year – they were super helpful!

If anyone is available to come to assemblies and take pictures for the yearbook, we would be very grateful.

Science Fair Flyer is coming home soon.

Fundraising/Activity Night:

Fundraising has been busy. We started our season with the Save-around books. We surpassed the budget of \$2,000! (YAY!) We made \$2,875 and did way better than last year. Thank you everyone!

Today, the Cherrydale fundraiser packets went home. This is a catalog sale. You can send the information digitally through email to your family and friends. It is very easy to send out to them. An added bonus – if you spend \$75 or more, you get free shipping. Please note – when the delivery comes in, you have to pick up anything you order that is frozen. We haven’t done this one for a while so hoping it will be successful.

Rita’s Celebrity Scooper Night – We did really well! \$205 was earned. We beat our donation goal – thank you! We will do this again in the Spring.

Upcoming Fundraisers:

- Yankee Candle – Spring
- Paint Night - More to Come
- Ice Cream Social – Spring
- Father/Daughter Dance - February

- Mother/Son Night – March (Moms and meatballs; Bowling Outing are some ideas)
- Restaurant Night – Spring
- Student Fun Run – Late Spring

Treasury:

We are doing well.

Special Guest:

CubMaster Frank Garriel – Pack 184

Typically, the cub scouts meet at Union Valley in the cafeteria once a month at 7pm on Mondays. Meeting information can be found on the web site. (Pack184.com) The cub scouts are designed to prepare kids with life skills and deliver a quality program to the boys of Union Valley. The Union Valley has a partnership with the cub scouts, in order to offer cub scouts at UV.

In addition to the scouts, they are looking to start a STEM club. He is interested in finding someone to run a STEM club here at UV. They need a volunteer to find us a teacher and a parent to help put together the club. He also needs a PTO volunteer to serve as a liaison for the cub scouts.

Special Events:

We hope everyone can join us on Friday, October 21st from 7pm – 9pm for Family Game Night – Charades Edition. The top two families will win a prize!

Spirit Wear:

We made a total of \$1,285 during the first and \$865 during the second back to school night for a total of \$2,150. We received a lot of requests for mesh shorts. We are looking into adding these soon. A flyer is coming home soon for the holidays. We are doing a special order for a long sleeve bling shirt.

Helping Hands:

We have 23 students who are part of the helping hands family. We are going to give each student a short sleeve and long sleeve spirit wear shirt to each student. A vote was called and passed.

PTO closet – there are still some tote bags. Can the helping hands committee use those for the spirit wear? (Vote was called and passed). A \$20 gift card for their Halloween costume will be included.

President, Krista Mitchell, calls the meeting closed at 7:50 pm