



Columbus Elementary School PTO Meeting

School Year 2020-2021

Thursday, February 4th, 6:30 pm

TIME ITEM

6:30 **Welcome & Board Introductions**

6:35 **Board Membership & Planning**

There is likely to be some transition on the board for the upcoming year--we would very much like to recruit some new board members. Elections will take place during the last meeting of the year (May). Reach out to the board (medfordcolumbuspto@gmail.com) if you have any questions or want to learn more about what the commitment entails, etc.

6:40 **Mystery Buddy**

Each kid writes 1 (or more than one!) letters to a mystery buddy (LINK TO THE LETTER/TEMPLATES). Drop the letters in the box at the school (or reach out to the PTO board - medfordcolumbuspto@gmail.com if you want to arrange a closer drop off/pick up!) and the PTO will then send them to another child in the mail.

6:50 **Marie Cassidy, Medford Family Network (MFN):**

MFN is here to support and work with Medford families--and lots of things are still happening! Check out the MFN website (<https://www.themedfordfamilynetwork.org/>) for more information or reach out to Marie Cassidy directly: 781-393-2106 or mcassidy@medford.k12.ma.us Contactless donations can be arranged - reach out to Marie for details.

7:00 **Enrichment Update**

Enrichment

1. RIBS (Rhode Island Black Storytellers) - school program Feb 8-12, all teachers will have access to pre-recorded stories told by a selection of storytellers (different sets of stories

depending on grade level). Thursday, February 11 - live Q&A session with Len Cabral.

2. Museum of Science - each grade will have a science presentation.

Columbus Clubhouse

1. Winter Club Kits - range of kits available - about 50 people have requested kits. Kits are free and will be distributed before the February break. We'll offer another round of kits after the break. Donations are always welcome to support the kits! Spread the word--especially to kids who have never done clubs or kits! Link to order kits:
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe6pmYBJGlg6SaroDGXKYhAXDZzfc4pbLOXdKbajlgXqx9IDQ/viewform>
2. Virtual Clubs - thinking about offering virtual clubs in March (yoga, drawing, CCSR, etc.) that would meet after school.

7:10 Whooo's Reading / Book Fair Updates

Whooo's Reading - March 1-19! Our yearly read-a-thon - kids read and log their books and minutes read on the Whooo's Reading website. Reading aloud, audio books, etc. all count! The read-a-thon is fun for reading, interacting with friends and cheering them on as they read, AND it's an important fundraiser for the PTO! *You do not need to do the fundraising part to participate!

Book Fair (March 14-19) - some prizes for Whooo's Reading will be gift cards to Porter Square books, the host of our winter book fair. Books can be purchased on the PS website, enter a code, and a percentage of sales will be directed to the PTO. Books can be shipped home or can be picked up at PS Books. If you're interested in being a guest reader on Zoom, let us know!

7:20 Principal Kay's Corner

1. Congratulations to Kristina Johnson - recipient of the 2021 President's Award, which honors new school librarians making an impact on student learning:
<https://www.maschoolibraries.org/awards.html>
2. Rob Surett, artist - needed to be rescheduled
3. Kindness month - developing habits around being kind to others, especially now when we aren't able to be all together. Kindness journals are available at school if anyone wants/needs one.
4. Changing the COVID testing to a pool model - see the email from the Superintendent for

details.

5. Columbus name change process - it's on Dr Kay's radar, has been asking about it to the administration, has not gotten information yet. There is a School Committee meeting on Monday, could possibly be discussed.
6. SEPAC - next meeting February 10 at 6pm
7. February break - February 15-19
8. C&C Spirit Days - February 23 & 25
9. Parent/Teacher Conferences
10. Books & Blankets Night (February 25) - teachers have volunteered to read a story
11. March 2 - Professional Development Day
12. Tufts - Read by the River (virtual)

Next Meeting: Thursday, March 4, 2021, 6:30-8 pm (via Zoom)

email: medfordcolumbuspto@gmail.com

website: <http://columbuspto.wordpress.com/>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/ColumbusPTO>

Instagram: @medfordcolumbuspto

Support Columbus community owned businesses:

<https://columbuspto.wordpress.com/columbus-community-owned-businesses/>.