

PTA General Meeting
Montgomery Knolls-Pine Crest PTA
February 1, 2017
7:00-8:00pm
Montgomery Knolls Elementary School APR

The meeting started at 7:05 p.m.

In Attendance:

Natesia Johnson-Samuel, PTA President
Andrea Hickman, PTA Vice-President
Heeyeon Jeong, PTA Treasurer
Jean Foster, PTA Recording Secretary

Cheryl Booker, PCES Principal
Cindy Chichester, PCES Vice-Principal
Katie West, MKES Vice-Principal

In addition, 21 parents attended the meeting - see sign-in sheets

Handouts Distributed/Posted:

- "Treasurer's Report as of February 1, 2017"
- "MKPC-PTA Minutes from PTA Meeting December 1, 2016"
- "A Parent's Guide to Helping Your Child with Today's Math"
- "Math Worksheet/Estimation Challenge"
- "Parent Checklist for Homework Help at Home & Homework Hotline Resource"
- "Hundreds Chart - With Multiplication Table to 12s"

I. Call Meeting to Order

7:00-7:03pm

- A. Welcome and Reminder to sign in

II. Helping your Child with Today's Math presented by Elizabeth Sadqi, Pine Crest Math Focus Teacher

7:03-7:30pm

A. Estimation Challenges Worksheet

1. How many water bottles will fill the bucket?
2. How many marshmallows are in one bag?
3. Allowed parents to see questions posed to our students. What strategies can be used to make your guess?
4. On the back of the worksheet is a puzzle for kids and adults

B. The Math Focus Teacher

1. Job Responsibilities
 - a) Works with small groups of students to give additional math help
 - b) Primarily works with teachers to work on curriculum for math in the county
 - c) Also works with parents to talk about student's math needs on an individual basis
 - d) Meets with Linkages to Learning parents to provide additional support.

C. How can parents support our kids in math, especially with new changes to the curriculum?

1. See handout: "Thank you for your help!"
 - a) Check that homework is done; ask your child questions about math class
 - b) Count with your child during daily activities
 - c) Practice math facts orally, using flash cards, computer games
 - d) Measure at home: Time, Money, Length
 - e) Play math games with your child

D. Learning Math in school vs. Learning Math at home

1. Should not be the same type of learning
2. Ms. Sadqi wants parents to understand that the best way to help your child with math is not to mimic what they do in school
3. Common Core encourages "Master Classes" in addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, and fractions during school hours
 - a) Focus is on Models, Reasoning, Practice, Application, Assessment to help kids build understanding
 - b) The school will send home practice for homework, but most practicing with math happens in class
4. In-school learning does not cover much measurement, statistics, nor geometry
5. At home, teaching work/study skills would be very helpful such as making sure that the homework is done, completing all homework before TV, non-educational screentime, etc.
6. Homework is not graded
7. Help your child develop a "number sense" by playing with numbers in everyday interactions
 - a) Counting: Count up and down; skip count; all ages need help with counting, surprising but true!
 - (1) Count by 2s starting at 53, starting at 119, starting at 84
 - (2) Third-Graders and up use fractions, so can skip-count by fractions
 - (3) "100 Chart" very valuable because allows children to see patterns with numbers
 - (a) Helps with "Mental Math"
 - (b) Visualizing the 100 Chart helps child quickly do mental math
 - (c) Pattern replicates as you go into working in the thousands and higher
 - (d) Games can be played on chart - Mystery Number: cover a number with a coin then ask what number is under the coin... how does the child know?
 - b) Practice basic facts at home!! Flash cards. Computer games. Oral (skip counting facts)
 - c) Memorize basic facts like multiplication tables (not done during schoolday)
 - (1) Multiplication tables through 12s should be memorized by the end of third grade
 - d) Triangle Cards (available online, or can make at home)
 - (1) Easy way to have the students work with relationships

- (2) Would you ever have an odd number that is a multiple of 4?
8. Working on Measurement at home is key because not much time is set aside to learn it in school. Estimating measures, reasoning, real-world application
 9. Telling Time
 - a) Reading Standard Clocks
 - (1) Calculating elapsed time: What time will it be in one hour? How long was your shower? You can watch TV for 25minutes...what time will it be then?
 - (2) Convert between Hours/Minutes/Seconds
 - (3) By 4th Grade and older, students are converting time in school between seconds, minutes, hours, days, weeks, etc.
 - b) Calendars
 - (1) What was the date one week ago? How many months until your birthday?
 10. Money
 - a) Very briefly covered in second and third grade. Decimals are introduced in fourth grade
 - b) Let your child shop with you, ask questions about paying with dollar amounts and making change.
 - c) Compare prices/amounts...what's the better deal?
 - d) Make change from a dollar. Count and name coins. Make 55cents using different combinations of coins.
 - e) Estimate prices...Do we have enough money to buy this?
 11. Length and Distance
 - a) US measurement vs. Metric
 - b) Convert measurements... How tall are you in inches? In feet and inches? (Fourth and Fifth Graders)
 - c) Estimates: My thumb is 3inches long, so this pencil is about...
 - d) Use rulers, tape measures, odometers
 - (1) Primary rulers are available which only have inches/half inches
 12. Ask questions at home: "What did you do in math today? How did you get that answer? What is the story for that problem? Understanding the difference between multiplication stories and addition stories... addition stories vs. subtraction stories (If Monica gives 3 cupcakes to Eddie...)
 - a) The more comfortable students get with the stories, their understanding becomes clearer, and they become better mathematicians
 13. Math Newsletters
 - a) [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum 2.-0/parent-newsletters.aspx](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum%20-%20parent-newsletters.aspx)
 - b) Read for explanations of the content being taught in class
 - c) Newsletters will show what is being taught in school, but also gives suggestions for what parents can do at home.
 - d) Covers about 4 weeks of content.
 - e) Explains what will be monitored on report card for that quarter

- f) Can be found both on MCPS and school websites
14. Homework Hotline Live
- a) <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/itv/hhl/>
 - b) MCPS offering which used to be a TV show, now allows you to email in questions. They'll answer questions live on air on TV, by text, or by phone.
 - c) Spanish speakers available
15. Play games with your children!
- a) This helps develop strategies for solving puzzles
 - b) Develops stamina to stick with something that is difficult
 - c) Card games, dice games help with number awareness
 - d) Jigsaw puzzles, guessing and checking the piece placement
 - (1) Helps with algebra by increasing their stamina
 - e) Online Apps and Games
 - (1) Google Classroom
 - (2) School Homepage (links to basic facts/practice sites)
 - (3) Math Playground
 - (4) BBCs Times Table Grid Game
 - (a) <http://www.bbc.co.uk/skillswise/0/>
 - (5) Fact Monster
 - (6) Zap Zap Math App
 - (7) Hit the Button Math
16. If you feel like your child needs more enrichment
- a) Try <http://nrich.maths.org>
 - b) Or www.24game.com
 - c) Also available as Apps

E. Ms. Sadqi and the math teachers are always willing to talk with parents. Call or email to arrange a meeting.

III. Approval of the December PTA Meeting Minutes 7:31-7:35pm

- A. Motion made to approve December Meeting Minutes, seconded.
- B. Minutes unanimously approved.

IV. PTA Updates/Announcements 7:35-7:55pm

- A. Upcoming Events:
 - 1. Science Fair Workshop: February 11
 - 2. Science Fair: Saturday, March 4
 - a) Becca Wilson is Science Fair Chair - call or email her with any questions
 - b) TriFold posters are available for \$3. Contact Becca
 - 3. MayFair

- a) No chair as of yet. If no chair is found by next Friday, Feb 10, MayFair will not happen this year
- b) Announcements looking for Chair have been sent to the community

B. Bullying

- 1. Ongoing concerns
- 2. Both PC and MK have been taking steps to work on this issue
- 3. "Filling the Bucket" Campaign to prevent bullying
- 4. Pine Crest held an assembly on bullying
 - a) Ms. Booker spoke about bullying
 - b) Ms. Parent has been doing school-wide classes on bullying as well as weekly workshops
 - c) Students created a great presentation on bullying
- 5. Montgomery County Police will be coming out on February 17 to talk to students by grade level about the challenges in our county regarding student relations and hate speech
 - a) Parents in attendance asked about the police participation. This is in response to Hate Speech/Graffiti occurring in middle and high schools within the county. MK/PC have not been having as many problems as other schools in the county. Swastika graffiti at Eastern MS and hate crimes occurring in the community since the Presidential Election were mentioned.
 - b) The police officer coming to talk works with Ms. Parent and with the MC school system
- 6. Parents are encouraged to talk to their children about acceptable speech and behavior
- 7. Encourage your children to talk to parents or trusted adults about any witnessed bullying.
 - a) Kids are aware of bullying going on but not coming forward
- 8. By not speaking up, children are aiding the bully, not helping the victim

V. Closing

7:55-8:00pm

- A. Pine Crest Principal Coffee
 - 1. Monday, February 6 in the Media Center 9:45am-10:45am
- B. Eastern Middle School Information Night at Pine Crest
 - 1. Repeat of the Information Night being held at Eastern
 - 2. Monday, February 6 at 6:30pm at Pine Crest
- C. Date of next PTA Meeting, Wednesday, April 5, 2017
 - 1. 6:30-8:00pm at MKES
 - 2. Elections will be held:
 - a) Correspondence Secretary
 - b) Recording Secretary

c) Treasurer

The Meeting was adjourned at 8:02pm

Respectfully submitted, Jean Foster, Recording Secretary

PTA General Meeting Agenda

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