

Calvin Leete PTO Organization

Calvin Leete Elementary School

PTO Meeting Minutes

Date: November 9, 2022

Time: 6:30 P.M.

Location: Zoom

**In Attendance:**

Ornella Rullo  
Audrey Barr  
Kristen Hershman  
Clarice Yasuhara  
Henry Prescott  
Cheryl Monaco  
Emma Ludwin  
Kristine Ford  
Mike Seal  
Kelly Babeu  
Christine Manuck  
Lauren Ferrante  
Melissa Meehan  
Kejal Amin  
Lauren Testani  
Allison Franks  
Dawn Parker

**Welcome (Ornella Rullo)**

**Volunteer Recognition/Past Events**

- Yearbook Club: Dylan Douglas
- Book Fair: Kelly Babeu, Emma Ludwin
- Enrichment: Christine Manuck
- School Store: Alice Chen, Joanna Lim, Tara Buonanno
- School Photos: Meredith Carnelli
- Class PTO Reps

**Treasurer Report** – Christina Holmes

- Full treasurer report available in October Minutes, feel free to reach out to Christina with any questions or comments. [christinah3@gmail.com](mailto:christinah3@gmail.com)

**Enrichment Update** - Christine Manuck

Enrichment is going well. The Fall session ends next week, feedback from this session has been great. Another session begins for 3-4 weeks after Thanksgiving. New class options to be included: *Cookie Decorating*, *Building a Computer* and a new *Dance Class*. Registration for this session opens next week. Feel free to reach out to Christine Manuck, [cmannuck@gmail.com](mailto:cmannuck@gmail.com) with any questions or comments.

### **Assembly Update** Audrey providing update for Kristen Eaton

I'm happy to report that our first assembly program on October 13th was a success! Mobile Ed. Productions brought the STEAM Museum to Calvin Leete and each grade had the opportunity to rotate through a range of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) activities. While I, unfortunately, was not able to attend, the feedback I received was positive...students were engaged and really seemed to enjoy themselves. Thank you to the PTO for funding the assembly and to all the volunteers who helped throughout the day! Also, thank you to Principal Seal, Elysa Bryant, John Wilson and the custodial staff, Henry Prescott and Jessica Catlin for their assistance and flexibility!

### **Potential Options for Upcoming Assemblies**

**\*Mobile Ed. Productions-** will offer a discount if we book another program. \$100 discount on half day program. \$200 discount on full day program. Some of their programs have sold out. A few that are available and may be of interest:

**\*Earth Dome-** (as of 11/8), available March 29, April 3,6,10

Christmahanukwanzamadan- not available in December

Gather Here/Diversity

[Mobile Ed Productions: School Assemblies | School Assembly ...](#)

### **\*Arts for Learning CT**

Based on the wonderful and engaging performance Surcari did last year, the following programs through Arts for Learning CT have been recommended to Calvin Leete.

[Afro-Brazilian Music and Dance](#)

[Boogie Chillun](#)

[Iddi Saaka](#)

[Lion Dance -Dance China](#)

[Tanglewood Marionettes](#)

I personally saw the Tanglewood Marionettes at an expo a few years ago and was very impressed. (Calvin Leete also had the Dragon King performance in April of 2018). I believe Principal Seal has seen Lion Dance-Dance China and may be able to speak more to it. Once teacher consensus on preference has been provided to Principal Seal, we can discuss booking a performance.

### **\*Traveling Lantern Theater Company**

\$495 credit can be extended to 2023-2024 school year if not used this year.

Principal Seal to decide whether to book performance, The Ribbles Build a Residence or to utilize credit next year. [Travelinglantern.com](http://Travelinglantern.com)

**\*Animal Embassy-** awaiting pricing on two back to back assembly programs similar to what we did in 2019. Recommend Creating Kindness program. There is more availability before the winter holidays but may be able to find a date in the spring. [animal embassy](#)

**\*Teacher Recommendation-** Bash the Trash- I will inquire further into this including availability <https://www.bashthetrash.com/connecticut-school-assemblies>

Question about sensory friendly assemblies, Mr. Seal weighed in about looking into that.

Jabari Dreams of Freedom Play for grades 3-6 suggested by Clarice regarding the civil rights era.

## **Fundraising Update** –Audrey Barr

Cougar Wear Store is open with youth and adult options! The store will be open until November 28. To create a more seamless pickup/avoid gifts being seen by students, the Cougar Wear purchases can be picked up directly at Guilford Sporting Goods.

Square One Art: Custom catalogs were sent home this week. The ordering deadline is December 5, merchandise SHOULD be available by the holiday break, but best to order early!

Art Auction: SAVE THE DATE: May 12, 2023 at Bishop's Orchards. The biggest fundraiser of the year which includes the event, silent auction, and a showcase/live auction of student artwork. This event requires lots of parent involvement: anyone interested in being part of the planning committee can reach out to Ornella or Audrey. Plans to arrange a first committee meeting between Thanksgiving and Winter break. Anyone interested in participating in event planning, silent auction, publicity, etc. please reach out. \*It was suggested for publicity to be a community service opportunity perhaps for a high school student.

Open fundraising board committee, if interested or you have a fundraising idea please contact Ornella or Audrey.

Fundraising thoughts: Clarice suggested working with Amanda's Healthy Cooking for a fundraising option: families can order food and a percentage goes to PTO. As a further suggestion, perhaps a Monday after a holiday break.

## **Yearbook** – Ornella providing for Dylan Douglas

The first meeting of the Calvin Leete Yearbook Club was a great success. We had 25 kids who were all very excited to be there. We discussed the structure of the yearbook, including layout and most importantly the theme. I'll be getting all the kids into a Yearbook Club Google Classroom this week and sending out a survey to make the final theme decision. Next week's meeting will be focused on drawing the clipart that we'll use throughout the book. Our final meeting of the month will be handling the yearbook ladder and more artwork.





## CLUB

### 2022-2023 Meeting Dates\*

Wednesdays (1st, 3rd and sometimes 5th) from 8:00 a.m. to 8:50 a.m.

Where: Leete Library (please enter through the main school doors)

1. November 2, 2022
2. November 16, 2022
3. November 30, 2022
4. December 7, 2022
5. December 21, 2022
6. January 4, 2023
7. January 18, 2023
8. February 1, 2023
9. February 15, 2023
10. March 1, 2023
11. March 15, 2023
12. March 29, 2023
13. April 5, 2023
14. April 19, 2023

*\*The schedule is subject to change depending on changes to the school calendar and/or in-person vs. distance learning on Wednesdays.*

Yearbook Coordinators

Dylan Douglas - shockwav@me.com - (310) 592-3222

### Book Fair Update- Kelly Babeu

Lots of volunteers, Room 10 is really great for the book fair. The kids were so excited. Reminder: The book fair is going to be open until about 6:00 on conference nights. Tax will need to be charged, for the first time so that complicates the totals a bit.

### School Store Update-

All is going well, lots of volunteers have been helping and the kids have been excited to practice using money, make change, and practice decision making.

### Variety Show Committee Update-

First committee meeting is next week. A group is working hard to put this together and to arrange a date. E-mail call was sent out to people who had children participate last year in order to get a committee started.

### ABAR Committee Update – Kristine Ford

- Guilford ABAR meeting 11/17 7:30PM
  - via [Zoom](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87892431192?pwd=UHUxMzRXcis2THRZUVFoZUUYLytWdz09) (link to: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87892431192?pwd=UHUxMzRXcis2THRZUVFoZUUYLytWdz09>)

ABAR held its first district wide meeting on October 20th and is working on several initiatives, including a new approach to Early Guilford Day, equity focused professional development for GPS teachers, and more.

This month we're celebrating Native American Heritage Month - find learning prompts on our website at <https://www.guilfordctabar.com/celebrating>.  
Join our next meeting on Thursday, November 17th at 7:30pm. Email [AbarAlliance@gmail.com](mailto:AbarAlliance@gmail.com) for link.  
And mark your calendars for our first learning workshop on Tuesday, Nov. 29th where we'll be learning more about the pillars of ABAR with a very special guest speaker. More details to come!

**SEPTO - Guilford Special Education Parent Teacher Organization**

Calvin Leete does not currently have a parent lead representative. If this is something you are interested in, please visit the website below to learn more.  
<https://guilfordsepto.wixsite.com/septo>.

**GFFE (Guilford Fund for Education) – Allison Franks**

Successful Family Trivia Night with over 30 families participating on Friday, November 4.  
Grants given out so far: technology enhancement to the high school, stationary bikes at Adams in the library for cycle reading and an upcoming laser grant.  
  
Dec 2, next board meeting at which point they will reconvene for seeking volunteers for different committees and events, so be on the lookout for volunteer opportunities!  
  
Trying to brainstorm an adult’s only GFFE option, maybe cocktail party, etc.

**Principal Report - Mike Seal**

Thank you Ornella and Audrey for organizing the PTO events, a thank you to Kristen Eaton’s assembly work for setting it up and securing volunteers. Kelly and Emma, a thank you for the book fair and all the time spent at the school, Deirdre and Connor working on the learning fair and Ornella working in maker space. Recently the cougar logo was sent to the high school as an option for students to spruce up the current school logo. A shout out to Dylan in the yearbook club, it is exciting to see more than half the fourth graders are participating. Exciting to see Choose Love starting back up and having whole school assemblies as part of this program. The school is putting an emphasis on STEAM and Maker Space this year.  
  
Cheryl Monaco added a thank you to Lindsey Gilberto and Ornella working on organizing Maker Space. Jamie Froelick started her class there today and it was so exciting. Cheryl plans to introduce the students during Library and train them around the space. Cheryl will pick a date to introduce Maker Space to the teachers and staff by having staff participate in maker space activities.

**Teacher Reports – Henry Prescott and Cheryl Monaco**

Focus: Literacy

Kindergarten	During skills block, kindergarteners continue to learn letter-sound correspondence through letter stories and
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	<p>chants as well as practice recognizing and using high-frequency words through poems and predictable texts.</p> <p>During our module work, students are heading into their last unit of "Toys and Play." We are excited for students to begin using their knowledge to build and use toys of their own!</p> <p>Next up: Weather Wonders!</p>
Grade 1	<p>Students are finishing up our "Tools" Literacy Unit where they created their own tool to help their classroom. They wrote a descriptive piece about their tool.</p> <p>Up Next: Sun, Moon, and Stars</p>
Grade 2	<p>In our new literacy unit about Fossils, students are engaging in a text called <u>Stone Girl, Bone Girl</u> where they are learning about Mary Anning who was passionate about finding fossils in her hometown of Lyme Regis, England. Throughout the unit, students will do some informational writing and will eventually create a well elaborated narrative piece about finding a fossil of their own!</p>
Grade 3	<p>Third graders continue to focus on our Literacy unit entitled <b>Overcoming Learning Challenges</b>. We are currently taking a close look at the book "More Than Anything" by Marie Bradby. This is a story about young Booker T. Washington. Students are focusing on writing an informative paragraph to show a deep understanding of the main idea and main character in the text by describing the lessons learned from Booker's struggle to overcome the challenge of learning to read.</p>
Grade 4	<p>Fourth graders have begun working on our poetry unit. We are using the text "Love that Dog" as our anchor text and studying other poems referenced within the text as well. We will be examining the characteristics of poetry and what inspires poets to write. Students will be expected to analyze different forms of poems in order to summarize and determine a theme. At the end of the unit students will be asked to write poetry and write a speech about what inspired them to write it.</p>

Art	In 1st grade, students listened to the story The Dot by Peter Reynolds before creating their own dot (or “not dot”). The story involves a girl in art class who isn’t feeling positive about her creative abilities, but she eventually goes on to inspire others. Also, Mrs. Donarumo delivered the Square 1 Art order brochures to all classrooms this morning. The order deadline is December 5th so be sure to check them out!
Physical Education	In another exciting installment of Physical Education, 1st-4th grade students have completed the fitness fun unit. First and second graders learned about the five basic categories of fitness (muscular strength, muscular endurance, flexibility, cardio-respiratory endurance, body composition.) Third and fourth grade students created S.M.A.R.T. fitness and sport/activity specific goals. They will strive to earn these goals by June 2023. Finally, laughs and smiles were abound as students challenged Mr. Prescott to a number of physical fitness challenges! (Plank, Push-up, Pacer, Mile Run)
Music	3rd graders are currently working on music literacy in class. After learning a song called “Apples and Cherries”, we determined what the rhythm of each line of the song was by decoding the lyrics. Next, we used the format of the rhythm as a template by counting the rhythm syllables in the pattern. Soon, we will create our own lyrics that we can apply to the rhythm of the song. Afterwards, we will share our compositions with the class!
Library	Kindergarten and first grade are working on the characteristics of fiction books and nonfiction books. We will then move into doing book reviews. Students will form opinions about books and support their opinions with reasons. Second graders have been working on computer literacy. They have learned basic chromebooks skills and have begun typing practice.

**Questions/Comments:** What is the policy about visiting the lunchrooms? Mr. Seal thinks we can go back to this. Parents should let the school know, then sign in and eat lunch with the kids. It was suggested to provide communications about this.

Mystery Reader: Let parents know that it is okay to do this also.

Next Helping Hands Training: December 7, 9:15-10:15 at Calvin Leete school. Please email Elysa Bryant if you are planning to attend.

Question: Will babysitting night in December come back? Cheryl Monaco explained that this is an event where teachers donate time, parents pay and then proceeds go to PTO, it will be brought up to staff to see if there is a time for that.

## **.Upcoming Events –**

- Calvin Leete Scholastic Book Fair 11/9-11/11
- Guilford ABAR meeting 11/17 7:30PM
  - via [Zoom](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87892431192?pwd=UHUxMzRXcis2THRZUVFoZUUYLyTWdz09) (link to:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87892431192?pwd=UHUxMzRXcis2THRZUVFoZUUYLyTWdz09>)
- School Store 11/18
- Cougarwear Ordering Deadline 11/28
- Photo Retake Day 11/30
- Square One Fundraising Deadline 12/5
- Yearbook Club Meetings 11/16, 11/30, 12/7, 12/21
- Learning Fair 3/3
- Leete Variety Show
- Art Night Out: Mark Your Calendars for 5/12/2023

**Next Meeting- Wednesday, January 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm**

**Meeting Adjourned – 7:43 pm by Ornella Rullo**