



PTO General Meeting

09-09-2026

Principal's Update:

- Welcome! Thank you for everything you do to support the community; unique to have this kind of support so thank you;
- Thank you PTO for helping to beautify the faculty restrooms;
- the quarterly benchmarking process is almost wrapped up for beginning of the year; an email was shared "OH Updates Week of 9-8-26" that included information on this; these assessments are completed to make sure every student gets what they need in terms of enrichment or intervention- you will be notified in the coming weeks if your child is being recommended for these programs; you can opt for a meeting to discuss if you like by reaching out to your child's homeroom teacher and the MTSS Facilitator Samantha Diamond - samantha_diamond@fcasd.edu
- Acknowledging teacher reps:
 - Katelyn Fanning: excited for new board; "please know that I am one of many teachers who's ready to support and work along side you"
 - Jennifer Squeglia 3-5 counselor: thrilled with bathrooms; thank you for your support!
 - Mrs. Machen K-2 counselor

Fox Families Care Rep: Jen Mackey, Executive Director, 412-387-8382,
jen@foxfamiliescare.org; www.foxfamiliescare.org

- Non-profit org to provide:
 - emergency assistance (rent/utilities);
 - extra curricular scholarships;
 - continuing education assistance;
 - Work with counselors for resource referrals (eg groceries, gas cards, amazon wishlist - sometimes it can be as simple as socks that are needed)
 - anything that comes up they are happy to partner with us to provide assistance;
 - Caring closets for school supplies, clothing, spirit wear;
 - clean condition clothing, underwear, spirit wear, socks, etc can be donated to the school's Caring closet
 - Best to reach out to Mrs. Machen or Nurse Garcia about what is needed and to provide donations of this kind
 - distributed flyer about what they do and the parameters;
- If you know anyone in need, direct them to reach out to the counselor who then reaches out to FFC; everything is kept confidential
- if you are working with an org that pulls from many schools, direct them to the website

Kylie Mascara-Gupta (President) president@oharapto.org

- Introductions new board members; thank you all for hanging in with us; we know it was a rocky start to the year but we are all incredibly excited to get to work and make it a great year for our kids and the community at large

- Feedback Requests we want to know what you think; the anonymous feedback form is open and available (currently sent out every week in the newsletter); we hear you and we're trying; please reach out; we are open
- Special Someone Dance Theme meeting next month to get things rolling: Safari theme going off of grow wild school theme
- BTS Social very sorry about the hard decision to cancel; it unfortunately cannot be rescheduled but credits from vendors will be pushed into other events this year
- Community Relations Joe & Kathryn will be working together to strengthen both internal and external community relationships: externally, relationships with businesses, vendors, outside community partnerships, etc; internally building the community and making sure people feel welcomed, informed, heard, seen, etc
- PBIS tracking available in the app if you'd like to opt into that; should have received teacher communication about this
- Initial Committee Meetings
 - committee chairs: thank for your communications thus far;
 - Kylie and/or Patricia are supposed to be at committee meetings so please let them know when you are meeting;
 - encouraging committee members not to spend their own money; we are tightening up spending so people are paying less out of pocket and more purchases are going directly through the PTO accounts
- Directory Opt-in Erin Kleinman is spearheading this;
 - you WILL have to opt in if you want to be in the school directory;
 - you have to fill it out every year so even if you were in the directory last year, you will need to fill it out again
 - More information forthcoming
- for newsletters, if you don't engage they may go to spam
- **You do need clearances to come into the school; that means they ARE needed to be at PTO meetings;
 - In an effort to help, we'd love to do a clearance drive in July in advance of the school year;
 - could it be available with another attraction (e.g. at BTS Social or Dance??) if you're already there;
 - might not be a possibility as we often open this to the district and could run into capacity issues;
 - fingerprinting is the only thing that needs to be done at clearance drives;
 - other clearances are run online;
 - October can be a big push for clearance drives
- Parent discussion:
 - we'd like presence at the curriculum nights; might help to get parents out of the classroom at the end of the night if there were 15 minute PTO meeting spot in the cafeteria
 - Station during parent conferences for PTO information and clearances?
 - Is there a way to send information home? - teachers are required to send a weekly newsletter, could info go there? consideration given to a monthly paper recap to parents

Patricia Antinopoulos (VP) vicepresident@oharapto.org

- Fundraising Updates
 - SPIRIT SALE IS ENDING TONIGHT
 - Mums are through Monday Sept 14

- Excitement for new role and year! :) very excited to work as a team; straddling fundraising and VP at the moment but will be fully passing on fundraising duties after today

Loghan Wright (Secretary) secretary@oharapto.org

- Principals' Digest if you are a committee chair you should now be getting this; please use it for communications to O'Hara admin; for OFC, can we over the summer communications? - should be okay for OFC only at beginning of year; will be sure to confirm w Dr Batis
- Bylaws making edits where necessary and will be sending out a working doc for review hopefully within the next week
- Kylie re feedback: unfortunately, we cannot do evening meetings; it requires staff to stay late at the school and they have been historically poorly attended
 - in an effort to help people feel connected, we will be doing snapshots of the meeting on social;
 - the minutes are posted to the website;
 - we will also be making a working document for ways to get involved that don't include being at the meetings/being available during typical work hours
 - Additionally, if you'd like to engage with the board, please reach out to any of us directly and we are happy to have discussions regarding any questions, comments, or concerns

Mallory Bernstein (Social Media) socialmedia@oharapto.org

- Open to social media feedback on what's working and what's not
 - Mallory could not be here today but please let her know if there's anything you want to see more of or Less of on social media - we want this to be beneficial to those who are using it!

Julie Serig (Treasurer) treasurer@oharapto.org

- \$23,307.91 currently in the bank; meeting with Kylie to discuss where this goes for committees;
- any questions about what we're proposing for the year? No questions raised;
- If you have not seen the proposed budget, please see 8/30 & 9/6 newsletters or reach out directly to the board and we will send to you

Kristi Campbell & Chelsea Dukovich (Fundraising)

- SPIRIT SALE- Ends Tonight (9/9) @ Midnight!
 - Awesome FC Gear that will be delivered to your student at school in about 3-4 weeks :) Many items are customizable!
 - Access Online Store (link also can be found in Newsletter and Social Media); <https://gpsagroup.chippily.com/FCOHaraElementary/?action=viewall>
- Fall Mum Flower Sale- ENDS 9/14 @ 11:59pm
 - **Online Orders and Paper Orders are due by 9/14-** We unfortunately cannot accept late orders. Paper Order forms came home via your student's folder. Online order instructions are below- Online Orders preferred 😊
 - Mum Pick-up is Friday, October 2nd between 10:30-2:30pm in the O'Hara Parking Lot. Please be prompt as we cannot hold flowers past 2:30. Have a friend or family member pickup on your behalf if you are unable to be present.
 - Thank you for your support!!!!!!
 - Online Ordering Instructions:

- Please visit www.fundraiseit.org
- Click the green "Online Shopping" button.
- Enter the following information: Your child's LAST NAME, first 2-3 characters of
- FIRST NAME, and OHARA in the GROUP NAME (no apostrophe in OHARA)
- Share your link and begin selling!
- OCT 2ND (9AM-2:30PM):
 - Volunteers will be needed to help distribute mums! Grab a coffee, a friend, and pass out mums!
 - Look for a sign-up genius soon to assist :) 1-1.5 hour time slots.
- Movie Night → Bingo/Pasta Night Idea
 - Movie night was not as well attended as we had hoped and we would love to have an event that is more geared towards community building and engagement; considering bingo/pasta night for January in place of movie night
- How to make a free option event that also includes some fundraising options
 - Pastabilities
- Other fundraising ideas
 - Restaurant night
 - Please email fundraising@oharapto.org with questions or ideas (especially ideas!)
 - Want to create fundraising goals and a tracker
 - Donation vs time offer for different events

Kathryn Barbash & Joe Vickless (Community Relations) - communityrelations@oharapto.org

- Launched K newsletter over the summer; tailored to incoming families; planning on seasonal newsletter to help the transition into a new community
- Ask a Parent is up and running out in the newsletter right now for submissions; ask anything and everything to be answered by other parents in the community
- Planning on ways to incorporate new families, not just kindergarten

Committee Updates

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☐ Assemblies Meredith Ley is current chair; Josh & Gab in Oct ☐ Book fair Erin - week of Nov 9-13; set up on Nov 6; always looking for volunteers for that; not a PTO fundraiser; 2-3 days during the week to pick up books; Unsure of evening hours but we never have volunteers for those hours; evenings are well attended, we just need help ☐ Community Outreach no longer a committee/mix of Community relations and Erin/Directory; will be removing this from minutes moving forward ☐ Field Day Patricia & Kylie spearheading this | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☐ Party Planning parents can donate supplies via amazon wishlist to help keep committee budget down; great committee to help with if you're a working parent ☐ Science Fair Erin Kleinman spearheading again this year ☐ Someone Special Dance Ashley McKay will be spearheading with Patricia & Kylie ☐ Spring Baskets we need someone to shadow this year ☐ Team O'Hara Appreciation Erin & Amanda 4th year; next year is Erin's last year and will need someone to transition; not a large budget for the number of teachers & staff we have; |
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- ☐ **Green Foxes** Emily Glick; involvement for 4 years; wonder club runs this fall - 1 spot left!
greenfoxes@oharapto.org; will need a new chair in the next 2 years
- ☐ **Homeroom Reps** trying to get this info out sooner so as not to feel rushed for parties; Reps are mostly just organizing the parents/mostly an email position; great for working parents who can't necessarily be at parties
- ☐ **Multicultural** planning starts next month; is there a way to communicate that parents can partner/team up to represent countries?
- ☐ **OFC** garden club full, wonder club 1 spot left, Chess & Mahjong open registration this thursday; if you have an idea or want to teach, reach out to ofc@oharapto.org - a few spots for the spring if you are interested in teaching; teach 5-6 classes one day/week 4-5p

may is something every day but we do things periodically throughout the year; any resources or donations specifically to that week (time especially) is welcome; committee meeting TBD; dinner for conference night was very appreciated last year

- ☐ **Welcome** now community relations
- ☐ **5th Grade Day** if you have a 5th grader, it's an all hands on deck event; please reach out to fifthgradeday@oharapto.org if you're interested in participating; option for donating (pay for your child or yours & a friend); lots of way to fundraise for this - sponsors + parents