

## Echo Hill PTO Agenda / Meeting Minutes November 1, 2021



**Call to Order Time: 6:33pm**

**Introductions:** Board and Principal

**Quorum:** Hay Hegland Lough Becker McDonald

### **Trunk or Treat Review/Hotwash -**

Hayley and Jessica Becker gave an update on Trunk or Treat. It was a successful evening for Echo Hill. Thank you to each family that hosted a car and to those that came out with their families to attend. There were approximately 300 children that evening and maybe 600 people total (estimating). There were 16 cars decorated and participating. 20 would be ideal for next year if possible to help with the traffic flow of people. The children all voted that evening on their favorite trunk and the winner was the "Construction Trunk" (Heather Lough's Family). There were raffles of board games for the evening that kids could put their names in to win. There were 5 lucky winners for the evening. We had two sponsors for the evening (each donated \$300 to help with candy costs). Thank you to Horton Family Dental and Pinnacle Realty for sponsoring this event. Amy S. did a great job marketing for this event. For feedback, we received that lines were long at some places (sign-in table and back up at trunks). For next year, suggestions were to maybe not have a game at every car, but just a few or expand the time of the event from 5:00-6:30 PM. Also, having more cars if possible, so there is more room to spread people out. If anyone has any further feedback on Trunk or Treat, please contact the board at [echohillpto@yahoo.com](mailto:echohillpto@yahoo.com)

### **Upcoming PTO Event, November Family Activity- Wickiup Hill**

The November family activity will be at Wickiup Hill on November 21 from 10:00-12:00 PM (this is in place of doing breakfast with buddies). Heather Lough gave an update on this. Wickiup is closed on Sundays, so they are opening and staffing the morning event just for Echo Hill. Wickiup Staff were excited to help with the event but indicated that they could support 100 people and they will host the event for free if we hosted the event on Sunday, November 21st. There are already 93 people signed up to attend! If you are interested, please see the PTO website at [echohillpto.com](http://echohillpto.com) asap. The options that day will include an outdoor nature walk, indoor learning about animals (masks required), a bonfire and snack, as well as access to the playspaces. Becky Garms is looking into organizing a charitable donation for this event. More to come on this in the next few weeks. Check the PTO website and social media sites closer to the date.

## **December Family Activity- (Virtual) Paint Night**

Family Paint Night will be led by Hayley Hegland, PTO president, and owner/artist at **Mix Blend Create**. Hayley will be hosting the virtual paint night on December 10th from 6:30-8:00 pm. Suggestions on what to paint were polar bears, penguins, or an arctic fox. If you have any suggestions on what we should paint, send us a message at [echohillpto@yahoo.com](mailto:echohillpto@yahoo.com). For this event, students will receive step-by-step live instruction as they paint a holiday scene together as a family. The supply list for this event will be coming out soon. It is likely materials you already have at home!

\*Don't have art supplies at home? The Echo Hill PTO can help! It's our hope for this holiday painting activity to be as inclusive as possible. For families who need the assistance, the PTO will provide small, take-home painting supply kits prepared especially for this activity. Supply kits will be sent home from school with your student in advance of the Dec. 10 painting event date.

Please see the EH PTO website for more information and how to register.

## **Principal Report** - CJ McDonald -

Club activities for 4th grade are up and running. They currently have 3 different art groups and they rotate based on the special teachers' availability. They do not want to turn any student away that is interested, so everyone has a chance to participate in these club activities that take place during their recess.

Diwali is next week (the festival of lights). Someone is coming in this Thursday to discuss this more with the kids. CJ also thanked everyone for their donations and the hospitality committee for the amazing treats, snacks, and wonderful meal during fall conferences. It was much appreciated!

## **Treasurer's Report** - Hayley Hegland on behalf of Stacey Corwin -

The big expense for the month was Trunk or Treat. To date, the PTO has spent \$653 on this event. The budget line for this was \$750 after the two sponsorships. A big thank you once again to Pinnacle Realty and Horton Family Dental for their sponsorship.

Teacher stipends have been coming in. Thank you for submitting these and if you haven't, a reminder to do so. There is \$75 allotted for each teacher to use on classroom items. As you are thinking about holiday shopping, please consider Echo Hill for your charitable donation on Amazon Smile. Did you know? When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com), 0.5% of eligible purchases is donated to your favorite charitable organization — and Echo Hill PTO is one of them! No fees, no extra costs. Go to the PTO website ([echohillpto.com](http://echohillpto.com)) under the 'donate now' tab to find the easy steps on how to set up Amazon Smile and select Echo Hill PTO to receive your donation.

Thank you for your help!

### **Miscellaneous:**

- The student directory is completed. A big thank you to Laura Thompson for putting this together. Families should have received this in an email from Heather Feigenbaum. When you are planning for your child's birthday and need contact information from students at Echo Hill, this is your resource. Thank you again Laura for helping with this! If you need to make any changes to your personal information, please contact the PTO: [echohillpto@yahoo.com](mailto:echohillpto@yahoo.com)
- There will NOT be a December PTO meeting. This month the PTO board takes off to prepare for the holidays and enjoy family time. We will see you back in January!

### **Committee Reports:**

#### **Hospitality** - Jessica Witt -

Jessica wasn't able to attend, but Hayley gave a report on her behalf. Thank you to all that donated food for our teacher conference days. There was a variety of food and snacks for the teachers/staff to have during conference week to refuel. The hospitality committee will be meeting soon to discuss teacher appreciation week in May.

#### **Volunteer Coordinators** - Amanda DeSalvo/Carrie Hay -

October was a busy month and Amanda and Carrie were thankful for all of the volunteer help with the workshop. There were a large number of projects to be done last month and volunteers helped in many ways from attending the workshop or picking up curbside to help us complete each project on time. The next workshop is this Wednesday, Nov. 3rd. It was nice to hold the workshops at the park and get fresh air and sunshine, but going forward the workshops will be held at Christ Community Church. The coordinators are so thankful for the members of this church letting them use this space. Carrie thanked everyone that helped volunteer last week for fall party sign-ups and for hosting a trunk/ working the event. If you helped with party sign-ups or with the Trunk or Treat event, please log your time ([echohillpto.com](http://echohillpto.com)). As coordinators, they cannot thank you enough!

The Grantwood Traveling Creative Lab is coming to Linn-Mar this month and next. Echo Hill is the first school on the calendar to use this for the district and it takes place next week. If you are on the volunteer list and are available, save the dates for November 11th and 12th. The coordinators will be sending out a sign-up for these days this week. If you are not an active volunteer and you do not receive volunteer opportunity emails from Amanda and Carrie and would like to, please contact them at [ehvolunteers@linnmar.k12.ia.us](mailto:ehvolunteers@linnmar.k12.ia.us)

**Amazon Smile/Box Tops/Hy-Vee receipts -**

Earning cash for our students and classrooms is as easy as shopping at Hy-Vee and saving your receipts. For every \$250 in receipts submitted, Hy-Vee awards \$1 to Echo Hill Elementary at intervals throughout the school year. When you have a stack of Hy-Vee receipts, simply send them to school with your Echo Hill student or drop them off at the school office. Our Hy-Vee Cash 4 Students coordinator(s) tally and turn in the receipts, and cash comes back to our school. Thank you for supporting our school in this way.

**Presentation- College Planning for Elementary Parents- Britannia Morey (VP Marketing and Communications- Iowa College Access Network (ICAN))**

Thank you to Britannia for presenting on this topic. What does college planning look like in elementary age students and how do we lay the foundation for the importance of school after high school? How do we eliminate barriers and what are the realities of financial aid? For the answers to these questions (and more) and to see what plan she recommends, please see her presentation link on our website at [echohillpto.com](http://echohillpto.com)

**Questions**

***Where is the best place to find information and updates on PTO events?*** Echo Hill Families of Iowa page on Facebook as well as the Echo Hill PTO Facebook Page and our website at echohillpto.com

***Next Meeting:*** January 3, 2022 @ 6:30pm

**Adjourned Time: 7:33pm**

**November 1st, 2021 PTO meeting attendees: (Names from sign-in sheet/ Zoom names displayed)**

Name	Name	Name
CJ McDonald	Hayley Hegland	Carrie Hay
Kelly Stark	Amy Stouffer	Heather Lough
Jenny Herzberger	Jessica Becker	Jessica Witt- Zoom

Emmy Pettit- Zoom	Amanda DeSalvo- Zoom	Becky Garms- Zoom
Katie Murella- Zoom		