

**Niwot Elementary
Parent Teacher Advisory Council Minutes
November 14, 2013**

[PTAC, November Slide Show](#)

This is the slideshow that was shared during the PTAC meeting and is referred to throughout the minutes.

OPENING: The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm by Vice-President Hadley Solomon with 46 members present.

The minutes of the October 2013 meeting were approved as posted.

Vice-President Hadley Solomon gave a report on the CU Science Assemblies/Labs that students participated in on Late Start. See Slideshow for pictures and what each grade level did and a list of upcoming Late Start Assemblies.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Presented by Jennifer Wilby

Financials were presented and reviewed. (See slideshow at beginning of minutes). Financials are also available on the PTAC website.

Committee Reports: Presented by ReAnna Damek

**PTAC STATUS REPORT
November 2013**

STANDING COMMITTEES:

HOSPITALITY

Karen Ragland	203-216-1234	kikirags@gmail.com
Katie Weber	303-862-6690	wendtweber@gmail.com
Lisa Verbeck	303-652-0176	lisabootcamp@gmail.com

IN-SCHOOL SUPPORT

Karen Ragland	303-652-1588	kikirags@hotmail.com
Deana Reid	720-494-1503	deana@reid.cc

OTHER COMMITTEES:**BACK-TO-SCHOOL MOVIE:**

Christie Zingerman	720-335-6788	czingerman@hotmail.com
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BACK-TO-SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE:

Katie Weber	303-862-6690	wendtweber@gmail.com
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BOOK FAIR

Mary Klingbeil	303-581-0763	mdklingbeil@gmail.com
Patricia Lady	303-834-9529	patricia103@hotmail.com

BUDDY FAMILY

Hadley Solomon	720-684-6624	vpniwotptac@gmail.com
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BOXTOPS

Riki Frea	720-443-8844	freafamily@mac.com
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CORPORATE FUNDRAISING

Katy Boyd	303-241-6042	jkatyboyd@yahoo.com
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DINING FOR DOLLARS

Christie Zingerman	720-335-6788	czingerman@hotmail.com
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December 3rd at Basil Flats
January (doing it the night of the Talent Show) is Subway.

DIRECTORY DATA CONTENT

Dana Dodge	720-212-0804	ddodge@virsage.com
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DIRECTORY SPONSORSHIP

Jenn Bair	720-272-4949	jriggsbair@hotmail.com
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The 2013-2014 NES Directories arrived on Wednesday and have been delivered to the classrooms for distribution! They are distributed to each NES family through the oldest or the only Niwot Elementary student in each family and are labeled with the family name. Students with two households receive a separate copy for each household.

Ad sales totaled \$9,850 and total expense (printing) was \$3,500, yielding a net revenue of \$6,350.

A special thank you to ToolStudios for their generous donation of the design and production of the entire book.

Volunteers are needed to help with the March 1 distribution of the "PTAC Approved Sponsor Packet" which will contain marketing fliers from our sponsors and will go home with each student. Please contact Jennifer Bair at NiwotDirectory@gmail.com or [720-272-4949](tel:720-272-4949) if you can help.

Thank you for your patience as the joint committee worked diligently to overcome unforeseen obstacles and delays with the student and family data.

EARTH DAY

Lisa Verbeck	303-652-0176	lisabootcamp@gmail.com
Marci Lary	303-931-5454	marcilary@gmail.com

F.A.N (FATHER'S ASSOCIATION OF NIWOT)

Dan Nicholson	720-771-7100	daniel.r.nicholson@gmail.com
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GREENSTAR PROGRAM

Marci Lary	303-931-5454	marciliary@gmail.com
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KISS-N-CATCH/SAFETY

Kelli Walden	720-890-6045	kelliinc@hotmail.com
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LEADERSHIP ST. VRAIN/SCHOOL DISTRICT ISSUES

Riki Frea	720-443-8844	freafamily@mac.com
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MWEBAZA/NES PARTNERSHIP

Ginger Douillard	720-841-5406	brahmaloka@aol.com
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THIRD ANNUAL "MWEBAZA DAY" IS ALMOST HERE!

"Mwebaza Day" is coming up soon!

In case you are not aware, Mwebaza Day was inaugurated two years ago during an assembly celebrating the visit of Ms. Namatovu to our school. Ms. Namatovu is the headmistress of our partner school in Uganda, Mwebaza Infant Primary School. Mwebaza Day was initiated by some parents and the PTAC with the help and blessing of Dr. Keppler. They wanted to capture the spirit of the day and continue it into the future, as well as celebrate the long-standing connection we have with Mwebaza School. It was also envisioned as a day for our community to be thankful for what we have and focus on ways to help others in our community and world. The first Thursday in December was designated as Mwebaza Day. This year, Mwebaza Day falls on Thursday, December 5.

There are several special events planned for Mwebaza Day this year.

Once again, there will be assemblies in the morning on the 5th. **Parents are invited to attend one of these assemblies.** K-2 will have their assembly starting promptly at 9:15, and the assembly will go until about 10:00. Grades 3-5 will need to be in the gym by 10:15 and will finish up around 11:00. The first part of each assembly will be Skyping with the children and staff at Mwebaza School. Miss O has taught the children three songs to sing to their pen pals, and they will be singing several songs to us. There is no guarantee that Skype will work on the day of the assembly. If it does not, we will show the children some videos of their pen pals performing, and then film our students performing their songs to share with the children there. Mwebaza School will do likewise. But last year, we managed to make everything work, even with a power outage in Uganda right before the start of the first assembly. The day was saved due to reserve power on the Ugandan laptop and candles!

In support of our Ugandan friends, we are asking that children from different grade levels wear clothing of a specific color connected to the Ugandan flag on Mwebaza Day. For those attending the first assembly, we'd like Kindergarten students to wear yellow, first grade students to wear black, and second graders to wear red. The children of Mwebaza will see our students as a giant Ugandan flag! For the second assembly, we'd like 3rd grade students to wear yellow, 4th grade students to wear black, and 5th grade students to wear red.

The second part of each assembly will be a performance by the Boulder Bike Underpass A Capella Choir. This choir specializes in African music. We will leave the Skype connection on so that the children of Mwebaza can hear this special musical performance as well.

We will be continuing with two traditions that were started last year: the Mwebaza Day writing assignment, and the toast of passionfruit juice (obutunda) in the afternoon.

The writing assignment is a prompted writing activity where kids can respond to one of several prompts concerning gratitude, the pen pal relationship, cross-cultural sharing, etc. We want kids to have the opportunity to reflect on the partnership and what they are learning about their pen pals... and themselves! Several selections will be chosen from each grade level and displayed at the front of the school building. This is not a writing contest, but we will choose a selection of responses that represent different perspectives for each prompt.

After the assemblies, parent volunteers will be visiting individual classrooms to lead kids in a toast of passionfruit juice. Passionfruit juice is traditionally consumed in Uganda to celebrate special occasions. This little gesture of friendship was extremely popular last year - the children loved it, and many have been asking if we are going to do it again this year.

Our last event for the day is simple, but cool! When Miss O was in Uganda this summer, she was taught special African drumming rhythms. She will be teaching one of these rhythms to the students before Mwebaza Day. At a certain time near the end of the day, Miss O will come on the PA system and begin drumming the rhythm. We'd like all kids and staff to join in all over the school. Mrs. Freeman will be making special drums for beating out this rhythm with first grade, but anyone at any grade level can beat out the rhythm on a leg or desk top. It will be so exciting to hear the whole school resonating with the same beat.

MESSAGE OF GRATITUDE FROM MS. NAMATOVU

Ms. Namatovu, the headmistress of Mwebaza School, recently sent this short message of gratitude to be sent to the Niwot community:

Mukwano (friend), please tell your wonderful students and their families and the staff at Niwot that we send our love and we are so proud of them for the work they are doing to have our kids study in a good environment and be better educated because the advances they are making in education will not only transform our villages as a shining, progressive, inspiring, example, but they will transform all over Uganda. The good news about Mwebaza Foundation will spread and forever more each coming generation will hold a higher expectation for themselves - especially the females like Namatovu!

NEWSPAPER LIAISON

Mea French	303-378-9580	jaymea@comcast.net
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NiSci

Denise Thomas	303-485-1380	gregganddenise@msn.com
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NIWOT CARES

Karen Ragland	203-216-1234	kikirags@gmail.com
Stacey Bahr	303-594-6684	scnib@me.com

NIWOT TROT

Laura Sroka	303-439-8992	sdlaura2@msn.com
Christie Zingerman	720-335-6788	czingerman@hotmail.com

As of two weeks ago, I had to reapply with Boulder County Open Space for them to issue me a new date for the Trot. I submitted paperwork (again) and I have to allow them up to four weeks for them to approve. I asked for the month of April. Either the weekend before Easter or the weekend after. Keep your fingers crossed. This has been not an easy task.

Thanks,
Laura Sroka

ORIGINAL WORKS

Donna Blondeau	303-652-6463	micro_d@q.com
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Original Works is basically complete. The orders were delivered to the classrooms Monday, November 11, 2013. The only thing that is left to do is deal with any order problems that may arise, and pay the invoice. Jennifer has the invoice, and will pay the bill directly. The final profit was \$1355.75

READING RESOURCE ROOM

Cindy Shepherd	303-652-8320	cmshepherd@comcast.net
Tina Helms	303-652-8679	tootinytoo@comcast.net

ROUND-UP

Susan Rona	917-693-4315	susandrone@gmail.com
Julie Rich	303-588-6436	jtoorock@gmail.com
Stacey Bahr	303-594-6684	scnib@att.net

Thank you again for your contributions to "Round Up"!

Your personal tax receipts will be coming via email by the end of November.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Janet Lopez	303-652-0201	janet@ajslopez.com
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SCIENCE GARDEN

Leah Hanley	303-652-9977	l_hanley@earthlink.net
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Parent Volunteers for the Science Garden have been super busy giving presentations to our classes. I am THRILLED to report that every class has received or is scheduled to receive our special hands-on fall Science Programs. Without our volunteers we wouldn't be able to give the children these fun, interactive talks that provide additional exposure to the science all around us. Thank you to the following volunteers for presenting these programs to the children: Kindergarten-- "Fall"--Kirsten Borbe-Sanchez, Gretchen Johnson, Michelle Heitz; 1st Grade-- "Seed Dispersal"--Nadia Moore, Camille Patton, Danielle Heinrich, Shawn Lyndon, Jenn Bair; 2nd Grade--"Photosynthesis"--Donna Blondeau, Geoff Millington, Uli Heitz; 3rd Grade--"Compost and the Scientific Method"--Leah Hanley; 4th and 5th Grades will receive talks given by the Boulder County Parks and Open Space about "Life Zones and Wildlife of Boulder County" on December 13. We will likely need additional volunteers for crowd control on that day. Thank you also to all the volunteers that helped with running experiments, activities, and for making our projects run smoothly. I am very grateful that you were able to invest your time, enthusiasm and effort to make our program great!!!

SOCK HOP

Alyson Bell	303-652-1123	alyson@toolstudios.com
Holly Saia	303-819-1573	hollysaia@yahoo.com
Sue Cahill	781-879-9368	sue22cahill@gmail.com
Kelly Ferrero	303-652-0669	kberrero@aol.com

Amy Baxter	303-324-0863	amy@jones-net.com
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SPIRIT SALES

Stacee McGovern	303-641-2258	jeffandstacee@comcast.net
Anne Oberg	303-442-4146	goannio2000@yahoo.com
Liz Napp	303-474-4116	e_bressler@hotmail.com

SUMMER LEARNING PROGRAM

ReAnna Damek	303-652-0324	secretaryniwotpac@gmail.com
Verushka Burris	303-652-4199	verushkita@hotmail.com

TALENT SHOW

Liz Shakesheff	303-885-7444	elizabethshakesheff@gmail.com
Stacee McGovern	303-641-2258	jeffandstacee@comcast.net
Cori Batson	303-527-2808	cbgb0627@yahoo.com
Lisa Verbeck	303-652-0176	lisabootcamp@gmail.com

- ~ Show Offs were Tuesday and Wednesday all went well
- ~Next show offs are January 8th and 9th and will be held in the gym from 5pm - 8pm. These are dress rehearsals
- ~Talent Show main rehearsal January 30th and actual show January 31st
- ~ We are looking for a parent to volunteer to video the show. We need to cut down on the cost that was \$600 last year for the video !!!
- ~ We will be asking for all edited music to be turned in before the Christmas break.

TEACHER APPRECIATION

Julia Franklin	720-771-1837	juliakf@comcast.net
Megan Rebich	303-809-2399	megan@emrc1.com

VOLUNTEER BADGES

Cindy Shepherd	303-652-8320	cmshepherd@comcast.net
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WELCOMING

Hadley Solomon	720-684-6624	vpniwotptac@gmail.com
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YEARBOOK

Julie Jensen	720-340-4589	juliehjensen@comcast.net
Mea French	303-378-9580	jaymea@comcast.net
Becca Hult	303-619-7749	beccahult@gmail.com
Jen Porter	303-652-0515	jenjenporter@gmail.com

Hadley Solomon recognized the Volunteers of the Month for October and November.
October - The Round-Up Committee: Stacey Bahr, Julie Rich and Susan Rona
November - Directory Committee: Jennifer Bair and Dana Dodge

CLOSING:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:38pm.

Respectfully submitted,
ReAnna Damek
PTAC Secretary

Due to the Principal's Update before the PTAC meeting, we held a short meeting. The following is the Teacher's Report from Jenna Olschlager but was not read at the meeting.

November PTAC Report 2013

Thank you so much for sponsoring the Science Assemblies! The children enjoyed it SOOOOO much!!! It's events like these students will remember forever. ☺

2nd Grade

THANK YOU to the PTAC for funding the clickers for my classroom. They were just delivered to me on Monday and I am having fun experimenting with how they work. They are an incredible progress monitoring tool and I cannot wait to introduce them to the kids. You guys rock! Mrs. Tidik

4th Grade

SO, we have successfully completed our Personal Narratives via Google Docs. The kids are now pretty good at quickly getting on to the Chrome books as well and the Macs and getting to their docs. They also practiced revising and editing directly onto their Google docs. Overall, I think this was a successful Unit. My goal is to now work in a weekly small group during my

reading time that has the kids using technology. :) We will once again use Google docs for our next Unit in Writing which will be Essays.

Mrs. Tagley

Music

All-State Choir - students will work hard to memorize lots of music to perform with some of the best 4th-6th grade students in the state on January 25th in Colorado Springs

1. Julian Bell
2. Micah Sheats
3. Nefeli Hadjiyiannis
4. Sophia Leidesdorff
5. Karmen Grubisic
6. Fiona Benson
7. Fiona Nugent
8. Fiona Atkinson
9. Ellie Stager

Concerts

3rd Grade - Thursday, November 21st, 6:00 p.m.

4th Grade - Thursday, November 21st, 7:00 p.m.

Field Trip permission slips due to walk over for practice. Parents are welcome to watch practice if their child will miss the concert. 😊

Cougar Choir starts in January, Wednesdays after school for one hour.

Spelling Bee

Wednesday, December 4th, 1:45 p.m. in the gym

Finalists

1. Sophia Leidesdorff
2. Blythe Hodgden
3. Lizzie Cronin
4. Benjamin Goff
5. Maddie Goff
6. Victoria Isuani
7. Adam Geiling

8. Fletcher Allen
9. Ben Lenger
10. Henry Stauch
11. Emma Ackerman

Teacher Appreciation - Thank you in advance for the meal next week!

Volunteer Needs

Teacher's Lounge - we could use a good cleaning once a month to make things sparkle!

Recorder Testing Volunteers - contact Miss O. (she will train you!)

3rd Grade - 11:15-12:00

4th Grade - 10:15-10:45 & 12:25-12:45