



## 1. All School Update

- Housekeeping
  - Need to establish co-presidents defined roles -
  - Audis Wong - Parliamentarian - Tina Louie - voter decider
  - All previous minutes are approved by majority vote.
  
- Spring forecast: Audris and Tina shared forecast chart of spring events to show how busy things become at school - please plan ahead and get things on the calendar. [Chart listed as an exhibit at end.]
  - Drop Box - ask your senior members for copies of documents to ease transitions - please move copies of documents over before spring break as the school calendar gets really congested after spring break.
  - Volunteer Lists - draft of the volunteer newsletter sent out previously - if there are changes please forward, so that Audris can disseminate
  
- BookFair - seemed like it was a success - good feedback and partnership with 57th Street Books.
- Security - Christopher Jones forming an ad hoc group with two parents from each campus; if interested, let us know (Audris and Tina - will provide names to Christopher Jones)
- Post-Election programming – the school is choosing to not address, but PA may go ahead and create some programming.
  
- Rites of May
  - Need to develop involvement at the All School level
  - Having lots of meeting to get re-engagement from school leadership
  - Date is May 20, 2017
  - What we know:
    - Will be all school event
    - Will be held at historical campus

- 11:30-4:00pm proposed
- Get away from purely carnival aspect
- Targeting each one of the individual schools and finding a way to re-engage them
- Hoping to have student performances (after school performances)
- Bring back international aspect
- Include information in volunteer newsletter for how to get involved
- Asking all councils to think about how to make the event work for help in programming, and how to use students
- Next meeting scheduled at the end of the month - please forward any ideas within the next two weeks

## 2. Divisional/Committee Events: January – March 2017

### High School Council

- Parent to Parent:
  - Recap of Jan 4 P2P meeting which was supposed to be a recap of previous P2P and HS friendships, however the meeting was dominated by college application list and the weight college counselors vs. parents should have (or not have) over it.
  - Adding junior class workshop curriculum to PA website. Possibly point to curriculum in next e-news, just as a reference for parents
  - February 1 P2P. Topic will be student services including writer center, math tutoring, library services and possibly have Kevin Van Eron attend (?)
- Recap of December 15
  - Cocoa and Doughnuts
- Recap December 16
  - Senior Pizza Party
  - Teacher Appreciation Lunch
- Restaurant Week
  - Here's the sign up for restaurant week: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0d4dacaf2ea75-restaurant>
  - Here is the link to restaurant week: [http://www.choosechicago.com/things-to-do/dining/chicago-restaurant-week/?sfilter=ALL&efilter=ALL&listing\\_keyword=&subcatid=&region\\_id=&amenityDbField=1210&maxshow=50](http://www.choosechicago.com/things-to-do/dining/chicago-restaurant-week/?sfilter=ALL&efilter=ALL&listing_keyword=&subcatid=&region_id=&amenityDbField=1210&maxshow=50)
- Friday, January 20(?), time TBD - Joe Kallo will hold a webinar on Schoology; We are compiling questions for him to address now.

- February 1 - MLK Project. Being marketing to faculty and parents, 5<sup>th</sup> grade and up
- Any upcoming Fan Days for HS? February 16 mentioned as a possibility
- HS Graduation location
  - Do we have a location? Who should we contact for tent confirmation at Booth?
- Carol's accident
  - Anything we can do for her? For the HS Office?

## **Middle School Council**

### Activities for December:

- Monthly Principal Meeting with Sandy Bixby (Dec and Jan)
  - Discussed 8-period days,
  - MS plans for MLK day (Sandy will give more information to parents);
  - Homework Committee (Nov meeting fruitful; led to discussion about teacher's perceived homework and class work per grade; admin has drafted a survey that will be presented to HW group at next meeting on 2/15)
  - Content for next principal chat on 2/15 (computer savvy and rotations),
  - 6th grade LabArts Reception
  -
- Middle School Parent to Parent (Dec 1)
  - Attended by about 8 parents; Sylvia Aschliman was present
  - Themes that came up: homework conflicts with extracurricular activities; MS is very grade focused causing stress; PT conferences (6<sup>th</sup> grade missing personalized comments; 7<sup>th</sup> grade, student led, not always informative for parents); lack of tutorials, especially compared to old MS schedule; currently tutorial time too short to get work done, more used for socializing; intention of new MS schedule (90min periods include tutorial-like time) not consistently met; plans for playgrounds on Lab logs and Pebbles
- Middle School Parent to Parent (Jan 4)
  - The Parent to Parent was attended by about 7 parents; Sylvia Aschliman was present; Ned Reece, Nancy Kubel and Cecilia Mullen joined to talk about Summer Lab 2017
  - Themes that came up: After school programs don't offer a lot of choices for MS students; need for study opportunities, especially on short Wednesdays; (suggestions) could library be open earlier the AM and later in the PM and staffed by parent volunteers?; other on campus locations for 'study hall' with parent oversight?; change in

atmosphere around Lab after dismissal (kids used to be welcome to hang around after school, now don't feel welcome); FreedomPay (allow for credit if funds are insufficient? Possible to see what was bought?)

- Winter Fan Day, Tuesday 1/24
  - o Sunny Gym (boys) & Upper Kovler (girls) at 4.30pm and 5.30pm. Will reach out with a targeted email to 5th grade parents

#### Activities Upcoming:

- 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Roller Skating Planning – Friday 2/17 from 4:30-6:30pm
- Spring Giant Gym Night - Apr. 7
- Spring Fan Day - tbd
- 6<sup>th</sup> grade reception at LabArts – Saturday 4/29 from 5-7pm (right before the middle school play)

### **Lower School Council**

#### Past Activities:

- I. Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> Lobby Decorating: Winter Festival  
LS Council and about 5 volunteers decorated Blaine Lobby into a wintery festival. Weather related decorations included snowflakes, tinsel, greenery, garlands, lights, etc. The decorations were received well by parents, students and faculty.
- II. Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> Principal Chat  
Principal Sylvie Anglin presented the two computer science teachers, Wales and Schwartz, as they have new and innovative curriculum to share. They demonstrated their curriculum regarding blocking, coding and typing. Approximately 20 parents attended.

It was agreed that having a featured administrator or faculty program that touches upon 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade was being well received by the parent community. Turnout has been good, with different and new parents attending.

#### Upcoming Principal Chats planned include:

- a. January 27<sup>th</sup> will introduce Lower School Counselors. Sylvie will also plan to talk about progress report and “how to make the most of your parent teacher conferences.”
- b. March 3<sup>rd</sup> will introduce someone to talk about online safety

Those Principal Chats will be advertised on enews, PA website, school

calendar and signage/flyers.

III. Lost and Found for Fall Quarter

LS Council sorted and organized the L&F items on December 14<sup>th</sup>. Warnings of items being donated were published on Facebook, PA website and E-news. Many items were taken over the holiday break.

LS council bagged and boxed up the remaining items on January 4<sup>th</sup>. Items were donated to Cradles to Crayons.

Lost and Found for Winter Quarter:

- Sorting and organizing will be on Tuesday, March 7<sup>th</sup> after our Principal's meeting.

- Bagging and boxing will on Monday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, after spring break.

Current and Future Activities:

I. Lobby Decorating: MLK Birthday

LS Council decorated Blaine Lobby for MLK's birthday. Quotes of his "dream speech" were included. The question is asked, "What's Your Dream?" LS students are encouraged to write down a dream they have for themselves, their families, and their communities. Pictures will be posted on the PA website and Facebook page.

II. Box Tops Campaign (1/31 – 2/24)

There has been a lengthy discussion regarding the next Box Tops campaign. Sylvie and Joanne strongly prefer that the prize *not* be self-serving. We decided not have to a class prize, and just educate the kids that their Box Tops goes to help other people. Teachers Weide, Sukenic, Ruelas and Mitzenmacher have been asked to make posters, collages or drawings showing how their students used the community service grant to help Syrian Refugees. LS Council will also create flyers linking the Box Tops to the community service grant; and a thermometer to track the Box Top collection rate.

This pilot can show us if there's a drop in collection without a class prize.

III. Lobby Decorating: Valentine's Day

The LS Council will create a white board, asking "what do you love about Lab?" or something about kindness. Red and pink hearts will be cut out for kids to write down their thoughts.

- These decorations will be up on Thursday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>.

IV. Grade Level Events

LS Council has identified several parents to lead grade level events. Jeff Schmidt, Anjoo Rai-Marchant and Richelle Stackert will lead the effort for 4<sup>th</sup> grade. Susan Farmer will lead the effort for 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Ann Groves will help out with 3<sup>rd</sup> and/or 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

A call for volunteers was posted on enews, PA website, Facebook page, and PA's Volunteer Newsletter.

V. Ice Skating Party, 2/17

LS Council will advertise this event on E-News twice, PA website, and FB. Flyers will go up around February 2<sup>nd</sup>.

VI. Grant Updates

5 out of 9 grants have been spent. Reminders for photos will go out to the awarded teachers. As the content on the PA website gets stale, the LS Council will feature one grant at a time with details and photos.

VII. Fan Day Update

It was observed that LS families are not attending the advertised MS games on Fan Days, despite the lobby decorations and advertising. We may cease to advertise for MS Fan Days and instead just decorate Blaine Lobby during Alumni and Homecoming Week.

VIII. 5th Grade Yearbook

We are in need of a volunteer for next year. If a volunteer doesn't come forward, then Audris Wong has offered her services. However, the LS Council will need to find a shadow volunteer for the following year. A posting will go out in the PA's Volunteer Newsletter.

Lower School also mentioned that they were told not to solicit volunteers for the Vision Clinic by the Principal's office.

## **ESH Council**

### January

- Communication board
- Is up as of Friday morning, 06 January
- Currently has a flier for the Mix & Mingle, LASO, Multilingual Story Time and the Lunar New Year Potluck

- will update the flier later next week to add in Nancy Kubel and Ned Reese and remove both Nicole Hood and Nicole Neal.
- Sport Gear Swap – Suggested for January by Jay Nacu (Gym Teacher)
- Jay and Molly Curley have been in contact - Still in progress – Jay and Molly working on logistics such as storage, collection options
- Earth day programming for each grade level - getting teachers involved - Have been in communication with ESH council members about implementation ideas (recommended for later in Spring, flyers, inclusion in E-news cycles, etc)
- Lunar New Year Lion Dance - Monday, 30 January @ 9AM in the gymnasium
- Winter Mix and Mingle - Jan 20 - Ken Garcia-Gonzales, Nancy Kubel, Ned Reece
- Discussed plan to hold a Room Parent Appreciation as part of the next Mix and Mingle. Audris asked if this would be a problem for LS Room Parents; LS Council didn't think so but felt an accompanying coffee social would not be difficult.

### **3. Finance**

- a. Report from the Treasurer
- b. Grants Administration - get them in now!
- c. Impersonation Schemes – Someone has been trying to get funds transfer through the Treasurer by spoofing the emails of Kim Stolze and Amanda Norton. If you receive a suspicious email, contact Audris and Tina who can put you in contact with Joe Kallo. Use of wufoo is another layer of protection from scammers.

### **4. Communications**

- a. Report from the Communications Coordinator - please remember to include pictures
- b. Marketing Non-PA events: Please contact the co-Presidents if you want to post non-PA events on the website.
- c. Upcoming Cross-division marketing needs
  - i. Schoology Webinar
  - ii. Restaurant Week
  - iii. MLK one-woman play

iv. Speaker Series – will circulate flyer

**5. Nominations Committee/Elections: Nancy Stern**

- a. Timing of events. The Election meeting is May 1, 2017
- b. February 20-March 31, 2017 is possible nominating window
- c. Committee members: It will be mandatory that nominees meet with a member of the nominating committee (Article 12)
- d. Introductory meetings on March 6

**6. Diversity Committee**

- a. Our update: There is no regular meeting of the PA Diversity Committee for January, however we are planning a meeting of the data transparency subcommittee for later this month. Our Feb 13 meeting will be a panel discussion for parents looking for ways to talk about values and civic engagement. Working title is "Living Our Values: Helping our Children Respond in Troubling Times." (submitted via email)

**7. Health Fair is March 9, 2017**

- a. Will have demonstrations, performances, and booths
- b. Health Fair is done throughout the school. We may assist with finding day-of volunteers
- c. Suggestion made to have CPR training there

**8. Adjournment**

In attendance:

Tina Louie

Mariana Ingersoll

Krista Blazek Hogarth

Lena Jessen

Colleen Sheehan

Cathy Lee

Leny Leung

Manali Barua

Sara Skelly

Kim Stoltze

Ann Grissom

Lynn Sasamoto

Tracey Quinn

Audris Wong

Amanda Norton

Nancy Stern

Claudia Roeder

Tiffany Flowers

Andee Stacy

Frank Baldassare