

Wednesday, October 14, 2015

Allen Parent Council Meeting

5:30 - Call to Order/Welcome/Approval of September Minutes/Introductions

5:35 - Guest Presenter Kim Mobley shares details about Allen's Music programs

- Preparing for Thanksgiving Assembly, which is November 24th at 2:30 / 2:45 PM.
- Give the kids a general well rounded musical experience. Not focusing on any one thing, but will try several different opportunities throughout the year and over several years.
- Thanks to Parent Council for the field trips:
 - 2nd Grade - EMU Orchestra & Ballet
 - 3rd / 4th / 5th goes to a UMS performance or AA Symphony in collaboration with Carnegie Hall. 4th graders go to this as they focus on recorder and get to play with the symphony.
 - 3rd Grade goes to mariachi band tying in to Spanish Ed.
 - 5th grade is going to a Nufonia Must Fall performance, which is based on a graphic novel based on robotics. Kids will do their own type of graphic novel, tying in the writing process.
- Each grade level will do a performance of some sort, 5th grade instrumental, 4th grade will do recorder, 1st – 3rd not determined yet.
- Tappan Orchestra & Choir will come as a recruiting tool, and so kids can see what joining a choir is like.
- Community High Jazz Band – working on a date for them to visit Allen.
- Arab Orchestra to see and hear different types of music
- If any questions or concerns, please feel free to call and ask, or come in and visit.
- Applied for a PC grant for drums, and to the AAPS foundation grant. Sit on them and play them. Starting small to see where it goes, and grow as a program.

5:40 - Principal's Report - Kerry Beal

- Kim was instrumental in helping to update the pick-up process and is also our webmaster. Thank you to the teachers for going above and beyond!
- Parent Orientation meeting was a success. Thank you!
- Staff meeting snacks, thank you for providing snacks throughout the year!

- Magic of Math Assembly was great, thank you!
- 3rd fire drill this week, 4th next week. Lock down drill in Nov, notification will go out so parents can talk to children about it. Kerry will walk through and test the drill. One is unstructured so we can test what happens at recess. These are required by law, they need to be registered and recorded on the website. Weather drills will be coming as well.
- NWEA testing is complete 1st – 5th grade. This is an adaptive test, if they answer correctly they get more questions and it gets longer. If they get them wrong, it bumps it back. It comes up with averages nationally. More testing in January and the spring. SRI testing (reading), and benchmark testing done.
- Newsletter coming out soon for Oct. Sept went out already.
- Fun Run – kids are excited. Spirit days coming up.
- Technology – iPads out in use, on carts and title I, music program, pre-school. For Chrome books, it is best to have a google account. We also have a MacBook Air cart. There is a volume purchase agreement to buy apps, but they have to be approved by the district.
- Title I services have started, first family night coming up. Title I federal money is given to the state. Kids have to qualify. Scores, classroom performance, parent & teacher input determine which kids qualify. Funding is reduced down from 3 resources to 1 tutor (Kaylie Meade). There is an amendment window in November as the program is fluid.
Lunch bunch??
- Parent / Teacher Conf. window open, Oct 29th open all night. Teachers will help with opening the doors security system.
- Field trips have started. 4 grades have been already.
- Curriculum Night – great turn out.
- The question was raised - Can we put a sign up for the security system? The bell is very soft. Need a sign on how to operate. Can speak to the person in the office.

5:55 - Teacher Grant Review/Vote

- There is \$2650 available over the year, we currently have a total of \$1830.33 submitted. 6 of those are for RAZ Kids (leveled reading program). Like IXL for reading. 1st grade teachers want to renew, and 2nd grade teachers want to purchase the program and headphones. Miss Mobley's for drums, Miss Hamilton for posts, bases and yarn balls for multiple games in the gym. Miss Lemmer for book pouches so leveled reading books can be sent home with students. 5th grade dissection process – cow hearts.
- \$250 maximum per grant

- Teachers are not obligated to put in a grant.
- If we want to continue to fund RAZ Kids, we need to figure out how to fund it. Think Stretch money may go toward this.
- Teachers were given a month to apply for the grants. The spring deadline will be just before the March meeting.
- There are a lot of grants that can be written to cover summer programs. If we're losing money towards Think Stretch we can look into that.
- 1st grade didn't put in for headphones last year, but got them the year before for listening centers.
- Heidi Harris calls for a motion to approve all off them. Torey Madura seconds. Approve as contingent and wait to purchase. All voted to approve.
- Any feelers put out to other levels for RAZ Kids as there is volume pricing available? 10 classrooms get 15% discount. Run by Kerry.

6:10 - Election of Parent Council Officers

- All officers are returning, except the secretary. Michele Barkoot has volunteered to come on as secretary. Lisa Querijero makes a motion to elect Michele Barkoot and retain other existing officers. Beth Chapman seconds. All voted to approve.
 - Caitlin Rowe and Mike Solomon will be moving out of their positions next year. Emily Lipp brings a motion that someone that's interested be with the outgoing officers to share institutional knowledge. Mike Solomon seconds for treasurer role. Start working with Mike Solomon and Elizabeth Peters sooner rather than later.
 - Mike Solomon recommends rotating off after a certain amount of years. We as a group should decide an appropriate amount of time.

6:15 – Fun Run Update

- We discussed having room parents discuss the Fun Run with their classrooms.
- Perhaps send something home to parents on how to join the FB page.
- We discovered that some people aren't getting Allen E-blasts.
- There is an option to set up a donation table at the run, but not sold on this idea.
- We need to reiterate that this is our main / only fundraiser of the year, and that money can be cash and checks, too.
- We need to over communicate things.

- Caitlin Rowe may dress up as the Eagle and will walk the pick-up line.

6:15 - Brainstorming Session: How can we involve more volunteers?

- Did not get to this topic during the October meeting.

6:30 – Adjourn

- Torey Madura moves to adjourn.

The next Parent Council meeting is November 11th from 5:30 – 6:30 PM. All are welcome – bring a friend! Free child care for school aged children provided.

- Special guest: Mrs. Murphy – Title I Teacher and Reading Assessments

November Events at Allen:

- Nov 2nd: No school - Report Writing Day
- Nov 3rd: No school - Election Day
- Nov 11th - 16th: Vision & Hearing Testing
- Nov 11th: Parent Council Meeting from 5:30 – 6:30 PM. Free childcare available for school aged children. Come and bring a friend!
- Nov 18th: California Pizza Kitchen Fundraiser - more info to come home in back pack mail or Allen E-blast.
- Nov 20th: Pre-K – 2nd Grade Movie Night – more info to come home in back pack mail or Allen E-blast.
- Nov 24th: Thanksgiving Performance from 2:30 - 3:30 PM. Parents are welcome to attend.
- Nov 25th - 27th: No school - Thanksgiving Break