



## CCE Climate Committee September/October 2014 Notes

The committee began the school year with seeking parent volunteers for various projects, setting up the executive committee meeting schedule, and holding the first parent engagement night.

This year's executive committee consists of:

Sylvia Kwon and Anastasia Panagakos (parent committee co-chairs)

Principal Denise Beck

Teachers Eva Dopico and Lynn Angelo

Committed Project Volunteers:

Lisa Severino - 1st grade playground supervision

Lisa Baumeister - parent resource library

Mark Damesyn - playground playscape redesign

The executive committee met on September 15, 2014 and discussed:

- The role of the teachers on the committee is as liaisons between the committee and faculty. The teachers will report CC activities in a weekly bulletin that is distributed on Mondays. Srta. Angelo provided suggestions for parents on how to help build community and positive school climate and discussed the teachers' roles in coordinating the school spirit days.
- CCE lost its counselor, Sra. Allgood, when she took a new job at Emerson Junior High. Sra. Beck is in the process of interviewing a replacement counselor and also will contact Korematsu and Pioneer about sharing a counselor (as CCE has done in the past).
- A potential parent handbook or handout on conflict and resolution
- Eric Xu, the landscape designer, has been asked to divide up his playscape design into three phases for a multi-year execution.
- The September 23 parent engagement night - activities and topics
- Sra. Beck will begin a monthly "Coffee with the Principal"
- District Climate Committee meetings are set--all Tuesday afternoons from 3:45 to 5:30. The first meeting is October 21.
- The Climate Committee established its executive meeting schedule for the first Monday of each month at 3:15 p.m. in Room 20.

### Parent project volunteers provided the following updates:

Lisa Baumeister: Parent Resource Library

- Securing a location on campus for the library that would be accessible to parents where they could find the books
- Acquiring the books. Some ideas we have considered include allowing parents to donate books on our list at the CCE Book Fair, asking SIPAT for help in having a way to donate the books online similar to what they did with the CCE auction, informing parents of a particular weekend when they could purchase books on the list from Avid Reader with a 20% discount.
- Publicity for the ways we decide to do the above
- Organizing the space where we keep the books so they are easily found by parents and providing a way for them to "check out" books.

## Lisa Severino: 1st Grade Parent Playground Supervision

- Program had a great volunteer response. We currently have 17 parents volunteering regularly, and another 16 substitutes.
- Principal Beck provided two volunteer trainings, one before school started and another during the 3rd week of school.
- The program now has the following handouts that serve as resource for volunteers:
  - Playground Rules and Tips
  - Lunch Procedures
  - Conflict Resolution
  - Ball Games
- 1st graders are now eating lunch at the outdoor lunch tables with 2nd and 3rd graders.
- Some volunteers shared concern that 1st graders seemed adrift at recess. Principal Beck assured me that this was normal as they settle into their new routine and environment.
- To help 1st graders feel more comfortable accessing the Playworks Games, we have asked 1st grade lunch parents to try (if supervision seems adequate) to take a group of 1st graders over to learn about the game of the week. 1st grade lunch parents have received information about Playworks by email, and have been encouraged to attend the Playworks training on 9/24 or to contact the Playworks Coordinator for more information.
- 1st grade lunch parents were recently reminded to:
  - Revisit the handouts so that they are better able to enforce the play yard rules;
  - Intervene as necessary to help students learn and follow the rules;
  - Circulate themselves throughout the 1st grade play area so that they are available to all 1st graders; and
  - Check with the office before taking a 1st grader through the hot lunch line if they had already sat down at the lunch tables. We want to ensure students have their parents' permission to obtain hot lunch.

## First Parent Engagement Night - September 23, 2014

Anastasia, Sylvia, and Sra. Beck conducted the first parent engagement night. Attendance was low but the parents did have an engaging discussion on several topics including:

- Communications issues in terms of the SIPAT website, clarification and transparency of certain school procedures regarding placement and other issues, FB site, and handbooks for parents on both behavior and also volunteering. There is a sense that with changing technologies the list-serv may not be the most efficient way to remind parents of events and activities.
- Parents expressed an interest in having volunteer opportunities that include parents who work full time or cannot be at the school during regular hours. There was a sense of alienation for parents who work full time but would still like to engage with the school and students.
- Outreach to kindergarten parents to recruit volunteers.
- Create mentor program for new kinder parents.
- Create networks that allows parents to discuss conflicts between kids without judgment. Address problems before they get bigger.
- Find new ways to communicate to parents/families--FB, text, update list-serv.
- Make conflict resolution process more transparent--outline and clarify steps.
- How can the school be more open to all forms of volunteers?
- How to streamline donations?
- Create and distribute updated list of volunteer jobs for families not only in fall but in winter and for teachers.
- Develop handbook for volunteers and families. CCE only has student handbook.

- Encourage teachers to share experiences about volunteers with other teachers. Share effective examples.
- Create volunteer coordinator position.