

**CCE Climate Committee
Meeting Notes 2013-2014
September 24 - Page 1
October 29 - Page 5
December 10 - Page 11
January 28 - Page 15
February 25 - Page 22
March 18 - Page 24
May 27 - Page 26**

**Climate Committee Meeting Notes
Cesar Chavez Elementary
September 24, 2013**

I. Introductions

Denise Beck – Principal (dbeck@djud.net)
Estela Heringer– 2nd Grade (esheringer@hotmail.com)
Laurie Stillman – 1st Grade (lestillman@gmail.com)
Sylvia Kwon – 3rd Grade, K (sylviakwon@gmail.com)
Janet Brown– 2nd, K (jan129brown@yahoo.com)
Raychel Adler – 5th & 2nd (raykub@gmail.com)
Amy Duffy – 2nd Grade, (amduffy@sbcglobal.net)
Eva M. Dopico – 2nd grade Teacher (edopico@djud.net)
Jennifer Farwell – 1st & 4th (jennyfarwell@gmail.com)
Krista DeZerega-Thomson – 2nd & 5th (kldezerega@hotmail.com)
Ashley Giovannettone – 1st grade (ashleysnee@gmail.com)

Amy Duffy went over Climate Committee directives from the District and handed out the written policy from DJUSD.

II. GOALS

The most helpful thing we've done is to get on the SIPAT website. Our hope is that parents feel empowered regarding how we interact, how our kids interact and empower teachers. Clear guidelines that we need to encourage parents to talk directly to involved parties and not just worry or talk about it with others. (uninvolved parties).

It was agreed that Amy and Anastasia Panagakos (who is away until January) will continue to serve as leaders. Eva Dopico will serve as teacher rep.

District Climate Committee meeting at 3:45 on Oct 22nd. (We will need to adjust CCE Climate Committee meeting due to overlap) Revised meeting date will be emailed and put on website. (I would suggest moving meeting to 3:30 on 10/29).

The 2012-13 Final Report is on the website for review.

Goals for this year:

Have monthly open meetings.

Continue to send info to SIPAT website.

Plan to start a parent resource library – Amy handed out a list of books we’d like to start with (also available on the website)

This is the 4th year we have done the climate survey and it guides a lot of how we focus our time and energy. Looking for help with the survey. It has been put in school calendar for February.

III. UPDATES

School Counselor - We have a school counselor, Katherine Allgood, who has set up a schedule to visit all of the primary classes. Last year she had groups to help kids: 1) know how to talk to other kids. 2) Kids that have anger control issues. 3) Recent divorce families, etc. She is here 12 hours per week (Thurs, Fri, and lunch periods) and is sharing time with Pioneer.

Working with other groups - We will be working with SIPAT, Site Council and the district Climate Committee. SIPAT funding depends on parent’s voluntary funding. Discussion about the need for reading aides. Every child benefits from the reading aides – not for intervention like other schools – but for the fact that all the kids benefit from reading aides because every child at CCE is a second language learner. Discussion about the SIPAT funding component and if parents understand how much we rely on voluntary SIPAT funding for reading aides, etc. Need for Climate CO to help with PR and parent education regarding the need for parent donations and the variety of programs/supports like the counselor funded by SIPAT. Janet suggested making sure parents understand per kid funding from SIPAT.

Playworks - Tomorrow they will be having a training for Playworks. 60% of “Playworks Peers” are student council kids. 32 peers this year (volunteers from 4-6th grade) – up from 12 last year. 6 peers out there at recess every day (each 1 day/week). Playworks is now 5 days per week – up from 4 last year and we will be doing yoga on Wed with a “know your body” focus. There is at least one adult, some days two. Game of the week is being taught Monday morning to all First Graders. Wednesday people are non-student council kids because that is when Student Council meets.

Student Council - Bigger each year! Teacher Sara Caulfield is going to take them to special training, do projects and December book sale. Sra Loyola asked Student Council to take over annual STEAC art sale. School was going to do a STEAC food drive in Oct, but district is and we are in charge of collecting cans of tuna fish. We are looking at doing a drive at a different time of the year. CCE goal to increase our relationship with/support for STEAC. Janet suggested working in a STEAC donation drive at Fiesta.

First Grade Lunch - 1st graders are eating in the MPR for 3 weeks. We have parents for each day to volunteer. On week 4, first grade will eat at outside lunch tables and third grade will go to MPR. Reports are that it is working great. Next week will be first time that they will be out there with all the classes. Some first grade kids don't know code to get the food. Had the first graders go 5 minutes earlier to make time for them. Idea for next year, have the intermediate lunch period first. Then younger kids can stay in there as long as they want after. Will depend on science and intermediate schedule. We need to schedule a training before school starts next year for first grade lunchtime parent volunteers. Parents have expressed need for a training and paper packet for rules. Denise will get some dates for trainings and send to Ashley.

New Student Buddy/Welcome - Great feedback from transitioned families who came from MME. Jennifer Farwell shared how appreciated efforts were. Helpful welcome picnic. Amy shared possibility of a survey to get feedback from transitioning families and buddies.

First Grade Play Area - Discussion about if we make the play area under the tree more organized play area or is it filling need for kids. New boundaries for play this year. Students can no longer cross bike path to play near fence in area behind CDC. Denise is talking to the father who offered to go to UCD to ask for help about the play area. Discussion if we still want to possibly paint Kelso's Choices on the playground? Discussion if we should paint on the ground that no bikes are permitted on the path. Many Willet families use the playground to pass through and ride their bikes.

Feedback about handouts about black top rules - Sra Beck said that it is important for parents to know that at 2:35 school is still in session. The teachers asked that a direct message go out to parents to keep quiet and away from the classes, when they are still trying to teach. Hesitant to send notice but it was needed. Some parents are waiting near office or on black top - which does not impact other classes. Some feedback that people didn't like the handouts. Idea for sandwich boards to instruct parents where to wait. North Davis uses red signs they post - to tell parents where to be. That is something we could use. Sra Beck will talk to teachers to see if it is better now and possibly move the class out to a different spot for pick-up - lunch tables or playground.

New Program for Paper Parade/Registration Next Year - School Loop will have all the school information you need for registration. Parents will download and print forms needed. Next year, paper parade will be Thursday before the first day of school. Will have 5 days to be able to locate classroom. There will be a stand alone back to school night.

Before school starts playground issues - Discussion about primary kids and intermediate kids playing on the play area at the same time before school starts.

Eva shared concern about lack of before school activity options for 4-6th graders. With only the park structure available she has found supervision before school difficult. Too many big kids, unsafe play on structure (climbing outside structure, running, etc). Denise shared reasons that teachers do not have students getting balls before school, as well as reasons intermediate teachers decided to eliminate RA (recreo alternative program). She said teachers did not believe the program to be effective (intent was to eliminate running and playing in hallway by having students lose their recess as a consequence).

Next meeting: Tuesday, October 29, 3:30 in Room 20.

**Climate Committee Meeting
Cesar Chavez Elementary
October 29, 2013**

I. INTRODUCTIONS

Denise Beck – Principal (dbeck@djud.net)
Estela Heringer– 2nd Grade (esheringer@hotmail.com)
Amy Duffy – 2nd Grade, (amduffy@sbcglobal.net)
Eva M. Dopico – 2nd grade Teacher (edopico@djud.net)

II. MONTHLY UPDATES

District Climate Committee – Amy shared minutes from DO meeting including topics such as moving beyond AB9 to a “culture of respect”, a discussion of the district definition of bullying, and the California Healthy Kids Survey data. The school district provides resources for parents on their website: www.djud.net/climate. The district climate coordinators are Kate Snow and Mel Lewis and can be reached at (530) 757-5300 x108 or ksnow@djud.net or mlewis@djud.net.

Staff – Eva Dopico shared 3 topics:

- 1) Her preference for return to 2 Climate adjunct duty positions for next year. Estela added preference for one primary and one intermediate rep. Denise agreed this would be a positive option to consider and she made a note for next year.
- 2) Ava asked about Halloween celebration policies at both CCE and other school sites. Denise explained that each site makes its own policies. She shared the history of how policies at CCE have evolved over the years, and the reasons for current policies. Classes are permitted to have parties after the last recess (during the last 45 minutes of the school day), however, all parents in class must agree. Students are only allowed to bring a piece of their costume to show/share (for example: their bee wings, or magic wand), not to dress up in entire costume.
- 3) Both Eva and Denise reported that staff are pleased with parents response to the request not to wait in hallways next to classrooms. Teachers are pleased that there is now less noise in hallways.

Counselor – Katherine Allgood could not attend the meeting so Amy shared her report:

- 1) October is National Bullying Prevention Month. Many 4-6 classes will complete the bullying series of lessons this week. We defined bullying, clarified what it's not, what bullies look for when targeting victims & what students can do if they're targeted; & empowering the bystander (since statistically, they are most likely to be a bystander). 4 3rd grade students and I printed & distributed anti-bullying signs around the campus. Teachers received 2 signs to post in their classrooms also.

- 2) This week I'm wrapping up the Kelso lessons for all primary grades. They've received 8 weeks of lessons.
- 3) I'm attending the parent info night tonight (10/29) to brief parents on the GLI conference - what to expect from the weekend
- 4) Continuing to communicate with parents on how to meet the needs of their kid(s) & do observations/counseling
- 5) Meet with students 1-on-1 during lunch per their request
- 6) For the month of November I'll start our first small group (4-6th gr boys) of the year. I'm hosting the first mini-workshop for 4-6th gr girls. I'm separating them by grade and using what I took from the GLI Conference I attended in June to teach them skills on handling relational aggression, communicating effectively, identifying feelings & behaviors, etc. It was a very powerful weekend for the girls that attended that I'd love to see extended school wide.
- 7) There are 6 teachers that couldn't get weekly lessons until Nov so I will start going into those 4-6 classes next week once the Kelso lessons are done.

Eva asked if Katherine will be able to do any groups for primary students in addition to her 4-6th grade groups. Denise explained that this is a possibility if there is time remaining in Katherine's schedule after all requested 4-6th grade groups have been formed and scheduled.

Student Council – Sara Caulfield could not attend the meeting and Amy shared her report:

- 1) 22 student council members meet every Wednesday in Room 32 from 12:20-1:00 to have lunch together and work on schoolwide projects. In addition, Sra. Caulfield also meets during lunch with the four officers to plan the agenda for the Wednesday meetings so everything runs smoothly. This year we have four working committees and each child participates on one of them: Recycling (Led by Sra. Jackson), Publicity (led by Srta. Angelo), Spirit (led by Sra. Dopico) and Fundraising (led by Sra. Caulfield). Srta. Angelo is our full time Primary Liaison and meets weekly on Monday afternoons with Sra. Caulfield to help plan events. Our website is updated regularly with links to SIPAT page and school website <http://chavezstudentcouncil.weebly.com/>.
- 2) Overarching goals: Develop leadership skills; promote spirit for our school; provide community service; fundraise for activities that fall under these three umbrella areas
- 3) Goals for 2013-2014
 - * Develop a mission and belief statements for our organization
 - * Plan spirit days the last Friday of each month October - May
 - * Generate sufficient funds through fundraising activities to pay for all planned student activities in 2013-2014 (approximately \$2,000) and for 2014-2015 (approximately \$2,000), Total = approximately \$4,100.

- * Expand recycling program to include students from all classrooms
 - * Earn 50% of the cost of a new recycling container (through fundraising) for the Recycling program organized by Concejo Estudiantil under the direction of Sra. Jackson
 - * Design a mascot costume that represents the Cesar Chavez "Lobo" and obtain a cost estimate
- 4) Recent activities:
 - * Sept: Classroom Rep Elections (Fall - Sept - Dec), 3-hour Leadership Training on campus with Raychel Adler (Playworks Training)
 - * Oct: STEAC Food Drive (301 Tuna Cans collected) with the help of Sra. Loyola, 10/24 Pizza Night Fundraiser, 10/25 1st Spirit Day - Crazy Hat Day!
 - 5) Upcoming activities:
 - * 11/1 Elections for 2nd Semester Classroom Reps in grades 4th-6th
 - * 11/22 November Spirit Day
 - * 12/5 CASC Leadership Conference (sending 40 kids including Fall and Spring Reps)
 - * 12/2-5 STEAC Holiday Coin Collection
 - * 12/8-10 Used Book Sale
 - 6) Window displays: Srta. Angelo works with the Publicity Committee each week before school and during lunches to design the windows. Little by little they are coming together!
 - 7) Pilot lunchtime recycling program: This year, each classroom in grades 4-6 is signing up 10 kids for one week (2 per day) to work with Sra. Jackson during lunch to make sure kids are recycling correctly. Class reps are in charge of getting their class revved up to participate. Participants receive a certificate at the end of the year in recognition of their efforts. The Recycling Subcommittee works with Sra. Jackson on Wednesdays each week to hammer out details.
 - 8) Fundraising: We have no budget, and are completely supported by donations from parents of student council members and fundraisers. Costs are currently a little over \$2,000 not counting photocopies and materials provided by the school. Parent donations currently constitute approximately 33% of what is needed. Our fundraiser on October 24 generated about 40% of what is needed for this year, thanks to the great support of our community! Our Used Book Sale in December should generate the remainder of funds needed to cover costs for this year. We have other fundraisers in the fall to start earning for next year, and hopefully to save for a mascot costume to generate more spirit in our school!

Denise added that the recycling program is expanding to snack recesses. New mobile containers have been purchased so that students can recycle after eating snack.

Playworks – Raychel Adler could not attend the meeting and Amy shared her report:

- 1) We have continued to see great numbers of kids (25-50 a day) and lots of wonderful energy at the Playworks Game of the Week.
- 2) Raychel has met twice with the Playworks Peers to go over High 5 notes they write for each other as well as go over challenges and solutions for issues that come up, and talk about the month ahead in terms of what the game of the week will be.
- 3) Yoga has gotten a good group on Wednesdays but is having a hard time with the noise of the playground and the instructor not having a super loud voice. Also some challenges with the area being muddy. Trying to find a good place for that to happen.
- 4) 1st graders learning the Game of the Week on Mondays during PE has been challenging. Hard for Hillary to teach all the kids at once unless teachers get involved too. Not meant to play with a huge group so they need to break up. We will continue talking about and refining this offering. I do worry that in future years it will be harder to find a parent who also has a 1st grader and wants to take this on (and has the skills - Hillary is an aerobics instructor!)
- 5) Raychel applied for a Biberstien Fund Grant for \$1000 to help boost the Playworks budget and get some new playground equipment we have needed (parachute, big cones, foot pump, goals, chalk, jump ropes, hula hoops).
- 6) Check out the Playworks bulletin board in the hallway leading to the lunch tables.

Denise added that the success of effort to teach the game of the week to first grade students during their PE time is due largely in part to the passion and commitment of Raychel and Hillary, so Climate Committee members should be helping identify and recruit current kinder parents with these skills and passion to work with Raychel so that they can take on this role next year.

1st Grade Playground Transition & Parent Volunteer Supervision Program – Ashley Giovannettone could not attend the meeting and Amy shared her report:

- 1) Parent volunteers are not showing up or are dropping out and there is a need to contact first grade parents for more support. Everyone has scheduling reasons or are becoming garden parents and don't want to be committed to both.
- 2) Many parents have asked for either a handbook or training. Two examples for why they feel they need them - people have asked what to do in situations like these (both happened): a. What are options when a kids looks at you and says, "no" after being told to do/stop doing something. b. A paid yard duty asked a first grade parent volunteer to go to another part of the playground to fill in for a paid yard duty who was out sick. So, she did not work in the first grade area that day.
- 3) Other than these instances, reports are that kids are doing well at lunch. Still need help opening things, etc. But things seem to be going well.

Denise appreciated the specific feedback from Ashley and parent volunteers and will work with this group of parents to create a 1st grade lunch volunteer frequently asked questions document with responses to clarify the role/expectations for volunteers, and to provide tips on how to help and redirect students in this role. She will also think about the specifics for how volunteers handle that small percentage of students who don't comply with volunteer requests and suggestions. Estela also suggested that this group use email to share issues, concerns, and ideas about what works with each other. This could provide needed support for volunteer parents who need it and could increase consistency between volunteers. Perhaps past volunteer leaders (Marsha, Anastasia, etc) could be included to offer additional perspective and suggestions.

III. ONGOING PROJECT UPDATES

First Grade Playground Design Project – Mark Damesyn could not attend the meeting but Amy and Denise provided an update. Denise will meet with Mark, the two UCD design students, and lunch/playground parent volunteers during the students' lunch recess on Friday. Denise will confirm time of meeting and notify Amy and Ashley. Denise clarifies that the area being designed is just north of the 1st grade structure. The district has given approval for Chavez to move ahead with the project.

Lunch Time Supervision Expectations & Training - see above

Concerns about First Grade Student Behavior - see above

Parent Resource Library - No progress to report on this project. Estela expressed the need for resources in Spanish, and resources that address more serious issues families might be facing. She shared that she has talked with parents of an upper grade student who fear that their child might have a eating disorder. Estela asked what support resources CCE has for a family facing an issue like that. Denise shared about the Family Resource Centers at MME and Harper and she will look into these centers to see if they provide this type of support for families. Denise also explained the role she and Katherine can play in supporting families, and in connecting families with serious concerns and support needs to the DJUSD Crisis Counselor Jennifer McNeil.

IV. 2013-14 CLIMATE COMMITTEE MEETING DATES & PROMOTING PARENT & STAFF INVOLVEMENT

V. NEW DISCUSSION ITEMS –

- 1) School Rules Clarification: Amy shared an email from Cassie Hartzog asking about CCE rules. Denise clarified that there are not many new school rules, but there is an increased staff focus on enforcing rules consistently this year. She shared that all school rules are in place to keep

students safe. Staff goal is to prevent or reduce the number of student injuries. Denise clarified that students may run on the blacktop, and they may play tag anywhere except on the play structures. She explained that there has always been a rule against playing tag on the structures due to the number of accidents and injuries. The tag games "sandman" and "lava monster" are especially dangerous because they require that a child close his/her eyes while chasing students on the structure. Denise also explained that there are two new rules that staff has been working to teach students this school year. The first is a new, safer lunch dismissal routine. Students are now dismissed by table or small group, rather than all together when a bell rings. This new procedure prevents an unsafe stampede of hundreds of students running down the narrow hallways toward the play yard. It also allows children to clean up their area prior to being dismissed, and makes it easier for those who need additional time to finish eating to remain at the tables to eat. The second new rule is for the new Fitness Center structure. Having a new play area necessitated that students learn to use this new equipment safely. For example, some students want to flip around the parallel bars and the high bar, however, this would be very unsafe, so staff are teaching students the purpose of the equipment and how to use it safely.

VI. UPCOMING MEETINGS: ALL MEETINGS ARE IN ROOM 20 AT CCE

December 10, 2013 @ 3:30PM
January 28, 2014 @ 3:30PM
February 25, 2014 @ 7:00PM
March 18, 2014 @ 3:30PM
April 22, 2014 @ 7:00PM
May 27, 2014 @ 3:30PM

**Climate Committee Meeting
Cesar Chavez Elementary
December 10, 2013**

I. Introductions

Amy Duffy – 2nd Grade, (amduffy@sbcglobal.net)

Sylvia Kwon – 3rd Grade, K (sylviakwon@gmail.com)

**Principal Beck could not attend because of a conflicting district meeting.*

II. Monthly Reports

a) Staff

No new updates.

b) Counselor

The following update was provided via email by Counselor Katherine Allgood:

- All K-3 classes have completed their Kelso lessons (8 sessions) which has opened up some more time for 4-6 class lessons and small groups. 1 Kinder class is 3weeks into their Kelso series. Teachers have given positive feedback and have been super supportive/excited for the Kelso lessons and are wanting 'refresher'/follow up lessons. I'm planning on going back into K-3 classes starting in January.
- 4-6th classes have all completed an education series on bullying, including what to do/say if they find themselves as a bystander or a victim.
- 4th -6th gr girls have attended 2 Friendship Factor Workshops geared towards identifying relational aggression, typical/ineffective ways girls "handle" problems/conflicts, and how to effectively communicate to resolve conflicts. These workshops were motivated by the GLI Conference I attended last June with some parents/students. It was a very powerful weekend for the girls that attended and they received/practiced very valuable tools that I wanted to implement schoolwide. The workshops were scheduled over 3 sessions lasting about an hour each. Each grade level has 1 more workshop to attend to complete the series. It's been met with overwhelming interest/excitement from the girls...which I think is telling on what they're dealing with at this age. I've been really excited to bring this to Chavez and am so happy teachers and students have been so supportive about it.
- 1 4th-6th boys counseling group is well underway - we are 5 sessions through the curriculum. I will be starting a 1st/2nd gr Friendship Group tentatively scheduled to start this week.

c) Student Council

Although there was not a formal update the committee noted the Student Council's work with this week's used book sale.

d) Playworks

Raychel Adler sent the following update via email:

- PW continues to do very well. Raychel wrote for a grant for \$1000 from Biberstein Fund - we will hear in the next week or two if we got that. Yoga teacher had to stop so now doing our Game of the Week 5 days a week getting 20-40 kids per recess depending on the game. 1st grade PE is going well focused on ball drills although Raychel will talk to Hilary about going back to Game of the Week as we are not getting as many 1st graders without game being taught to them earlier.

e) 1st Grade Playground Parent Volunteer Program

- No update to report from Ashley however a first grade parent contacted the committee to ask if there would be a follow up call for new volunteers since many have stopped showing up to supervise. Several first grade parent volunteers also contacted Amy & Anastasia this month asking for an update from the Climate Committee about when the requested parent training would take place and when additional information/resources about the role and responsibilities of parents volunteering in this capacity would be available.
- Sylvia is willing to help with training materials and planning for the 2014-2015 1st grade volunteer program. She will have a 1st grader next year. She knows Laurie Stillman and thought that they could work on this well together.

III. On-going Project Updates

a) First Grade Playground Design Project

Mark Damesyn provided the following report via email:

- The design team (seniors from UC Davis Landscape Architecture Department) met with Mark Damesyn, Sra. Beck, and playground volunteers on 11/1 to view and provide conceptual input to the Design team. The design team has taken that input and is combining it with research and sketching to develop an initial design. Mark will reconvene with the design team next week (after UCD finals) to review progress and plan next steps.

b) Communication & inclusion of families with connections to both CCE & MME

- Several CCE parents who have other children enrolled at MME, contacted Amy and Anastasia this past month requesting the opportunity to meet and discuss the evolving relationship between our school parent communities during this time of transition in the SI/duel immersion program at MME. Amy and Anastasia agreed to meet informally with these parents and several MME Climate Committee parent leaders in January to hear their perspectives.

c) Annual Climate Survey

- Sylvia is willing to help recruit 3rd grade parents as needed to assist classes in computer lab to help ensure that all classes are able to participate in the survey this year.
- Anastasia will be working on the 2014 surveys and anticipates little change in the questions or scope.

d) Promoting parent involvement/leadership in SIPAT & Climate Committee

- Maria Clayton (SIPAT Parliamentarian) contacted Amy this month to ask for Climate Committee's help in spreading the word about the SIPAT Nominating Committee and the newly refined process for filling open SIPAT positions. Amy spoke with several parents who have served on Climate over the past few years and asked them to consider serving our school in these new ways. She is uncertain whether or not any will be able or willing to do so.

d) Parent Resource Library

- Lisa Baumeister will contact the Avid Reader book store to see about getting discounts for books CCE parents would want to purchase for the new Parent Resource Library. She will provide an update in January.

New Projects

a) California Distinguished Schools

- CCE was nominated to apply for this year's California Distinguished School award. SIPAT parliamentarian Maria Clayton is spearheading the extensive application process. Amy was asked to provide a few paragraphs detailing climate committee activities such as the annual climate survey, counseling, and the MME/CCE transition efforts. She emailed a write up to Maria and Sra. Beck on Monday 12/9.

b) Buddy Bench

- Several parents have contacted the climate committee about setting up a "buddy bench" on the playground. A buddy bench is a designated place where a "buddy" sits and students who feel lonely, unsure, or scared can join them and feel acceptance. The committee shared the idea with Raychel Adler and Sara Caulfield and discussed ways a buddy bench could provide additional opportunities for 4-6th graders to increase engagement at school and have the opportunity to take on a leadership/peer helping type role on campus. In addition to the more obvious ways this could address the issue of children feeling isolated or unsure how to enter play on the playground at recess. Here is a link to the website/article in case any of you have not seen it yet:

<http://welcomingschools.org/blog/entry/a-buddy-bench-makes-recess-more-inclusive>

VI. Upcoming Meetings: All meetings are in Room 20 at CCE

January 28, 2014 @ 3:30PM

February 25, 2014 @ 7:00PM

March 18, 2014 @ 3:30PM

April 22, 2014 @ 7:00PM

May 27, 2014 @ 3:30PM

**Climate Committee Meeting
Cesar Chavez Elementary
January 28, 2014**

I. Introductions

Amy Duffy – climate co-chair
Anastasia Panagakos, climate co-chair
Leanne Villa
Mark Damesyn
Laurie Stilman
Steve Stoddard
Eric Xu
**Principal Beck was out sick*

II. Presentation by Eric Xu

Eric Xu is a landscape design student from UC Davis whose senior project is to redesign a portion of the 1st grade play area to give students more play options beyond the play structure and blacktop games. Eric's presentation discussed the benefits of natural play environments including cost effectiveness and positive outcomes from student well-being and cognitive awareness. Eric's powerpoint presentation can be found at the end of these meeting notes.

Next step: Eric would like to conduct a focus group with parents and staff who have expertise in the playground situation. Amy and Anastasia will help organize and facilitate this meeting.

III. Monthly Reports

a) Staff - No new updates. Currently there is not a staff member on the climate committee.

b) Counselor – The following update was provided by Counselor Katherine Allgood via email:

1) January has been a month of transitioning. Last week I concluded the first rotation of classroom lessons to the 4th-6th grades (9 weeks). We discussed topics such as: bullying (empowering the bystanders/victim), identifying friendship qualities, how to handle the friendship 'drama' (each person's responsibility), how to create/maintain a positive reputation, active listening, how to use 'I messages' when resolving conflicts, identifying the 'hooks' students use to upset others & how to better handle those situations, etc.

2) This week I start back up with the K-3 grades doing some Kelso refresher lessons and diving deeper into social skills and empathy-building, using children's books that beautifully illustrate why it's important to share/include/use nice words/etc.

3) This week is the final meeting for our 4th-6th gr boys group. We've been

discussing and practicing skills for how to stay in control, listen, calm down, etc for 10 weeks.

4) Our 1st/2nd gr Friendship Group is well under way. It's a larger group - 6 kids - but it's a fantastic dynamic and the kids are very excited to be a part of the group. I'm excited to see all the learning and growth that'll happen from it.

5) I'm starting a 4th-6th gr Friendship Group. I'm meeting with the kids this week and giving them the permission forms. This group will focus on self-esteem and how to positively connect with others.

6) Due to the high need of friendship/social skills in the primary grades, I'm starting a second 1st/2nd friendship group in the next couple of weeks. It'll cover the same topics/skills/lessons that the initial Friendship Group covers. (all groups meet for 30mins a week for 7-10 weeks)

7) Our final Friendship Factor workshop was completed last Friday. All 4th-6th grade girls identified types of relational aggression, ineffective (typical) ways of handling conflict, and the 4 steps for effectively talking/resolving through the problem. These workshops were inspired from the Girls Leadership Conference I attended last May with other parents/daughters.

8) I'm continuing to meet with students 1:1 and facilitating mediations as needed. I also continue to meet with parents that are looking for help/advice/insight with their child.

c) Student Council – No new updates were provided.

d) Playworks – Raychel Adler sent the following update via email:

Playworks keeps getting a good amount of kids week to week, the peers helpers are doing great. We had a good visit by Kate Snow and Mark from the district two weeks ago. They asked that I and a peer or two present about Playworks at the next district wide meeting so that is exciting on terms of other schools making a program.

e) 1st grade Playground Parent Volunteer Program

Although the volunteer coordinator was not present, parents discussed the need for training at lunchtime for parents. Anastasia and Amy have the documents created by Marsha Baird, last year's coordinator, and will get those to Sra. Beck and Ashley Giovannettone.

IV. On-going Project Updates

a) Annual Climate Survey - Anastasia discussed the upcoming survey and said everything is nearly in place for the survey window which is February 11-21. Anastasia will run the surveys once again through Survey Monkey. She has enlisted

the help of Sra. Beck and teacher Kathy Roggenbuck to be sure that the grade 3-6 teachers have signed up their classes for computer time and understand the importance of the students taking the survey. Anastasia has enlisted the help of other parents as well to assist with promotion and has asked the student council to once again create the “thermometer” posters for parent participation.

b) Buddy Bench – Amy and Laurie discussed the idea of creating a buddy bench at Chavez. The committee decided to contact Sara Caulfield and the student council to see if there would be an interest.

c) Safe Bike Routes to School – Anastasia attended the safe bike routes meeting and reported that the audit report on safe routes was very thorough and did a good job identifying the problem areas around the campus. The parents and Principal Beck had a lot of feedback to give and hope improvements will be made soon. The Climate Committee has been approached on several occasions in the last few years regarding the traffic, bike, and pedestrian situation around the school grounds.

d) Parent Resource Library – Parent volunteer Lisa Baumeister has contacted the owner of the Avid Reader to see if discounts could be provided to parents purchasing books for the parent library. The outcome of that request is still pending. Anastasia, who had attended the last SIPAT general meeting, noted that the SIPAT leadership was unaware of the library and that better p.r. was needed to let parents know we are looking for resources. It has also been suggested that in addition to parenting books the resource library should also contain information in English and Spanish about local services, organizations (like AYSO), etc, for parents new to the community.

V. New Discussion Items

Amy, Anastasia, and Laurie would follow up with Sra. Beck and Ashley regarding a more formalized training for first grade playground volunteers.

VI. Upcoming Meetings: All meetings are in Room 20 at CCE

February 25, 2014 @ 7:00PM

March 18, 2014 @ 3:30PM

April 22, 2014 @ 7:00PM

May 27, 2014 @ 3:30PM

*See Eric Xu’s presentation on next page.

Cesar Chavez Elementary School: Playground Remodeling



Designed By Yang (Eric) Xu
University of California Davis
Landscape Architecture

QUALIFICATIONS

- **Name:** Yang (Eric) N. Xu
- **Year**
Undergraduate 4th year student at UC Davis
- **Education**
Bachelor of Science in Landscape Architecture,
Minor in GIS (Geographical Information Systems) and
Landscape Restoration
- **Project Experience**
-Charter High School Edible Backyard Design, Sacramento
-Lower Broadway Redevelopment, Sacramento
-Sharp Park Restoration, San Francisco
-Part of West Sacramento Redevelopment, West Sacramento
-Private Residential Design, Davis
-UC Davis Haagen Doze Honey Bee Haven Garden Redesign, Davis

PROJECT OVERVIEW

- **Location**
¼ acre Playground at the Cesar Chavez Elementary School
- **Primary Goal**
To create a healthier environment where kids won't be bullied and can go for quiet, peaceful time away from the busier part of the playground.
- **Targeted Users**
2nd to 6th grade students at the school

PROJECT OVERVIEW

- **Location**
¼ acre Playground at the Cesar Chavez Elementary School
- **Primary Goal**
To create a healthier environment where kids won't be bullied and can go for quiet, peaceful time away from the busier part of the playground.
- **Targeted Users**
2nd to 6th grade students at the school

SITE OBSERVATIONS



- Design size: ¼ of an acre
- Soil Type: loamy clay
- Kids tend to play closer to the buildings, staying away from distant area.
- Play Structure is mainly for 1st grade kids in the morning recess.
- Play work: run by upper grade volunteers in the center of the grassy area.
- Games: Steal the Bacon, Zombies and Cowboys, etc.
- Kids like to crawl on the grassy area, chasing each other for fun.
- Some kids like to gather around the elm trees to explore things hidden under the ground.
- Girls like to sit on the north side in pairs or group for chatting.

SITE OBSERVATIONS



- Design size: ¼ of an acre
- Soil Type: loamy clay
- Kids tend to play closer to the buildings, staying away from distant area.
- Play Structure is mainly for 1st grade kids in the morning recess.
- Play work: run by upper grade volunteers in the center of the grassy area.
- Games: Steal the Bacon, Zombies and Cowboys, etc.
- Kids like to crawl on the grassy area, chasing each other for fun.
- Some kids like to gather around the elm trees to explore things hidden under the ground.
- Girls like to sit on the north side in pairs or group for chatting.

RESEARCH: EXPENDITURE

Comparative Costs (a climbing structure)

A traditional playground

-**\$4,000** equipment can accommodate 6 children = low play value

-Equipment companies charge additional 22-25% of the purchase price for manufactured rep. services.

-High design cost and installation costs

-High Replacement cost due to constant change of play equipment safety guidelines.

Total Cost Estimate: **~\$5,600 - \$8,000**

A natural Playground

-A natural boulder can accommodate 10 children costs **\$118-\$352** including installation fees = high play value

-Low additional charges

-Low design cost

-Low maintenance cost

Total Cost Estimate: **~\$400 - \$500**

Play Value— the number of children can be served by one piece of play element as compared to its cost

RESEARCH: EXPENDITURE

Comparative Costs (a climbing structure)

A traditional playground

-**\$4,000** equipment can accommodate 6 children = low play value

-Equipment companies charge additional 22-25% of the purchase price for manufactured rep. services.

-High design cost and installation costs

-High Replacement cost due to constant change of play equipment safety guidelines.

Total Cost Estimate: **~\$5,600 - \$8,000**

A natural Playground

-A natural boulder can accommodate 10 children costs **\$118-\$352** including installation fees = high play value

-Low additional charges

-Low design cost

-Low maintenance cost

Total Cost Estimate: **~\$400 - \$500**

Play Value— the number of children can be served by one piece of play element as compared to its cost

RESEARCH: VISUALIZATION

Estimated Cost By a Landscape Contractor: **\$100,000**



15% of an acre
-unchallenging
-unsustainable

Plot Size: 1 acre area—includes a stream, fairy village, A teepee village, caves, a slide, benches, a discovery path, etc

RESEARCH: VISUALIZATION

Estimated Cost By a Landscape Contractor: **\$100,000**



15% of an acre
-unchallenging
-unsustainable

Plot Size: 1 acre area—includes a stream, fairy village, A teepee village, caves, a slide, benches, a discovery path, etc

CASE STUDY 1

BEFORE



AFTER



Woodstock Elementary School

Location: Woodstock, GA

Size: 2 acres

Previous Condition

Old set of wooden playground equipment with huge paved area that caused massive water, ice and runoff problems.

Existing Condition

A design that incorporates mountains, foothills, and other play elements, such as shallow caves, forts, boulders, gaga pits, woods tall path, etc.

CASE STUDY 1

BEFORE



AFTER



Woodstock Elementary School

Location: Woodstock, GA

Size: 2 acres

Previous Condition

Old set of wooden playground equipment with huge paved area that caused massive water, ice and runoff problems.

Existing Condition

A design that incorporates mountains, foothills, and other play elements, such as shallow caves, forts, boulders, gaga pits, woods tall path, etc.

Task by Task Time Schedule

Count	Tasks	Details
Investigative Phase		
1	First Time site visit	Initial site observations
2	Prepare a proposal for the project	includes design o
3	Second Site Visit	Take measurements
4	School Presentation	Introduction to f
5	Context Analysis	Playspace assess
6	Kickoff Meetings with school and climate committee	prepare question
7	Turn in a complete proposal	more detailed de
8	Prepare a more detailed schedule	Cost estimate is
Note: this is a preparation step for the project.		
Preliminary Design Phase		
1	Prepare surveys for opinions about playground design	either paper or e
2	Conduct surveys at school	Distributed to ch
3	Collect associated data and make site analysis plans and drawings	existing condition
3	Prepare multiple schematic design sketches and drawings	Ann for alternat
4	Informal group meeting with school committee, progress check	To receive public
5	Prepare presentation drawings and estimate preliminary costs of the project	Ex: Plan view, sei
6	Conduct public workshop for reviews and feedback at school	Intermediate p
Note: this phase is important part of the project that involves brainstorming and decision making.		
Final Design Phase		
1	Review design and revise as needed based on various critiques	Critiques from s
2	Identify materials and determine preliminary site details sheets	Identify the con
3	Prepare final design plans	Identify the con
3a	Grading and Drainage Plan	N/A
3b	Layout and Dimension Plan	N/A
3f	Final Detail Drawings	Typical construct
4	Prepare detailed cost estimation and project booklet	includes labor, m
5	Informal review with the school committee and professors	Receive feedback
6	Finalize and refine all design plans and details including project booklet	Print and bind th
7	Final Presentation or Public Review	All will be presen
Note: final part		
Construction Phase		
1	General support and assistance related to the project	To be Continued

Natural Playgrounds

<http://naturalplaygrounds.com/index.php>

Pretend Play

<http://naturalplaygrounds.com/research.php>

Playground Safety

<http://www.nrpa.org/playgroundsafety/>

Playscape Ideas

<http://www.play-scapes.com/>

Design Programs

<http://www.playcore.com/programs/design-programs.aspx>

The Crucial Roles of Recess in School

<http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/131/1/183.full.pdf+html>

SES: Supplemental Educational Services

<http://www.jsbe.state.il.us/ses/default.htm>

History: The Davis Enterprise

<http://www.davisenterprise.com/special-editions/what-is-in-a-name-davis-schools-reflect-rich-history/>

Race and In

<http://www.cj>

Natural Playgr
economy

<http://natural>

The need for s

<http://www.a/chapters/TheLearning.aspx>

Benefits of cor

http://natural/fts%20of%20C Nature_InfoSh

**Climate Committee Meeting
Cesar Chavez Elementary
February 25, 2014**

I. Introductions

Amy Duffy – climate co-chair
Anastasia Panagakos, climate co-chair
Denise Beck, principal
Laurie Stilman
Sylvia Kwon
Raychel Adler
Eric Xu

II. Monthly Reports

- a) **Staff** - No new updates. Currently there is not a staff member on the climate committee.
- b) **Counselor** – No new updates.
- c) **Student Council** – Sra. Beck updated the committee on student council projects including the fundraiser at Round Table Pizza. The money raised from the fundraiser would be used to fund student participation in a leadership conference. She mentioned that some changes would be coming to the structure of student council for the following year.
- d) **Playworks** – No new updates.
- e) **1st grade Playground Parent Volunteer Program** – No new updates from Ashley. Anastasia and Amy will follow up regarding training for next year’s parent volunteers. A new coordinator will need to be appointed as well.

III. On-going Project Updates

- a) **Annual Climate Survey** - The annual climate surveys are almost complete. 344 students from grades 3 through 6 have taken the survey which accounts for all classes in those cohorts. 17 staff and 243 parent surveys were submitted. Sra. Beck asked for the parent survey to be extended to the end of February. She would mail out a letter to the parents to encourage participation. The survey will close officially on March 2. Sylvia Kwon has agreed to analyze the write-in comments for all surveys. Anastasia hopes to have a preliminary report by the next meeting.

Anastasia also noted that several of the signs appeared to be vandalized or pulled down entirely. Specifically, signs that had “pull off” tabs with the survey web URL seemed to be tampered with. She suggested that for next year perhaps funds could

be gotten from SIPAT for permanent banner signs that could go up each year at the school and be sturdier.

b) Buddy Bench – Amy and Laurie discussed the idea of creating a buddy bench at Chavez. The committee decided to contact Sara Caulfield and the student council to see if there would be an interest. The committee felt it was a good idea to approach the student council and let them decide if this was something to pursue so that they could have a sense of ownership.

c) Parent Resource Library – Parent volunteer Lisa Baumeister has contacted the owner of the Avid Reader to see if discounts could be provided to parents purchasing books for the parent library. The owner offered a 20% discount but only for purchases over a specific weekend of our choice (Friday Saturday and Sunday). The committee would need to pick a specific weekend, advertise well and then let Gina who works Fridays and Saturdays know about it. The committee would give the store a copy of our recommended books for parents so they could cross out titles as they were purchased. The committee will need to discuss when to initiate this project.

V. New Discussion Items - None at this time.

VI. Parent Focus Group with Eric Xu

For the second half of the meeting, landscape design student, Eric Xu, lead a focus group with parents to understand the first grade play area and get ideas. Topics covered included safety concerns, drainage, plant choices, how first graders play (creative versus structured games), and what sorts of possibilities exist for the space.

VI. Upcoming Meetings: All meetings are in Room 20 at CCE

March 18, 2014 @ 3:30PM

April 22, 2014 @ 7:00PM

May 27, 2014 @ 3:30PM

**Climate Committee Meeting
Cesar Chavez Elementary
March 18, 2014**

I. Introductions

Anastasia Panagakos, climate co-chair
Denise Beck, principal
Katherine Allgood, school counselor
Eva Dopico, teacher

II. Monthly Reports

a) Staff – Sra. Beck discussed some changes in the behavioral referral system. Teachers have more control over referrals, there is also a change in forms. She noted that there is a high level of stress among the teachers because of the shift to the Common Core. She believes this will be the case for the next couple of years as the new system and curriculum is tested. The 3 to 6 grade teachers in particular will feel stressed. There is training happening, however, at the district level.

Sra. Dopico noted that for the teachers the new report card was also a challenge and that implementation has been a big push.

b) Counselor – Katherine Allgood provided the following update:

- She is averaging about twelve lessons per week
- Currently she has two groups: second and third graders with a mix of boys and girls with the goal of teaching socialization such as staying in control when angry and how to read social queues. For 4-6 graders she is focusing on friendship lessons and what are the positive qualities of friends and conflict identification.
- Although finished with Kelso's Choices she is still discussing emotions such as jealousy, disappointment, or feelings of being left out.
- She is receiving many requests from parents and teachers for one on one sessions with students.
- Sra. Allgood has good communication with the teachers. Sra. Dopico said she sees a difference in behavior. She says a refresher for the students would also be helpful so that they remember and can practice.

c) Student Council – Sra. Beck discussed the recent successful fundraising and the Sacramento training. The student council orchestrated a canned food drive for the 100th day of school. When STEAC came to collect the food they were extremely pleased because the food bank was nearly out. February and March are difficult times for the food bank because it is after the holiday giving season but before the Boy Scouts food drive. Sra. Beck was so encouraged by the results of the student council drive that she is planning on having it become a yearly thing and hopefully spreading the idea to other schools.

d) Playworks – No new updates.

e) 1st grade Playground Parent Volunteer Program – No new updates from Ashley. Anastasia and Amy will follow up regarding training for next year’s parent volunteers. A new coordinator will need to be appointed as well. The Transition to First Grade parent meeting is scheduled for May 1. This is an opportunity to call for volunteers.

III. On-going Project Updates

a) Annual Climate Survey – Anastasia and Sylvia Kwon are continuing the analysis of the climate data. Anastasia provided a brief report on some preliminary findings. For example, in one finding it was noted that this year’s fifth graders saw a decline in their perception of whether there are clear rules at school. This was compared to how this particular cohort answered the same question as third and fourth graders. The committee discussed how this data could be used – for example, presenting it to the students and having them discuss solutions.

b) Buddy Bench – No new updates.

c) Parent Resource Library – Anastasia reported that she and Amy Duffy had discussed shelving the idea of the resource library for the time being because of a lack of volunteer support. At this time neither co-chair is able to take on the project and the request for parent volunteers has gone unheeded.

V. Davis Safe Routes – Sra. Beck was pleased to report on the new cross walk signs and markings on Anderson Road. She is hopeful that the city will continue to move more quickly with improvements, such as re-zoning part of Anderson to be a drop-off zone (instead of all day parking).

IV. New Discussion Items – There were no new items.

VI. Upcoming Meetings: All meetings are in Room 20 at CCE

April 22, 2014 @ 7:00PM

May 27, 2014 @ 3:30PM

The April 22nd meeting was cancelled due to a scheduling conflict.

**Climate Committee Meeting
Cesar Chavez Elementary
May 27, 2014**

I. Introductions

Anastasia Panagakos, climate co-chair
Amy Duffy, climate co-chair
Eva Dopico, teacher
Sylvia Kwon

II. Monthly Reports

- a) **Staff** – No new reports
- b) **Counselor** – No new reports
- c) **Student Council** – No new reports.
- d) **Playworks** – Raychel Adler reported the following statistics via email:

Statistics from Playworks 2013-14

Game of the Week – and #'s

Week 1	Switch	15-26
Week 2	Sharks and Minnows	12-45
Week 3	Wall Ball	20-45
Week 4	Band Aid tag	8-42
Week 5	4 square	8-20
Week 6	Steal the Bacon	
Week 7	Everyone's It	40+++ too many to count
Week 8	Free Choice peers	9-16
Week 9	Mr Fox	25
Week 10	Cone Kickball	12-30
Week 11	Mtns and Valleys	6-20
Week 12	Switch	19-31
Week 13	Hula Hoop Tag	12-28
Week 14	Cooperation Kickball	13-28
Week 15	Medic Ball	40-65
Week 16	Wolves and Bunnies	11
Week 17	SPUD	4-12
Week 18	Capture the flag	50-71!!!!
Week 19	4 square	8-20
Week 20	Free Choice	2-25
Week 21	One Fist Two Fish	23-34
Week 22	Giants Wizards and Elves	
Week 23	Toilet Tag	20-60+
Week 24	Duck Duck Goose	22-46
Week 25	Everyon'es It	50-67
Week 26	Ga Ga Ball	30-42

Week 27	Splat	24-44
Week 28	magic tag	25-66
Week 29	Frozen splat	7-40
Week 30	Hula Hoops/chalk	15-26
Week 31	Duck Duck Splash	20-50

Favorite Games of Peers (in order)

Everyone's It
 Duck Duck Goose (and Duck Duck Ultimate and Duck Duck Splash)
 Splat
 Capture the Flag
 Sharks and Minnows
 4 – square Olympic rules
 Kickball (all versions)
 Ball Wall
 Hula Hoops
 Dance Party
 Mountains and Valleys
 What Time is it Mister Fox
 Dodge Ball

Quotes from Peers applications:

What was one success you had this year:

“Well I think the biggest success for me was getting to know kids from lower grade levels. For example, when I walk the aisles of CCE and I see the children, they all know my name and say hello and it makes me feel good.”

“One success I had as a peer this past year is that I have gotten more comfortable with the games so that I can explain them in more simple ways so that younger kids can understand the rules better.”

“I never missed a day of Playworks. Yeah! I'm so proud of myself!!!”

What was a challenge you faces this year and how did you resolve it:

Problem: Telling a peer that was younger but bigger how to do a butterfly tag (instead of the slaps they were doing)

How was it resolved: “To solve this issue I asked the kid to get out of the boundaries for a few minutes and I talked to the fist about how well they were playing in other ways then told them about butterfly taps. After the kid was good about it and I didn't have to say anything else.”

Problem: Gettting everybody's attention.

How it was resolved: “Everyone in my Playworks group thought of an idea where one of us would ask the little kids what was their favorite food, dessert, candy, etc. They we would use the response in a cheer like “When I say milk you say cookies, milk, cookies.” And it seemed to really help.

Problem: Remembering how to play games.

Resolved by: I had the email and on Thursday I re-read it and I could remember the game.

What is something new you learned about yourself by being a PW Peer:

I learned you don't always have to do it yourself, work together, count on your friends.

What do you hope to get out of doing PW another time:

“Helping kids understand their perspective on Playworks. Helping kids make good decisions. Encouraging kids to be leader when they are old enough.”

e) 1st grade Playground Parent Volunteer Program – Lisa Severino has volunteered to be the program coordinator for the next school year. She attended the Transition to First Grade parent meeting on May 1 and signed up 26 interested parents. She will follow up with Sra. Beck to have a training early on in the school year.

III. On-going Project Updates

a) Annual Climate Survey – The climate survey reports are completed and will be available on the website shortly.

b) Playground Redesign - Eric Xu will be giving his final presentation on June 12 at 2:00 p.m. at UC Davis in 114 Hunt Hall. Eric will also create a PowerPoint presentation for our website.

V. 2014-2015 Academic Year

a) Climate Leadership: Sylvia Kwon will be replacing Amy Duffy as co-chair. Anastasia will remain on for another year but is hoping to find a replacement for the 2015-2016 school year.

b) Meeting Structure: The new co-chairs are considering changing the meeting structure to three evening meetings (fall, winter, spring) for parents that would highlight the committee's work but also provide practical tips for improving school social climate. Guest speakers such as the principal, counselor, and district climate personnel would be invited. The co-chairs would meet separately with Sra. Beck for executive meetings.

c) District Matters: The committee noted their frustration with the school district regarding changes to climate committees and their roles. So far it has not been made clear what the changes will be or when. The district is also considering a task force to study the possibility of a district wide survey instrument to gauge climate. The committee will continue with its surveys until the district gives further instruction or recommendation.

VI. New Discussion Items

Sylvia Kwon has agreed to look into the club situation at other elementary schools to see how they make it work. It has been noted that Chavez lacks a robust after school offering of clubs (which other schools have). She will report back in the fall.

Thank you to everyone who has supported the climate committee this year! Have a wonderful summer and see you in the fall!