



The Parent Association of the East Village Community School

ECVS Parents Association 3-18-09

Action from Feb. PA meeting

- Attendance - talked a lot about attendance and what it means for our children and school - late or absent. There have been a number of discussions. Even children at the pre-k start the day a few steps behind if they miss morning meeting. Please encourage everyone to get to school on time.
- We have also noticed that when we have half days there is a dramatic drop in attendance. We have a strong commitment to professional development, so we don't necessarily want to give up that ½ day a month for teachers. Robin will get something out to parents about the importance of bringing children on the ½ days.
- Recess and Physical activity. The Parents association and School administration are actively working on ways to increase the amount of physical activity students have during the course of the day.
- 501c3 – We have a correction and a couple of additional pieces of information to provide and we should have our approval soon.
- “The Trouble with Boys” – The P.A. has a couple of copies available for parents to read.

Class Parent update

- Q. Some parents are concerned that some of the children, especially the younger ones, are not eating lunch. A. Staff are in the lunch room every day and we are - constantly trying to monitor. Your concerns are legitimate, but it is also something that happens every year, especially with the younger students - its part of the early school experience. We have some older students that are also not eating and we are working with them and their parents.
- We still need parent volunteers at lunch, so if you have a free lunch period during the week let us know.
- Q. What about recess before lunch- would that maybe help appetites? With three schools in the building we have a staggered lunch/recess structure already. We tried having the older students eat first for a couple of weeks, but having them come out during the younger students recess time was not productive, so we had to switch it back.
- The teacher in our class made the decision to skip morning snack because it was too close to lunch.
- Our kids say they don't have enough time.
- The reality of the lunch period is that it is 25 minutes – there is a lot of social interaction and it takes students a while to learn the balance of eating and socializing.
- The billing for the lunch is very confusing. Individuals should speak with Gloria if they have a concern about their lunch bill. We are hoping that we can get the swiping cards next year and eliminate the billing.
- There is a petition for universal free lunch for everyone – The millions that the DOE spends on collecting is far more than what it would cost to have universal free lunch.

Gala -

Joes Pub - May 2nd – We need parents to help send out letters to local stores soliciting funds. A letter and form will be available. Please help with a big push to raise funds. Ticket sales for ECVS community are \$25. - All schools are in serious jeopardy - cuts are going to be severe. We want to make sure we can keep theater, music, and arts programs. We are also in need of volunteers for the day of the event. The Gala committee meets every Friday morning.



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Music and Arts Committee CD-

Check out Alphonso's letter in the upcoming newsletter - We are going to propose having a club so the kids can practice and learn the different songs - A realistic goal at this point is to do the cd over summer and have it ready for the beginning of next school year.

Food Committee –

The food committee worked very hard this year to get rid of styro-foam lunch trays and replace them with Bio-Degradable lunch trays. Money is being raised through popcorn sales and a thrift store. The new bio-degradable trays are here and are being used. We are the Pilot school. A Press Release is in the works. If you have any press contacts help us out. If anyone is still interested in working the lunchroom shift let us know. Helen is really to be commended - she is a tireless campaigner.

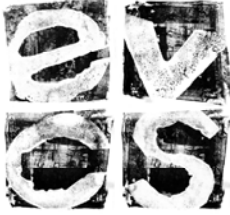
Helen is still collecting for Kleen Kanteens – She has almost broken even - she took on her own and used her own money and has distributed a Kleen Kanteen to every child.

Principal Update

- Physical Activity - trying to extend morning recess - have to get enough supervision in the yard - so don't come early yet. Announcement will go out next week - 8:00 am recess time. We can't do this alone - please help to supervise.
- Schools attuned - have hand outs - program Roberta - set number of students - struggling learners - focused on attention - mind trips - pay better attention in class - teachers have been trained - instructing students to learn about their own learning patterns – for more info see www.allkindsofminds.org
- Teaching Vancancy in K class. The application process for hiring this position will begin in May and June. - open that position - Opening in May June - people will apply.
- we have applied for another CTT class – we are in discussions with the DOE about what type of special education class is best for our school. There were many questions about class configuration at this point. Class configurations are discussed in June and we should have an idea of what the class breakdown looks like before the end of the school year- how many K's , 1's 2's etc – but we will not know teacher class assignments until August. Then families will receive a letter from their teacher.

Parent Coordinator Update

- The student government is up and running – The penny harvest, a project developed by common cents will be a major focus. Once the students have turned in their pennys they are given \$1000 to give out as community grants. The students investigate issues in their community, identify NGO's and make grants. They will also be working on a service program and spirit week. Parents can make suggestions on NGO's
- How do the kids get involved with the student government? The student government is open to 3rd through 5th graders. Representatives are elected. In the past we have tried having all grades represented, but it was a bit much for the younger students.
- March 26th - Memorial for Juliet Harper - dedicating a flowering tree – Mary will send out a notice with the exact time.



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- The multi-cultural share is coming up soon, it is our biggest family party of the year – Bring a dish from your family cookbook and stay to watch a variety of short performances from some of our talented families.

PA office update

Finance – We have approximately \$11,000 in the bank. We usually raise 5 to 7 for gala.

Sound System - we are looking into purchasing a portable sound system.

Community Support – The Parents Association is sending a small token of support to some parents and staff that are having a really hard time cards are here to sign, please take a moment to add your name.

SLT - Monique - Joy - Quinn

Social inquiry teams are developing in various areas, social studies, gender, attendance.

Nominating Committee – We need people to be on a nominating committee for next year's Executive Committee. To be on the nominating committee you can not be a nominee for the Executive Committee.