



The Parent Association of the East Village Community School

Parents Association Meeting 2-25-09

Welcome

- Monique Welcomed everyone and we went around the room and introduced ourselves.

Teachers update -

- Clubs start in one month probably the 1st Friday in April. Spread the word - if parents are interested in joining teachers for clubs they can team up with teachers. If you have a schedule that permits we would love parents to be involved. We are open for some new ideas - music, crafts, athletics - games - non-academic - it's chance to be creative.

- Gender study - "The Trouble with Boys" - We are working on taking what we are learning and turning it into actionable items. The author, Peg Tyree, is going to be here Friday the 6th of March at 9:00 am to present her findings. It is important to realize that some of the learnings can be applied to girls as well - some girls have the same needs. Based on what we are learning we are examining the way we interact with our students -re-calibrate our expectations to behaviors and learning style. We are rethinking recess. Time for physical activity and free play is incredibly valuable for kids. Currently, for us, in the best of circumstances there is roughly 20 minutes of actual free time at recess. We are considering ways we can get kids more and better recess time. We have stopped the practice of taking away recess as a consequence for something in classroom. We found that time outs were 75% boys and they were the kids that needed the physical release the most. One possibility is opening the school yard earlier and we are looking for ways we can bring in more formal physical education programming. We are also trying to figure out a way to have physical activity on bad weather days. We have lowered the temperature guidelines - if the weather is otherwise good, we will plan to have kids outside even if the temperature is lower than 32 degrees. We have talked to the custodian to see if there was an option for an awning for use during rainy days.

- The Parents Association had made increase physical activity a priority, but the reality of finding a certified teacher to come in for one day a week has proven to be difficult.

- Teachers do have scheduled gym time once a week, and they have received some training.

- Ultimately, time is an issue and space is an issue.

- Is there a way we can set up a sub group of parents and teacher to explore ways to increase regularly scheduled physical activity. Trish and Bradley will work together to form a sub committee meeting.

- Another book that may be of interest is "The Leader in Me - 7 Habits of Highly Effective People"

- The National Dance Institute has a wonderful program. Their program has been highly effective in getting boys and girls to move, based on beat. There maybe a collaborative possibility there.

- we do have a gym - every teacher has one period a week - if we could be creative 1 or 1/2 days - supervised by certified teacher - trained profession to lead activities.

- What do you teachers do in the gym during their designated time? Parachute games - tag games - music and movement - it's a small gym so it is a limitation - Some teachers also try to take their class to the park.

Attendance and Lateness

- In comparison to district 2, District 1 has an attendance record 3 times more chronic. We are looking at ways to boost attendance. We do have a small segment that consistently have a

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problem and we are working with them. Attendance is a factor in our school score. It's not so much sickness as it is absences due to family vacations.

- It is also about a culture of lateness. We really need to emphasizing how important it is across all the grades, and parents need to be aware that it will effect middle school admittance.
- We have students coming from much farther away... we have discovered it's not the parents that are coming from far away that are having the issues.
- We should also stress the positive aspect of being on time - forming the group - community - morning meeting - setting the tone for the day.
- Its a good habit to start now - go for the basics - it is important to communicate with your kids that time is precious.
- Teacher have started having quick conversations with Parents about what their child is missing when they are late and how it effects the rest of their day.
- Parents should also speak to other parents as well.

Gala Update

- May 2nd is the date and we are close to securing Joe's Pub as the venue. We are looking for volunteers - silent auctions - ads - ticket sales - and day of volunteers to help run things. We will use last years program format rather than starting from scratch, and we are looking for cheap or free printers. The line up so far is Melvin, Alfonso, Sun Ra's Arkestra, Susan and Kid Lucky, and Myra - all people we've had before - bands who play for nothing. Ned offered services as MC.

CD Project - we have not had very many contributions. We are thinking that submitting a recorded sample may be a barrier. Martha and Alfonso will be making their digital recorder available for submissions.

Principal's Update

- The music share has been rescheduled- March 18th at 9:00 am.
- There was a concern that some students were not eating lunch - it is being dealt with.
- Admissions for K are being done centrally this year. The deadline is March 2nd.
- The P.A. has sent out a boilerplate letter and addresses to protest the centralized admissions process which will put some pre-k families in jeopardy of not getting a K spot.

Food committee report

- The food committee has secured compostable trays for the lunchroom. We are the pilot school for this program. We are spreading word to district 2. Popcorn Fridays are a big success and the proceeds are helping to pay for the trays.
- We are working on introducing a 30 second food bite into morning meeting. This is a program developed by New York Coalition for Healthy School Kids.
- Please bring in gently used books and toys for the lobby thrift store. Money raised here is also going to support food committee work.
- We are planning a composting and recycling demonstration at the next town hall meeting as a way to help student to be conscious of how to properly dispose of lunch waste. Alexis class will be helping with the presentation and we are working on having a representative from the department of sanitation.
- We are having a Chef visit our cafeteria workers in an effort to improve food quality.
- Kleen Kanteens - We are giving out Kleen Kanteens to all EVCS students at the March 11th town meeting in an effort to discourage the use of plastic bottles. .



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- Movie night on healthy food was a big success. Eight other schools from other districts were in attendance. Parents were impressed with presenters from the food service contractors. They what would help them would be a campaign to have universal free lunches. The school lunch program is already 80% free and it costs them twice as much to collect on the 20% than it costs run the entire program.

Meeting adjourned.