



The Parent Association of the East Village Community School

EVCS Parents Association Meeting Notes from November 19, 2008

Welcome and Introductions

Food Committee Report

- The committee stills needs volunteers to help in the lunchroom
- The committee is exploring a number of pilot programs ranging from improving nutrition to eliminating Styrofoam trays.
- The committee is planning a film night for all three schools on improving school nutrition. A date will be set soon.
- The committee is exploring applying for CookShop, an in classroom cooking program for Pre-K to 2nd grade students designed to introduce young children to new and healthy foods.

Parent Teacher Conferences

- Conferences begin today. If you cannot make it during the available times, please arrange an alternative time with your teacher.

Lice Protocol

- If you find lice in your child's hair, let us know.
- A child with live lice can not come to school
- A child with nits can come to school according to the Board of Ed
- Parents need to follow lice removal protocol at home.
- If you are not sure what to do you can contact Mary Talbot
- Parents are encouraged to share lice removal and prevention strategies with each other.

Math Workshop Recap

- Recently the school held a weekend workshop for parents on how math is taught at EVCS.
- The focus was on the brain functions involved in learning math.
- If you were not able to make the workshop and wish to have some of the handouts please contact Bradley.

P.A. Executive Committee update

- The website is being updated and the new site will be up by the end of January
- The Exec. voted to help fund the Theater Arts Program
- The Music and Arts committee has met a few times. They are planning a CD. There will be more details given to Parents about the content in the coming weeks.
- School attendance was the topic at the previous Parents and Teachers meeting. We encourage parents to support each other in getting our children to school on time. Car/transit pool, commute relief for sick parents. If you are facing a particular issue, check in with other parents in your class to see if there is some assistance available.

Principal's Update

- A first round of budget cuts has been implemented. At the moment the school should be able to meet all anticipated expenses. We are anticipating another cut mid year. The big cut will come for FY09/10 school year.
- A hiring committee for the Assistant Principal is being formed. We hope to have the hiring process complete by the end of December.



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- The school leadership team still needs additional parents. If you would like to be a part of this team let us know.

Motion: To elect Quinn Batson to the School Leadership Team

Seconded

Unanimous Approval

Parent Coordinator Report

- There will be a Holiday Craft sale to help raise money for adopt a classroom. Please talk to Mary if you have an idea of something to make/donate for the sale.
- December 19 will be the Festival of Lights Celebration
- We are looking for a couple of parents that can have English Conversation with Suhair the mother of the newly immigrated Iraqi family. If you are interested please let Mary know.
- The Pie sale is next week. Please donate or buy a pie (or both). All pies are \$15
- Harvest Festival is also next week. Please bring in cans for the food drive and participate in the walk to the soup kitchen if you can.

Thoughts, Ideas, and General Discussion

- Do we need to do another appeal to parents to support the P.A.? Yes – one is planned for after the new year. The letter will highlight what projects the P.A. has supported so far and what our challenges will be for the next year considering upcoming budget cuts.
- Can dues be larger than \$200? This is the first year that we raised the dues. We raised them from \$25 to \$200. The plan is to try and see how this works for folks before raising it. Parents can certainly give more if they are able.
- Some parents are confused about where to dedicate their limited resources, P.A., adopt a classroom, class projects, etc. The letter in January can help clarify that.
- Some parents have noticed that Children's workshop has bake sales on a regular basis – can we do something like that? Yes we can, but it will require additional folks to coordinate those efforts. At the moment there are a core group of about 6 or 7 parents that coordinate a lot of the activities that we currently undertake and folks are a bit maxed out.
- There is a grant writing committee that is exploring larger grant options for programs. Our 501c3 application will be filed shortly so we can apply for grants. We have also signed up for membership at the Foundation Center.

Meeting Adjourned