

## **10/7/14 Meeting of the Claremont Immersion School PTA**

Meeting called to order at 7:08 pm by Julie Kluge, President.

### **Susie Wallin, VP Education & Green Initiatives**

- Introduced Begoña Camacho, Claremont's new Spanish Teaching Assistant from Spain. Begona will spend the year at Claremont, staying with two Claremont host families.
- The Fall Garden Day was a success with numerous families volunteering.
- Green Kids is meeting weekly with Eleanor Hodges leading the group.
- Reflections Entries are due 10/17/14. Contact Veronika Folz for information.
- Jr. Great Books program is still looking for volunteers. Contact Christine Walyus.
- Odyssey of the Mind teams will be forming and parent volunteers are needed. Contact Susie or Christine Walyus.

### **Alex Guiterman, VP Communications**

- The PTA is looking for an representative to the ACI. More information is on the APS website. Contact Alex for information or if you are interested in the position.

### **Lilly Mancilla, VP Membership**

- It is not too late to join the PTA. You can join via the PTA website or pay by cash/check at school.

### **Courtney Holmes, VP Social**

- Parent-Teacher Social at Hard Times is Thursday, October 13, 2014 from 6:30 - 9:00 pm. Free babysitting at Claremont
- Fall Fest is Saturday, October 18, 2014 from 1:00 - 4:00 pm at Claremont. Volunteers are needed. Contact Courtney.
- Marine Corp Marathon Fun Run has 252 kids registered from Claremont - 62 more than last year. It is 10/25.

### **Melissa Schwaber, VP Fundraising**

- 270 tickets were sold to the DC United game on 9/27, earning more than \$1,000 for the PTA.
- School Photo Day was yesterday, 10/6. If you did not return an order form, you may order online once the pictures arrive or have your child retake the photo on 11/7.
- Return all Innisbrook order forms to school by this Friday, 10/10.

### **Stacy Kreppel**

- The PTA has an updated Facebook page that she will moderate. It is "Claremont Immersion PTA" and you must make a request to join. Feel free to post to it.

### **Sandy Small, Michelle Applebaum, Debra Gaeta & Don Clinger**

- They represent Claremont's counseling program (Don Clinger is the school psychologist).

- Counselors present lessons in each of the classrooms and also work with small groups and individuals.
- Focus of their work is to help make healthy students who can focus on learning in class.
- Counseling is based on the needs of the student/s.
- Counseling referrals come from teachers, staff, students and parents.

### **Maggie Seymour**

- Works at Claremont every morning as the school's nurse. Claremont also has a clinic aide who is full-time at Claremont.
- Flu season is almost here - clinic has seen some fevers and vomiting already. Focus on hand-washing throughout the school. If a student is sent home due to illness, they must be symptom free for 24 hours (without medication) before returning to school. County Health Department is offering flue vaccines on Tuesday nights.
- Lice is not a significant issue at school right now. Kids are not sent home from school or singled-out if they have it. If two students in the same class within four weeks get lice, the clinic will send a letter home to the families of all students in the class, advising them of the lice.
- The clinic holds medication for students. All medications must be accompanied by doctor's orders. The medication will go with the teacher on any field trips. The clinic does not carry over the counter medications to give to students.
- There are many food allergies at school. All food that comes to the school for parties and birthdays should be labeled with ingredients. Teachers have lists of all students with allergies. When bringing food for a birthday celebration, check in with the school office to see if anyone in your child's class has a food allergy. Students with food allergies may store a "safe" treat in the cafeteria - they can have this treat if they can't eat a food treat brought for a birthday. If you are at school for an event and see a child who may be having an allergic reaction, contact the clinic immediately.

### **Michael Swisher**

- Asset Liaison for the Arlington Partnership for Children, Youth & Families (and a Claremont parent).
- Detailed his work doing parent/community outreach, focusing on the 40 Developmental Assets and how to build these assets.
- For more information -- [www.apcyf.org](http://www.apcyf.org) and [mswish@arlingtonva.us](mailto:mswish@arlingtonva.us)

### **Bill Gillen**

- Member of a Claremont parent group focusing on the CIP/capacity issues facing the county schools.
- There is a school bond on the 11/4/14 Virginia ballot that requests \$105.78 million to fund needed school improvement projects and the PTA has been asked to endorse the bond.
  - A resolution to endorse the bond is presented to the membership by Bill Gillen.

- Motion to endorse the resolution made by Emily Schwartz Greco. Motion seconded by Julie Kluge. Voice vote reveals 1 abstention and no votes in opposition.
  - Motion to endorse the Resolution passes.
- Reviewed the "More Seats, More Students" campaign by APS. There was a spike in enrollment county-wide this year. In order to provide more seats for elementary students, the School Board is considering building a new school on county owned land at the Thomas Jefferson Middle School site or buiding additions at Barcroft & Randopls schools.
- There are many opportunities for community input and information - 10/18 from 9:00 am to noon at Thomas Jefferson Middle School, 10/20 at 7:00 pm at Gunston and 10/22 at 7:30 pm at the School Board meeting.
- The County Board will decide on 1/31/15 if they will give APS the land at the TJ site. If they do, on 4/30/15, the School Board will decide if the new school will be a choice or neighborhood school.
- There is a concern if the immersion program would move out of Claremont and about possible school boundary changes. There is not a lot of information on this from the "More Seats" officials.

#### **Jessica Panfil, Principal**

- Recognizes and thanks the staff in attendance: Allison Cates, Stephanie Englehardt, Joe Anderson, Jen Denino
- The staff and students are having a great start to the school year.
- Parent-teacher conferences are 10/9 & 10/10.
- 10/8 is Walk & Bike to School Day and all are encouraged to walk/bike to school or the bus stop.
- Parent workshops/information sessions continue next week - Tuesday evening & Friday morning. The subject is Spanish & English Language Arts.
- The Halloween parade is 10/31 at 8:45 am on the playground. The classes will parade around the outside of the school, being led by the Wakefield band. Class parties will follow from 9:30 am - 10:30 am.
- The 2014-15 Parent Guide is on the school website.
- 3rd grade students will participate in a digital learning initiative. Every 3rd grade student will be given an ipad to use. More information can be found on the 3rd grade page on the school website.

#### **Julie Kluge, President**

- Thanks everyone for attending and thanks all guest speakers.
- Meeting is adjourned at 8:45 pm.