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**Middle School Parent Committee -- Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday, November 4, 2015

Dr. David Sciarretta – Executive Director of AEACS, dsciarretta@aeacs.org

Barb Robinson – Principal of MS, brobinson@aeacs.org

Maritza Escalona – MS Parent Representative, Friends of AEA, maritzini@yahoo.com.mx

 Catherine McCullough – MS Parent Communications, aeacmsparents@gmail.com

1. Executive Director - Dr. David Sciarretta
2. **School Site Council** ballots will be out soon for pending new Site Council members.
3. Safe Passage program is continuing (now in it’s 7th year) at a rapid success w/elementary students really embracing the program that supports two children from Guatemala City, **Cindy & Pablo**.
4. AEA Schools are starting a relationship with **Responsibility.org**, a non-profit that serves schools in Tijuana. See Libby Dominguez or David Sciarretta for more details.
5. **Elementary Site Modernization** meetings are still continuing as the funding window through the school district is open through recent a bond measure. Several exciting plans for great change to take place on the ES site.
6. **Important Calendar Dates (both schools):**

11/5 3pm German Cultural Club (**GCC**) meeting @ES

11/5 6pm Friends of AEA (**FOAEA**) Board meeting @ES

11/7 4pm **Lantern Festival** @ES

11/10 4:30p **Board of Trustees** meeting @MS

11/11 VETERANS’ DAY HOLIDAY – **NO SCHOOL**

11/16-20 PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES - **MIN DAY SCHEDULE**

11/23-27 THANKSGIVING BREAK – **NO SCHOOL**

1. MS Principal - Barb Robinson
2. **High School Night** took place last night and was a success w/many area high schools represented. Also present was the SDUSD Enrollment Options representative. This gave much insight in the process parents will need to do to apply for schools outside of their neighborhood school, other than SDHS-IS.
3. **List of Upcoming Events @MS**:
	* 1. 11/12 5:30-7pm – **Math Night Parent University** in MPR. Math team has sent a survey to parents to learn what info may be helpful. They will dive into the Common Core and explain how that’s changed the math program.
		2. 11/12 – **Progress Reports** will be distro to all MS students next week, both paper copy and on ManageBac, prior to conference week. There will be a Free Dress Day for those students who bring home the paper Progress Report and bring it back signed by a parent signifying it was read and discussed. Teachers will indicate on report or reach out to parents whom they feel need to have a conference. Those parents not contacted but want to have a teacher conference just need to reach out to the teacher to schedule.
4. **Update by Grade:**
	1. **6th Grade:**
		1. Butter Braid fundraiser was a success in raising $5K
		2. Lunch Leagues have started
		3. All 6th grade has finished their 1st novel together, “Wonder”
		4. 6th grade is giving monthly IB Learner Profile awards
	2. **7th Grade:**
		1. Homeroom is being used to build a 7th grade community
		2. Students have established a “Gratitude Wall” on the third floor
	3. **8th Grade:**
		1. Camp Beach Experience was a great success last week
		2. Community Projects have started. Parents, please support this is a process that will take students through the end of the year.
		3. Homeroom is focused on getting ready for HS, researching colleges, understanding the A-G requirement of classes, planning budgets, current events, and developing their career path.
	4. **Other School Highlights:**
		1. “He Named Me Malala” field trip was a success.
		2. New counselor, Monica Solorio, has created an open forum for student-initiated talks in “The Loft”.
		3. Recent **Halloween Dance** was a success with about 300 students (most thus far for a dance at the new campus) in the MPR and lower level.
		4. There have been several opportunities for **Community & Service** hours – I Love a Clean San Diego beach clean-up, German Film Festival, Lantern Festival this Saturday (see Amy Lanners, amylanners@yahoo.com to sign up!). Be sure to look for additional opportunities in or outside of school events. Students need 30 hours by end of 8th grade to graduate with a C&S IB Diploma.**Language Classes** have continued to have cultural programs and events. Currently, the Spanish department is in celebration of Dia De Los Muertos, for example.
5. **Spanish program** exams will be investigated by Barb and Spanish Dept. They will need to find testing specific to those students with only 2-3 years instruction.
6. **Tutoring** after school has begun a sign in/out process to maintain accountability.
7. Please check ManageBac for **student grades** – Jupiter is used only by the Math and History departments to focus on HW completion.
8. Parents commended Barb Robinson for her handling of the recent incident w/students **smoking marijuana** in the park. Barb indicated all kids involved have been required to attend a three-session Saturday course on drugs and alcohol.

3. MS Parent Committee – Maritza Escalona and Catherine McCullough

* 1. **Lantern Festival** THIS Saturday @4pm at the ES Campus. MS students are competing in a coat and blanket drive in the spirit of Saint Martin. Bin is available for items near the lobby on campus. Student volunteers are still needed for the evening of the event to run the table. Please see Amy Lanners, amylanners@yahoo.com if your child wants to receive C&S hours or have them sign up through ManageBac discussion group. Also, pumpkin donations are desperately needed for décor at the event. Please see Angela Santini at lantern2015@foaea.org if you have pumpkins to donate.
	2. **Parent Communications** through aeacmsparents@gmail.com email has been a challenge recently as Gmail has flagged our messaging as “spam” and large numbers of emails to parents are being bounced back rejected to the Parent Committee. Because of this we are considering to migrate our email list to a new Google Group format. Parents will receive an invitation to join the “AEACMS Parents” Google Group from Google. It will be important parents join this group to receive future communications from the MS Parent Committee. Please see Catherine McCullough at aeacmsparents@gmail.com with any questions. Please spread the word. Messaging will go out through all channels to get the word out – ManageBac, Friday Message, and Facebook group (Einstein MS Parents - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/469291073110532/> - feel free to send a request to join!).
	3. **Parent Committee Fund Collection** has had a moderate response, likely in part to email communication issues and spotty distribution to students in Weds class. This message will be re-sent, and also through ManageBac, with an incentive for Free Dress Day for students who turn in an envelope (with or w/o donation) to the front office. Free Dress Day date TBD by Barb Robinson. \*For those who already turned in a donation w/o a name or paid by cash, they can see Ms. Rivera to claim donation envelope for signature.
	4. **Teacher Birthday Gifts & Cards** were distributed this week to teachers w/birthdays Sept-Dec. They received a birthday card w/$10 gift card to Food For Thoughts Café (FFT Café extended a 10% discount!). Still looking for a parent (or two) volunteer to take on getting the cards/gifts together for the teachers January until rest of year. Please contact Maritza, maritzini@yahoo.com.mx or Catherine McCullough, aeacmsparents@gmail.com if interested/able.
	5. A **teacher holiday lunch** is planned before Winter Break. Committee agreed a Mexican-themed lunch w/parent food donations, and German dessert donations will be a nice menu for a (proposed) Weds 12/16 luncheon. Date to be confirmed w/Barb Robinson. Maritza will look at gift items for teacher and staff (50+). Manuela Seidl also offered to look for German-inspired treats at discount stores such as BigLots. Be looking for a SignUpGenius link to sign up for food donations or set-up/clean up help.
	6. **MS Parent Committee Meetings** are typically held just prior to the Pastries w/the Principals meetings monthly (8am start). All MS Parents are encouraged to come! Items discussed include plans to support AEA teachers w/birthdays, events, Holiday Lunch, Staff/Teacher Appreciation Week, and year-end activities such as 8th Grade Graduation and teacher gifts. We need help! Next meeting will be held at the Elementary School campus – plan to drop your MS students off a little early and head over to our Parent Committee meeting at 8am, before PWP meeting starts at 8:30. Thank you!

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