



APT Meeting September 17th 9:15am – 10:30am

Participants: Kate Rother, Tish Houston, Laura Schlemm, Beth Laufenberg, Kelly Huegunard, Kate Rappel, Yvonne Bruce, Eileen Swartout, Allison Cekay, Joanne Mawson, Cherie Singh, Keri Falls, Paige Robbins, Ellie White, Lana Raines, Becky Nagel, Rachel Baker, Sarah Lockhart, Ellen Trager, RaeAnne Alvarez, Maria Malloy, Liz Scully, Brooke Kuehnle, Michelle Curry, Laurie Whistler, Suzanne Sands, Consuelo Wilkinson, Wendy Darling, Molly O’Neil, Kimberly Carris, Michelle Shinn, Molly O’Neil, Michelle Curry

Principal’s Report : Dr Michelle Shinn

- Introduction of new teachers: Erin Fahrenbach 3rd; Nikki Konicek 4th; Paige Klawitter LD
- Students completed their Fall NWEA assessment this week. This data helps teachers and administrators track students’ growth from last year and allocate resources.
- In K and 1st grade they are trying a new schedule this year whereby each class within each of these grades is split in ½ to attend IRC and Art. This helps both teachers and students get to know each other better given a much smaller class size. They also do this for science and music.
- Sheridan’s emergency evacuation was put to the test last Friday with the high winds and torrential rain storm exactly at dismissal time. They will continue to practice evacuation best practices. This year teachers will know which week there will be a fire drill, but not the day. These unannounced drills will help all become better prepared.

Guest Speaker: Stephanie Miyamoto and 4th Grade Students – “Dear Confused Mother”

President’s Report: Kate Rother

- Welcome! Kate is started her first of a two year term as Sheridan’s APT President and is excited to be working for our great school. Kate has a 4th grader, Piper; a Kindergartener, Graydon; and a future Sheridan Shark, Thatcher.
- Kate introduced Allison Cekay, APT Executive Board President who discussed APT Theme for the Year of Resilience. We will discuss and celebrate our ability to recover from and adjust to change as we move through 2014-2015.
- Kate strongly recommends a book Superintendent Simeck recently spoke about entitled “Mindset” by Carol Dweck. This is a great read and discusses the benefit of praising using phrases such as “how hard you worked” vs. telling a child they are “smart.”

Gratitude (a.k.a Super Hero Corner!)

- New Family Welcome Team – Meredith Hayes and Kristin Ryan
- Directory Online– Eileen Swartout
- Room Parent Team – Emily Savage and Tish Houston
- Back to School Luncheon – Christine Fredericks
- School Beautification – Brooke Kuehnle’s Husband James

- Food Service – Kate Rappel and Molly O’Neil
- Spiritwear – Shannon Maguire (ORDER DEADLINE Sept 18)
- Kindergarten Team – Emily Savage and Sarah Lockhart
- Beach Bash Team – Kim Moore, Tracy Barrett, and Ellen Trager
- School Supplies Team – Lisa Cervieri and Keri Falls

Updates:

- **New Rain Gear:** Thank you to Anna Sottosanto for suggesting that our wonderful car line teachers and staff might benefit from umbrellas and rain coats as they assist our children daily, despite the weather, to our waiting cars safely. We look forward to seeing this new gear in use on our next rainy day!
- **Survey Results:** Great response rate for the APT survey. 80% of respondents favor Sheridan staff as future APT meeting speakers with District 67 personnel the second choice. The top reason people attend APT meetings was to stay informed. Overall people thought Sheridan is a great school, but a few areas of improvement could be: (i) advance communication of upcoming events (see new list of Important Dates on website); and (ii) keep Sheridan events open to Sheridan alumni as the DPM folks still like to visit. Please always send any and all feedback and ideas to Kate Rother.
- **New Best Practices:** Shannon Maguire suggested using evites for all meetings including future APT to track who is planning to attend. Rachel Baker suggested using Volunteer Spot to invite parents to volunteer for school events as easier for all and reminders automatically go out.
- **Car Magnets:** The other two elementary schools have car magnets. Is Sheridan interested in these? There was support from Sheridan to also have access to Sheridan Shark car magnets.
- **LEAD Red Ribbon Run:** Join us for the 7th Annual Red Ribbon Race on Saturday, October 25, 2014. A great race for the whole family, with a 5K competitive race and a 2K fun run! Course is NEW for 2014 and runs through beautiful East Lake Forest. Race starts and finishes at Gorton Community Center. Food, music & goody bag included included with race registration. Awards for top finishers in each age group. Dogs, strollers & tricycles welcome on the 2K fun run. 100% of proceeds benefit LEAD. Registration opens on Monday, August 18 and closes on Wednesday, October 22 at 9pm CST. All registrations are non-refundable and non-transferrable. You must be registered to participate. T-shirts for participants while supplies last. Learn more and register at <http://www.leadingefforts.org/rrr>.
- **Common Core Discussion:** Michael Simeck, superintendent of Lake Forest School Districts 67 and 115, and Kevin Rubenstein, director of curriculum for Lake Bluff School District 65 will speak about the Common Core on Saturday, September 20, 2014 from 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. at Re-invent Gallery, 202 E. Wisconsin Avenue sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Lake Forest/Lake Bluff (<http://gazebo.com/2014/09/16/lake-forest-and-lake-bluff-administrators-discuss-common-core-in-education>).

District News: Highlights from the APT Executive Board

Superintendent’s Report – Michael Simeck

- Recently, our schools received high rankings in both *Newsweek* and *The Daily Beast*. Last year, our rankings were down in *U.S. News and World Report*. Take these rankings with a grain of salt. The magazines make money off of the rankings because they create a lot of publicity. Plus, their criteria changes from year to year. We are more focused on things we can control.

- There are a lot of good things happening in District 67 right now.
 - DPM has two brand new STEM labs, which will be very engaging for the students. The teachers are really excited about it.
 - Dr. Angela Sopko, the new Everett principal, is doing well. She shares a lot of the same attributes as her predecessor, Dr. Ingrid Wiemer. She is a team builder and a “rock of Gibraltar.”
 - Over the summer, the Cherokee school teachers worked on the new Inspiration Block. They are very enthusiastic!
 - At Sheridan, there has been a decline in enrollment by just one child. Currently there are two sections of half-day kindergarten, and two sections of extended-day. Two new students moved in yesterday, which continues our trend of international student enrollment. The same is true at the high school. Many new students are from different countries!
- The administration is working on its Mission Vision Goals. In May, the Board approved several ambitious milestones. Fifty-five people worked on it over the summer and it was beneficial to have different eyes looking at how these goals will be attained. There are three key words to remember:
 - **Growth.**
 - For every child in the District. If you are a student on the middle of the academic spectrum, you are at the sweet spot for obtaining growth. If you are at the really high or low ends of that spectrum, it is much harder. For instance, we found that the NWEA MAP test created a problem for some students who scored highly in reading. They ended up reading about age-inappropriate subjects (e.g. 3rd graders reading about euthanasia).
 - Adult growth is important, too. There is a great learning culture among parents in our District. One valuable resource is the book Mindset by Carol Dweck. It is so important because the author’s research underlines why praising kids for being smart actually makes them do worse across the board. It reinforces the notion that they have to continue to prove they are smart. Dweck emphasizes that it is better to reinforce hard work. We want our teachers to reinforce this, too. On an assessment, they should ask themselves how well they grew their students’ understanding of a given subject.
 - **Support.** We will be creating different support systems rather than just tacking things on and winding up with a system that is too big. We want to create an effective system that is utilized in classrooms rather than requiring students to be pulled out. We want our support system to result in every student being enriched and stimulated.
 - **Yet.** We are not where we want to be *yet*. We want to make the curriculum really visible and ensure that the students know what the target is. For instance, it is better to give them a test on the first day of class rather than last. That way they will focus on what they missed and be motivated to improve. We need to make clear what we want our students to do.
- We are working on creating one streamlined document outlining our strategic plan for obtaining the Mission Vision Goals. A parent would be able to simply click on a hyperlink to find more information on a topic that interests him. It will be living and visible for everyone to see.

APT Committee Reports:

Communications: Suzanne Sands

- Please send any information that needs to be included in the Sheridan Friday Flyer to Suzanne (for Kate’s approval) by Tuesday of the week it should be included. If you are working on a district-wide

initiative, the APT Executive Board Reps can also submit the information so that it is communicated at the same time in all of the Friday Flyers throughout the district.

- Please contact Suzanne directly for use of the “sandwich board” sign that is in front of the school. This sign is used for both Spirit and APT and there is a process for reserving it that takes time. If it is for a district-wide initiative the APT Executive Board Reps can reserve all of the building sandwich boards through the Exec. Board Communications Coordinator. If you need to have a poster printed, please contact Suzanne as soon as possible for her help. The process of creating and printing a sign should occur at least 2-3 weeks in advance to lessen shipping costs.
- Sheridan’s website and direct emails can also be used to promote events. Suzanne can update the web site with information and/or send emails directly to all parents. Please send copy to Suzanne and she will send once approved by Kate Rother.

Board of Education Liaisons: Brooke Kuehnle, Holly Matson & Suzanne Sands

- Sheridan’s Board of Education Liaisons attend quarterly meetings with Superintendent Michael Simeck and report highlights back to Sheridan via APT meetings and Sheridan’s web site. If you have any question to ask the Superintendent, please contact one of the liaisons or email your questions to sheridanboequestions@gmail.com. The deadline for submitting questions/comments for the first quarterly meeting is October 10th.

Food Service: Kate Rappel and Molly O’Neil

- Kate Rappel is handing the lunch duty sign up utilizing volunteer spot. This is up and running well. Please be respectful of the opportunity to help out at your child’s lunch time as not all schools enjoy this privilege. Also, please respect and follow the guidelines regarding the amount of times a parent is permitted to sign up as this allows all parents a chance to volunteer.
- Molly O’Neil has met with Quest and is impressed with their enthusiasm and willingness to work on whatever needs our school may have. Molly mentioned that they are very open to working directly with any family to facilitate special food needs for any child. Please see Molly or contact Quest directly to discuss. Molly is also working on ideas for Sheridan’s Nutrition Week.

Fine Arts / Visiting Author: Wendy Darling and Tish Houston

- The poet, Bill Buczinsky, will be visiting Sheridan Friday October 3rd. Bill will spend the day teaching the children about the power of poetry to make writing fun. Please visit Bill’s website at www.childs-voice-poetry.com/bill-buczinsky.html to learn more about his philosophy and background. Bill is not taking book orders as his books are out of print. If you would like to “meet” him in advance, you can check out a free episode of his radio podcast at this link: Edna St. Vincent Millay Episode. Additionally, Bill's “Kiss the Fish” CD can be purchased as a download at CD Baby Store. THANK YOU to the Spirit of 67 for the grant that facilitated Bill’s visit.

Yearbook Team: Beth Laufenberg, Debbie Jensen, Tracy Barrett

- They have met and are off to a great start. Thank you, Beth, for sharing some great photos of our children!

Sharkwear Sales: Shannon McGuire

- Deadline September 18th. Get your order in!

Room Parent Coordinators: Tish Houston and Emily Savage

- Room Parents have been assigned and confirmed. The Room Parent meeting was well attended and informative. All the information presented at the meeting was sent out electronically as well as we know our Sheridan parents are busy people and cannot always attend in person.
- Parent Grade Parties and Coffees are in the process of being finalized. These will be added to the APT web site as soon as confirmed to avoid overlap.

Kindergarten Coordinators: Emily Savage and Sarah Lockhart

- There are approximately 42 new kindergarteners (approximately 26 full day and 16 1/2 day).
- The park playdate was extremely well attended and enjoyed by the children.
- These new Sheridan Sharks were also thrilled with their surprise signs/water bottles/t-shirts.

APT Directory and Membership

- Currently 964 families have joined APT as members (out of 1160 in district). Not too late to join! Membership includes a print directory and access to the online directory. You can join by making a \$35 payment to LFapt67@gmail.com via Paypal. Please include the first and last names of your students in the message field or mail a check payable to: District 67 APT c/o Cathy Ramsay at 925 Acorn Trail.
- Access Link, which lets you utilize the online directory, was sent Monday 9/15 to all APT Members. This cannot be used to make changes to family information. A family link was sent on 6/5 and 8/25 to all families as a way to electronically update directory information. 794 families confirmed their information in the MSA system (nearly 75% which is great!) The families that did not confirm will have the same information printed in the 2014-15 directory that was printed in the 2013-14 directory. Print directories will be distributed in October. Please refer families to the Exec APT webpage to check their Membership Status and read FAQs relating to directory & membership.
- If anyone has questions or is having difficulty please email Anna and Eileen at LFapt67@gmail.com

Spirit of 67: Kimberly Carris

- Thank you to all who have joined and there is still time to join for those who have not yet.
- Thank you to Goshgarian Orthodontics for helping fund the water bottle program for those that joined the Spirit early.
- Spirit 67 Fall Luncheon is Oct. 17th at Exmoor Country Club 10:30am – 2:30pm.
- Spirit 67 Home Tour is scheduled for May 7th. Please consider joining the Committee to help organize this important event. Contact Kimberly Carris.
- Check out a video regarding the Visiting Artist Grant at DPM at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YAiZNimiCz4&feature=youtu.be> .
- Check out a video of parts of Grant Day at <http://youtu.be/eeWhFHBnhSA>.

Celebration Book Club: Consuelo Wilkinson and Kristen Chun

- Celebration Book Club is organized by the APT and Sheridan's IRC. Letters are sent home with Sheridan children who are having a birthday or special celebration so that parents have an opportunity to donate a book to Sheridan's library in their child's honor. When the IRC receives the donation, the child picks a new book from the IRC and a book plate with a message from their

parents in inserted on the inside front cover of the book.

- August and September birthday letters were sent home and Sheridan parents have already begun donating books.

Grade Level Parent Parties

Kindergarten - The Nagel Family – Nov. 8th
First Grade - The White Family – Oct. 4th
Second Grade - The Hender Family – Oct. 25th
Third Grade - The Laufenberg Family – Sept. 19th
Fourth Grade - The Scully Family - TBD

Coffees

Kindergarten – The Carris Family - TBD
First Grade (Morehead)– The Strothman Family - Oct 15th
First Grade (Adams) – TBD
Second Grade – The Raines Family - TBD
Third Grade - The Frekko Family - October 9th
Fourth Grade - The Robb Family - September 19th

Next APT Meeting: October 15th 9:15am – 10:30am
www.sheridanapt.weebly.com