



## **APT Meeting Minutes - September 16<sup>th</sup> 9:15am – 10:30**

**Participants:** Dr. Michelle Shinn, Kate Rother, Tish Houston, Laura Schlemm, Eileen Swartout, Becky Nagel, Laurie Whistler, Kimberly Carris, Yvonne, Bruce, Danielle Carter, Sara LaCasse, Bertie Rother, Angela Borneman, Beth Laufenberg, Suzanne Sands, Ellen Trager, Holly Matson, Amie Marks, Heather Strong, Lindsay Nero, Heidi Kirar, Sarah Lockhart, Nancy Meier

**Guest Speakers:** Beck Nagel and Kate Rother – FACETS International Children’s Film Festival at Gorton Community Center

- Gorton recently completed a major renovation prompted by the generous \$2 million donation from the Hughes Family for a state-of-the-art new theater among other enhancements to the building. A new entrance at Gorton leads a visitor into a stunning 309-seat theater with new technology systems including sound, project and lights. Lake Forest now has one of the top three theaters in the Midwest.
- One of the first events to be held at the new theater will be the FACETS International Children’s Film Festival to be held on Sunday Oct. 25<sup>th</sup>. The films have yet to be announced, but will be split by age group including: 7 years and under 1-2pm; 8-11 years old 3-4:40pm; and high school 5-7pm. Gorton is also sponsoring an OutReach program whereby children from North Chicago who might not otherwise have a chance to view these films will be bussed to Gorton for another showing. There are 12 open volunteer spots for high school students to help at this event. They will receive community service hours for this. Please contact Becky Nagel or Kate Rother for more information. Also, check <http://www.gortoncenter.org/programs/all/chicago-international-childrens-film-festival>.

### **APT President Report:** Kate Rother

- Mr. Simeck, District 67 superintendent, began a recent presentation by distributing Petoskey stones along with a cups of water. Mr. Simeck explained that Petoskey stones look very dull and plain when they are dry and show no distinguishing characteristic. However, Petoskey stones remind us that things are not always as they appear. When a Petsokey stone is immersed in water or polished, beautiful designs emerge, revealing fossilized coral that can only be found in a unique area of upper Michigan. In this way, people are the same as Petoskey stones. It often takes a certain person to interact with us to reveal our unseen talents. That’s why education is so important. The best educators are able to see hidden qualities in students.
- The schedule for APT speakers for the year currently includes: November 18 – Barry Rodgers; January 20 – Susan Milsk; February 17 – Mike Simeck; March 9 – entire District 67 APT meeting at CROYA (speaker TBD); April 20 – OPEN; May 18 – Old Board / New Board Luncheon.
- APT meetings will continue to have student presenters similar to 2015. However, the class scheduled to present today had an unexpected conflict. Please look for details prior to the meetings as to what class will be presenting to the APT.

### **Principal’s Report:** Dr. Michelle Shinn

- The school’s summer renovation is complete and being enjoyed by all. As part of the renovation class/grade locations were moved in order to create the opportunity for students across grades to

get to know each other and have more interactions together.

- A new subject this year for grades 3 and 4 is “Empower Hour,” which is held for 1 hour each week for each respective grade. During this hour several specialist teachers including art, music, science, and IT (in addition to the grade level teachers) come together and each work with a small subset of students from the grade. It is a Self Organized Learning Environment (SOLE) whereby the students are guided by a general, open-ended question and then work as a team to explore answers. Many of these answers are posted along the halls of Sheridan. Additionally, Mrs. Gross has hung a large piece of paper along the library wall where students can write potential questions at any time to be explored in the future.
- Sheridan’s former IRC also has a new name, the “Light Bulb Lab”, and has been redesigned to allow for more opportunities for students. This includes a “maker-space” for designing, building, and creating things. Since this space is dedicated for this use, students do not have to take their projects down, but can leave them up to be continued at another time and for other students to add to them. A letter will be going home to parents requesting any supplies that parents might want to donate to help keep this space stocked.
- Students in grades 2-4 will begin taking the NWEA Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) on Tuesday, September 15<sup>th</sup> and Thursday September 17<sup>th</sup>. Students take the MAP reading and math tests in the Fall and Spring every year. They are computerized tests that take approximately 1 hour per subject.
- Sheridan’s sound and video system in the gym is in the process of being updated. This should be completed in the next few months and will be a welcome addition by all.
- The lunch process is still being worked out in terms of schedules and staff getting to know the students for each shift. Parent lunch duty volunteers are expected to be started again by the beginning of October. Please note that the position might look a little different when it is re-launched. Look out for information in the Friday Flyer and from the APT related to the new start date and details.
- Sheridan is launching a house system this year whereby the entire student body will be divided into four mixed-grade level houses. The students in each house will vote on a house name from a list of various sharks (in keeping with the Sheridan Shark theme) and have a house color. This initiative will be announced to the student at the Sharing Assembly to be held on Friday September 18<sup>th</sup>. Teacher and staff mentor will oversee the various houses. The goal is to have students interact across grade levels more purposefully and participate in activities together that support the 4 District 67 character traits of: teamwork, caring, honest/integrity, and respect.
- Sheridan will hold an Exploration Day on Friday Nov. 13<sup>th</sup> from 9am - 10:30am during which members of the community/parents will lead cross-grade level groups of students in interesting and unique topics for a 20 minute session. Students will attend three sessions during this event. More info to come!

### **Committees Reports:**

**LF/LB LED:** Ellen Trager

- LF/LB Learning Differences Association (LDA) is hosting a wine tasting to kick-off their 2015-2016 Grant Season on October 8<sup>th</sup> at Re-invent Gallery, 202 E Wisconsin Ave, LF. LDA raises funds to

support the many grants they have given during the last few years to the District 67 and St. Mary's schools.

- LDA provides support to people with learning difference, their parents, teachers and other professionals. LDA believes that every person with learning differences can be successful at school, at work, in relationships, and in the community - given the right opportunities.

**Fine Arts / Visiting Author:** Tish Houston

- An award-winning local (Vernon Hills) author, Barb Rosenstock, will be visiting Sheridan on Wednesday Oct 21<sup>st</sup> for the day. Barb has written seven, beautifully illustrated historical fiction books ranging from the multiple award-winning The Camping Trip That Changed America, which is about President Theodore Roosevelt and John Muir's interactions that resulted in so many forests being designated as national parks, to Fearless, which is about Louise Smith who was known as "the first lady of (car) racing." Parents may purchase signed copies of Barb's hardbacked books at special event prices. There is a form on both the Sheridan and the APT web site. Please complete the form and return it with a check to Sheridan (child's folder or front office) by Tuesday 9/22. Thank you to the Spirit of 67 for making this visit possible through one of the many 2015-2016 Spirit grants!

**Spirit of 67:** Kimberly Carris

- This year the Spirit of 67 Foundation is hosting 2 new Fall events in place of the October luncheon including:
  - *Kick Up Your Boots for Education*, a Barn Dance Benefit to be held on Saturday, October 17 from 6:30 - 10:30pm at the home of Jeff and Joan Lynch. There is limited capacity, so please get tickets right away if you would like to attend.
  - Since everyone won't be able to make the Barn Dance Benefit, the Spirit also invites the entire community to participate in an online auction, *Raise Your Hand for Education*, from Tuesday, October 13 through 9pm on Friday, October 16. This fabulous auction will feature everything from coveted school items such as Principal for the Day to unique experiences and opportunities to make long lasting and meaningful memories with family and friends. There will also be a few amazing live auction items for the Barn Dance Benefit that will be available for bidding online through October 17 at 9pm. Participating in the auction is a great way support the Spirit of 67 Foundation so that it can continue to have a powerful and lasting impact on every student in every school every day. Information about both events will be provided in invitations going out early next week and on our website.
- The Spirit of 67 Foundation is celebrating 30 years of supporting the District 67 schools this year. The organization was founded as a way to replace traditional school fundraising that involved spending lots of time and energy selling stuff to families and friends for relatively small profits. The foundation has proven to be a very successful endeavor over the decades and anticipates continuing the tradition by engaging even more families as donors and businesses as partners and sponsors. Throughout this anniversary year highlights of the history of the Spirit will be shared. Many of the grants funded by the Spirit over the years are still in use at the District 67 schools today.
- The Spirit is excited to have just over 450 donors on its 2015-16 donor list thus far which represents approximately 40% of District families. If you are wondering if you are on that list you can check on the recently updated Spirit of 67 website: [spiritof67foundation.org](http://spiritof67foundation.org). Please like Spirit on Facebook to stay informed about events, grants and fundraising efforts. Brooke Kuehle and Kimberly Carris are

the APT reps and available for any questions: Brooke Kuehnle – brookekuehnle@icloud.com and Kimberly Carris - kimosc@aol.com.

**Communications:** Suzanne Sands

- Suzanne Sands is Sheridan’s Communication’s Coordinator and can facilitate any communications that APT members need. There are three main ways to communicate with Sheridan parents:
  - *Friday Flyer* – Please submit information to be included in Sheridan’s weekly email newsletter (approved by Kate Rother) to Suzanne by Tuesday of the week the information is to be included. The APT Executive Board Reps typically submit information for events they are working on in order for consistency among the three elementary schools, so check with APT Exec Board reps first if you are working on an event with them.
  - *Sandwich Board* – Please submit a request to use the Spirit and APT sandwich board to Suzanne as far in advance as possible as there is a process to reserve these that she must complete. For district-wide events, the APT Exec Board Reps will likely reserve all three elementary school’s sandwich board, so check with these reps first. Suzanne is available and happy to help create sandwich board posters. The process of creating and printing can take 2-3 weeks as the APT tries to avoid paying rush fees. Please contact Suzanne directly for help with these posters.
  - *Website & email* – Suzanne can upload information to the APT web site to help promote events and also send emails to the entire Sheridan community from the APT email address. Please send Suzanne the information and content and she will facilitate upload to the APT website and/or emails as necessary pending Kate Rother’s approval.

**Directory & Membership:** Eileen Swartout

- The last day for families to update/create an account and to be included in the print directory was Sept.14th. The print directories should be distributed early October. The online Directory was turned on Sept. 14th.

**Parent Awareness:** Eileen Swartout

- On Tuesday, September 29, Lake Forest Country Day School is sponsoring the speaker, Dr. Michael Thompson, author of Raising Cain: Protecting the Emotional Life of Boys. Dr. Thompson will share insights regarding helping the “pressured child” navigate success in school and life.
- This year Red Ribbon Week is October 23-31. The Parent Awareness Committee will work to provide resources to parents regarding how to discuss the meaning of Red Ribbon Week with their child(ren).

**Treasurer Report:** Amie Marks

- The APT budget is posted on the Sheridan APT web site. It is very similar to last year’s with a slight increase in funds for Teacher’s Appreciation Week.
- Reimbursement forms are posted on the Sheridan APT website. Please complete this form and return with receipts to Amie Marks in order to be reimbursed for APT approved and related items.

## **APT / Exec Board APT / Spirit of 67: Suzanne Sands**

- Each of the three elementary schools and DPM have their own APT Boards at the school level. There is an overall APT Executive Board that oversees all of the schools' APTs. Kate Rother, Sheridan's APT President, and the other District 67 school President's sit on this Executive Board. The Executive Board oversees events that are consistent across all District schools, such as: Fine Arts, Visiting Author, Spirit of 67, Directory, Kindergarten Get Together and Welcome, New Family Welcome, and others.
- The Spirit of 67 Foundation is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to raising funds and acquiring resources for the students, parents, faculty and staff of District 67 that might not otherwise be provided.

## **Spiritwear**

- New this year online ordering is available via Kiddles. The majority of orders seem to be coming in online given this new enhancement. All orders due by **September 17**. Please think of Spiritwear as possible graduation gift ideas for 4<sup>th</sup> graders going on to DPM and any potential incoming Kindergarten students. There are many new choices including polydrift sport t-shirts for boys and new options for girls. There are some samples at Kiddles to try on, but limited supply.

## **Celebration Book Club**

- Celebration Book Club is a wonderful way to celebrate the birthdays and special events of the students at Sheridan School. Forms will be sent home to students who have birthdays in the months of August, September and October in the coming weeks. Forms are returned to Mrs. Newtown, the Sheridan Information Literacy Instructor. She assists the students in choosing a special birthday book. A photograph of the student holding the book is taken and is displayed on the bulletin board in Sheridan's main hallway. The students love to see the pictures of themselves and their friends. A commemorative bookplate is inserted inside the book and the book will remain in Sheridan's library for current and future students. Parents are encouraged to participate in teaching their children the love of reading.

## **Kindergarten Coordinators**

- On August 22<sup>nd</sup> Sheridan Shark signs and welcome packages (including welcome letters, t-shirts and Sheridan car magnets) were delivered to all incoming Kindergarten students. Additionally, the APT coordinated and hosted a Kindergarten playdate at West Park on August 31<sup>st</sup>. Families were kindly asked to return the Sheridan Shark signs to the school office no later than September 9<sup>th</sup>. Sheridan Shark signs were also delivered to all new Sheridan students (grades 1-4).

## **APT Community Liaison Report**

- Each month local organizations such as CROYA, Lake Forest Parks & Recreation, Gorton Community Center, LFLBLDA, LF Open Lands and others submit information about upcoming events to the APT Executive Board Vice President. These submissions are posted on the Sheridan APT website on the home page under the heading "APT Community Liaison Report". Please visit the Sheridan APT homepage regularly to stay abreast of these community happenings.

**Next APT Meeting:** Wed. Oct. 14<sup>th</sup> 9:15am

### **Grade Level Parent Parties**

Kindergarten – The Falls Family - TBD  
First Grade – The Frekko Family 11/6  
Second Grade – The Heijbrok - TBD  
Third Grade – The Bruce Family - 10/7  
Fourth Grade - The Burt Family – 9/25

### **Coffees**

Kindergarten – The Garriques Family 9/18  
First Grade – The Raines Family 10/15  
Second Grade (Donoval) – The Mandarich Family 9/17  
Third Grade (Fahrenbach) – The Swift Family 9/24  
Fourth Grade - The Borneman Family 9/24