



## Sheridan Association of Parents and Teachers



### APT Meeting Minutes – January 17, 2017 – Sheridan IRC

**Participants:** Emily Savage, Brooke Rolek, Kimberly Carris, Suzanne Sands, Danielle Carter, Sara LaCasse, Laura Schlemm, Rae Anne Alvarez

**Guest Speaker:** Officer Conrad Christiansen

- Officer Christiansen remarked that smart phones can become a form of addiction much like alcohol or other drugs if not monitored properly
- Officer Christiansen relayed that he speaks with all grade levels 5<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> at DPM on such topics such as password safety, practicing smart digital citizenship, cyber bullying and sexting.
- The officer also recommends the following internet safety tips for parents: place limits on screen time, ensure that charging of devices take place in a common room within the house, take time to check in on children's devices along with be aware of all child passwords.
- Links for parents that Officer Christiansen provided:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qPWvrcQ0KIk&feature=youtu.be>  
<https://youtu.be/hER0Qp6QJNU>

**Principal's Report:** Dr. Michelle Shinn

- Nothing new to report this month

**APT President Report:** Emily Savage

- Emily welcomed everyone to the first Sheridan APT meeting of 2017 and shared several important upcoming dates that were also discussed at the recent APT Exec Meeting.
- February 2<sup>nd</sup> - Executive Function in the Teenage Brain event taking place at West Campus Board Room from 7-9pm. Appropriate for parents of all ages. The presentation will include ways to help children prioritize, self regulate, manage time, improve memory, handle stress and anxiety, engage with media, improve organization and deal with families etc.
- March 1st - "Most Likely to Succeed" book written by Tony Wagner and Ted Dintersmith will be featured on screen in the Raymond Moore Auditorium at LFHS (East Campus) from 7-9pm followed by a Community Discussion of the book. Lake Forest Book Store will be offering 15% discount on the purchase of this book if you mention this event!
- March 8<sup>th</sup> – Annual Meeting located at CROYA. Working on guest speaker and new executive slate will be announced.
- How to Raise an Adult – (book and podcast) – The author will be coming to Lake Forest in the fall and Lake Forest Book Store will be offering a 15% discount for book purchase.
- CSCI Survey – (Comprehensive School Climate Indicators) - This survey will be coming out in

early February. All parents are encouraged to participate. Staff and students take this survey annually but it only goes to parents every other year so it's vital to complete survey upon distribution. There has been a small percentage of parents who have submitted the survey in previous years so all are encouraged to partake.

- April 4<sup>th</sup> – School Board Elections – All are encouraged to vote in this very important election.
- The district works at all costs to NOT have snow days. If the weather is indicating an ADVISORY, school will NOT be cancelled. If the weather is indicating a WARNING, then school is more likely to be cancelled.

## **Gratitude:**

**Staff Cookie Boxes Kristin McCain, Lana Raines, Jess Muller** This "sweet" crew organized and assembled cookie boxes for all of our wonderful teachers and staff. Thank you to ALL of the outstanding parent volunteers who contributed dozens of tasty goodies for inclusion!

**Emotional Wellness & Parent Awareness/Exploration Day Rae Ann Alvarez, Tracy Barrett, Danielle Carter, Jess Muller & Yvonne Bruce** have now joined forces & we are so thankful for their ongoing help and support for events such as the hot chocolate bar for teachers (back by popular demand!) in December, the new Sheridan suggestion box and the upcoming Exploration Day on Feb 16. Rae Anne Alvarez and Danielle Carter have been working hard with Ms P and Mrs Schlemm to make this Exploration Day truly AMAZING and offer up some super special presenters for our Sharks! Think outstanding presenters and sessions such as Tesla, Mark McMahon, finger knitting, dancing, magic - and more!

**Fine Arts/Visiting Author Katie Frekko & Danielle Sullivan** Big thanks to this crew for organizing the phenomenal Barrel of Monkeys workshop for our 3rd and 4th graders and welcoming our Visiting Scientists to Sheridan 1/11 and 1/18. The staff and parents were floored by the outstanding production the Barrel of Monkeys presented using our students' writing & we hope to see this back again next year! The Visiting Scientist programs offer hands-on opportunities for kids to experience some of the marvels of science!

**Yearbook Debbie Jensen, Lindsay Kelly, Danielle Sullivan & Tiffany Alexander** have been photogs-on-the-go taking pics left and right at all of the Sheridan functions and events! They are on-deadline and have submitted the front and back cover and the first 32 pages already so we are well on our way to having the best yearbook yet!

**Food Service Karen Hornberger & Kristen Chun** The food bulletin board is always looking fantastic & you can check out the new one that is focused on Healthy Snacking! Thank you, also, to the parent lunch volunteers for your ongoing support and enthusiasm to come in and help with lunch volunteering!

**Community Service BIG hats off to Kate Rother & Carrie Cole** who rocked out the HUGS food drive big time and helped deliver an UNPRECEDENTED turnout this year to help those in need enjoy a Thanksgiving meal!

**Celebration Book Club Kristin Ryan & Rae Ann Alvarez** keep the celebration book club rocking & rolling and the students are excited to celebrate birthdays with books!

**Secretary Brooke Rolek** is a true gem, keeping track of all of the meeting minutes and organizing the committee reports from the group! Her overwhelming positive attitude is contagious and her huge smile can be seen through all of her communication to the board!

**Communications Suzanne Sands** is a real jack-of-all-trades & keeping our awesome Sheridan web site updated on an ongoing basis & that's only one of the fantastic things she knows how to do so well! We are so lucky to have her on our board as she is such a valuable resource and expert in so many things!

**Treasurer Amie Marks** is always hard at work and is working with Emily to update our budget and make sure we are on track for the second half of the year!

## **APT Committees Reports**

### **Communications Report:** Suzanne Sands

- Nothing new to report this month

### **Treasurer Report:** Amie Marks

- Expenses need to be turned in by the end of January along with by June 30<sup>th</sup>.

### **Holiday Cookie Boxes:** Jesscia Muller, Kristin McCain, Lana Raines

- The committee chairs wanted to thank everyone for their support and contributions. All help made this a very successful year for the Holiday Cookie Boxes. An extra thank you as well to all who came to help assemble the boxes.

### **Parent Awareness/Emotional Wellness:** Jesscia Muller, Yvonne Bruce, Rae Anne Alvarez, Tracy Barrett, Danielle Carter

- Sheridan's second Exploration Day will be held on the morning of Thursday, February 16th, 2017.
- Parent volunteers have all been slotted for the morning of February 16<sup>th</sup>.
- Students will begin choosing their top three Exploration Day choices

## **Food Service:** Kristen Chun, Karen Hornberger

- There is a new bulletin board up in the main Sheridan hallway promoting healthy snacking.
- National Nutrition month will take place in March. The theme will be “put your best fork forward” and there will be some new tastings during that month.
- When volunteering for lunch duty, parents should be standing up/walking around/ engaging with students and staff.
- It was noted that not all parents may have an opportunity to volunteer for lunch as slots fill up quickly. Parents are encouraged not to take too many slots throughout one school year so others may have a turn as well.

## **Community Service/HUGS Food Drive:** Carrie Cole, Kate Rother

- We had an outstanding District 67 team that partnered with Lake County Cares for the HUGS food drive.
- Hats off to all of the School Community Service Reps: Carrie Cole, Cathy Montanari, Michelle Yousuf, Lauren Sundberg, Heather Richmond, Christina Walsh! We were also grateful to work again with Moira Muller, volunteer at Lake County Cares, and their new Executive Director, Pam Gracyalny.
- All of the feedback from Lake County Cares was that it was an unprecedented year. Together we delivered a total of 551 meals and in addition to those we delivered 1175 more pounds of food to eight local pantries. We redistributed \$1130 in gift cards. The reception at the pantries was ecstatic about the gift cards. They were thrilled to be able to buy turkeys or another main course. We would like to see that aspect continue and perhaps grow next year.
- Thanks to Karen Uihlein for generously donating 3 large, reusable and easily stackable scout blue bins that each school can use every year for food collection, supply collection, and anything else needed. It is a goal for the blue bins to become a recognizable sign that there is a collection in the works.
- Heather Richmond and Christina Walsh put together a fantastic short powerpoint with talking points about why the drive is important. Each school was allowed to use it to help communicate the message that this is more important than just bringing in a can of beans, but the why.

## **Potential Ideas for Tweaking Next Year:**

- Lake County Cares thought that collecting for one week may be better because we are able to organize the meals more efficiently and we aren't sending out daily cries for help. It also helps them to schedule volunteers. For example, some days they had a ton of food come in and hardly any volunteers other days the reverse.
- Also, when we send an email out for an item (i.e. stuffing) we tend to get huge amounts and then we don't have enough of another item to make meals. The lesson learned, do not send out a cry of help for a specific item of food.
- Better communication about the fantastic opportunity of actually delivering the meals. For

example, letting people know they will be done by 11:30am and also that they get to meet the people receiving the meals.

- Something to consider for next year would be to give people the opportunity to bring a bag with a full meal already put together. It may be a great teaching lesson for our kids showing the big picture and also help with the sorting of food.

**Great Press: NEWS ARTICLE:** Here is the Daily Herald article which mentions District 67's key role in the food drive:

<http://www.dailyherald.com/article/20161117/news/161118983/>

***Brief Summary of Coming Month - Plans:***

We are in discussions with Lake County Cares on the School Supply Drive at the end of the school year.

**Winter Party (Winter Olympics Theme):** Lindsay Nero, Lindsay Kelly, Elyse Butler, Kimmie Taylor, Kim Strothman, Megan Engelberg

- The Sheridan Winter Party will take place February 10th 5:30-7:00.
- The theme will be the Winter Olympics.
- There will be a variety of games and activities for the night.
- Pizza, lemonade and treats will be available

**October Meals for Teacher Recap:** Rachel Baker, Sara LaCasse

- There are two more planned upcoming meals for teachers:
- -3/9 (evening conferences)
- -4/27(Family Sharing Night)

**Board of Education Report:** Whitney Keller, Nancy Meier

- **Questions for the BOE due on February 3, 2017**
- Board President Mike Borkowski reported that the board and administration have been reviewing the educational and financial priorities of the district. Through a collaborative process, a plan was developed and vetted to accelerate progress towards achieving the District Vision. The initiatives outlined in the plan include additional personnel, renovation of the Haskins Center (DPM), classroom transformations, safety improvements to all school building vestibules, ADA compliance of DPM-E nurse's station and office, Cherokee and Sheridan playground improvements, and development of a Future Spaces Plan. As part of this overall process, board members and administrators visited other school districts and their facilities. The team observed projects that were deemed successful and ones that were not. Mike outlined the specifics, timelines, costs, etc. in his report.
- Superintendent Mike Simeck announced that the schools, in partnership with LEAD, will host a

second community viewing of the movie Screenagers, Growing Up in a Digital Age on January 18, 7pm at LFHS East Campus. The district and LEAD are also planning a book discussion and movie in early 2017 (Most Likely to Succeed by Tony Wagner) and next fall will be hosting Julie Lythcott-Haims, the author of How to Raise an Adult. Mike thanked LEAD for its support of these important school community conversations. Additionally, Mike announced that the Comprehensive School Climate Inventory (CSCI) will be administered to students, staff, and parents in February.

- Susan Milsk, Director of Teaching and Learning, presented an overview of district assessment results and highlighted four key areas: Spring MAP, MAP Matched Cohorts, PARCC Assessment Status, and Assessment Growth using the District's Local Growth Model. Susan indicated that the district will continue to analyze the data to target areas for improvement.
- Board member Beth Clemmensen reported that a team of three students presented findings from a research project evaluating what it would take to install solar panels on both District 115 and District 67 buildings. Because of the design, position, and newness of the Deer Path Middle School roof, it is a strong candidate for effectively using solar panels. The students' idea for funding the significant investment is to offer the community sponsorship opportunities and engage in a public-private partnership with local businesses.
- Susan Milsk provided an update to the committee on the World Language program. Education goals and expectations have been determined for each stage of the program.

#### **Spirit of 67 Update:** Kimberly Carris, Yvonne Bruce

- **GRANT APPLICATIONS are DUE January 26, 2017 at NOON.** More information about the grant application process and applications are available on our website.
- **SAVE THE DATE** The Spirit of 67 Foundation is proud to host our 15th Annual Opening Doors for Education Home Tour on **May 4, 2017**. If you or someone you know is interested in being a home sponsor, invitation sponsor or luncheon sponsor, please contact Lydia Conopeotis at [toochconop@aol.com](mailto:toochconop@aol.com). Information about shout outs will be forthcoming. We hope that when the time comes many of you will be volunteering to help us staff the houses this year.
- **Faculty Talent Show** It's coming back!!! On February 10th DPM will be hosting the D67 Faculty Talent Show! The D67 Faculty members are excited to partner with the Spirit of 67 for a wonderful evening of "talent" and fun. It's a way that the staff celebrate our partnership and express their gratitude towards the Spirit of 67 for our continued support of all students and staff here in D67. There will be more information coming soon regarding tickets, but some early specifics are that there will be both a 4:00 and a 7:00 performance in the DPM Auditorium on Friday, February 10th. We look forward to seeing many of you there for this wonderful event!

#### **Yearbook:** Debbie Jensen, Lindsay Kelly, Tiffany Alexander, Danielle Sullivan

- Thank you to all the volunteers and photographers who have helped with the yearbook this year. We have successfully submitted the front and back cover and the first 32 pages for print. The rest of the pages are due at the end of February. A reminder email for those that didn't order yearbooks will be sent within the next few days with an opportunity to place an order

by dropping off a \$20 check at the office. All funds must be received by Feb. 17. We will also send a confirmation email to those who have ordered a yearbook as a reminder. We had a tremendous amount of orders placed for yearbooks as part of annual registration and overall are in good shape for a successful yearbook distribution on the last day of school. Go Sheridan Sharks!

**Visiting Author:** Danielle Sullivan, Katie Frekko

- **Fine Arts-** Barrel of Monkeys held their final performance for all of the 4th grade students and their teachers on December 12, 2016 in the Everett Multipurpose Room. Buses shuttled Sheridan and Cherokee students over to Everett to watch the hour long performance. Barrel of Monkeys created a very energetic performance based on over 20 original written pieces done by the students from each elementary's 4th grade classes. The authors and their teacher's name were announced before each performance and then BOM's interpretation of the piece began (be it a song, play or dance). Students and teachers all gave it rave reviews and felt it was perfectly timed for the week before winter break. It was a great ending to the hour long in-class residencies they had back in October- where many classes even created more pieces and submitted additional stories for BOM to incorporate into the final performance after the residencies. It was highly recommended to offer this experience for the next year's 4th grade classes as the teachers as well as Susan Milsk, Dir. of Curriculum felt it was very valuable
- **Fine Arts-** "Ease the Tease" Performed by Imagination Theatre Co. (final Fine Arts Performance of 2016/2017) will come to Sheridan on March 16<sup>th</sup> 1:15-2:30 for K-4<sup>th</sup> grade. More information on Ease the Tease-Imagination Theatre Company - Created in collaboration with award-winning social worker and author, Judy Freedman, this interactive show takes the sting out of teasing. Each scene introduces and allows students to practice different strategies of responding to and coping with teasing. This show explores the differences between 'friendly' and 'hurtful' teasing and emphasizes the responsibility everyone has to treat one another with respect. This presentation ties well with the emotional wellness initiative of the Spirit.

**APT Updates:**

- Winter Party – February 10<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-7:00pm
- Sheridan Exploration Day – Thursday, February 16<sup>th</sup>

**Next APT Meeting: Wednesday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017 @ CROYA**

**[www.sheridanapt.weebly.com](http://www.sheridanapt.weebly.com)**