



Sheridan Association of Parents and Teachers

ASSOCIATION OF
PARENTS
& TEACHERS



Support
Cooperation
Communication
Educational Enrichment

APT Meeting Minutes – February 2017

Participants: No formal meeting was held during the month of February

Guest Speaker:

Principal's Report:

APT President Report: Emily Savage

- 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 8th – Annual Meeting located at CROYA.
- 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.
- April 4th – School Board Elections – All are encouraged to vote in this very important election.

Gratitude:

APT Committees Reports

Communications Report: Suzanne Sands

Treasurer Report: Amie Marks

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

- A great BIG thank you to each and every one of you for your outstanding help to make this year's Exploration Day event the best yet for all of our awesome Sharks! The event went off without a hitch thanks to all of the wonderful presenters and their amazing presentations that kept the kiddos engaged and intrigued and the fantastic volunteers who helped the morning run smoothly by helping our Sheridan Sharks successfully navigate the hallways, get materials prepared, and much more! We have the best group of students, parents, staff, and community leaders, & we are so fortunate to be able to run unique events like this at Sheridan to help enrich the lives and learning of all of the students! We could not have pulled it off without all of you so thank you from the bottom of our hearts for everything you did to make it great!
- We have one more small request...We saw many of you taking photos and videos, and we would love to be able to use some of them if you would not mind? If you have a few you would like to share, please email them to Emily Savage directly (emilysav@gmail.com) or upload to a Google Drive folder and share the link with Emily.

Food Service: Kristen Chun, Karen Hornberger

March national nutrition month theme is:

“Put your Best Fork Forward – Eat a Rainbow of Foods”

- Bulletin board will be updated with theme.
- Week of March 6-10: district will be hanging rainbow posters in cafeteria and sending fliers for Wellness teachers to hand out to kids about eating a rainbow of colors of healthy foods.
- Week of March 13-17: We will open up Volunteer Spot & asking volunteers to attend ea lunch period, hand out colored stickers (one color for each day). The fruit & veggie bar will be open to all students this week and the district will color code the offerings on the bar each day to the theme. Colors include: red, orange, green yellow, white. A note on the volunteer sign ups: we will be asking that parents who haven't had a chance to volunteer during lunch yet this year get the chance to sign up for this first. Then it will open to everyone.
- Week of 20-24: one day the Veggie & Fruit bar will be converted to a “yogurt sundae bar” with yogurt, nut-free granola & fresh fruit. Any student who buys lunch that day will get to make a sundae. The district will decide which day it will be, once we know we can of course get this in the newsletter and on Facebook, etc.

Student Food Service Panel

- Currently working with 2nd grade teachers to recruit a small group of students to provide feedback on cafeteria, menu, etc. to Ann Simon from Quest (food service provider)
- Encouraging students to recycle more during lunch periods
- Will be adding recycling “tips” to the weekly newsletter to encourage good recycling habits at school & home, putting posters up in the café with “recycle this/not that” to remind students during lunch periods.

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

- The Sheridan Winter Olympics was a success. Students received passports when they arrived and received a stamp when they visited each country aka activity throughout the night. New activities included the gladiator jousting, horse races, and soccer challenge in which were all thoroughly enjoyed. Pizza & lemonade were served and snow cones were lots of fun too but many ended on the floor. High school students helped throughout the night and were a huge help! On the way out all students received a Sheridan Shark bracelet! The Sheridan Winter Party was loads of fun all around!

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

- **Cherokee** - *No questions submitted.*
- **Everett** – **Question:** How did the “final 4” school board candidate get access to email addresses? **Answer:** **The district did receive inquiries asking if we, or the APT, release parent emails to external organization. The district takes student and family confidentiality very seriously and we do not release any private information to any outside organization.**
- **Sheridan** – **Question:** We all know the new reality is test scores unfortunately do drive a lot of decisions about curriculum in any district. What do Lake Forest elementary school scores tell you and what areas are you focusing on based on our district test results? **Answer:** **We are continuing to work to align our curriculum. This effort is embedded in our work with Bridges and the Connected Math Project (CMP) as well as our Reading and Writing Workshop implementation. The test scores support our current efforts. They tell us we need to continue our direction regarding our ELA curriculum and math – and we are currently doing just that. We aren’t making any major adjustments to our current focus because of the**

scores. The adjustments we have made in the past two years need time to realize their full benefit. We are also unpacking standards on a deeper level in both ELA and Math in order to ensure we are continually focusing on the right areas. We have made significant shifts to our curriculum in the past 2 years, which are already favorably impacting this data.

Question: How do Lake Forest elementary schools rank in reading and math among neighboring communities like Highland Park, Libertyville, Vernon Hills, and Winnetka?

Answer: Currently, we outperformed Highland Park, Hawthorn and Northbrook 28 in both ELA and Math. As noted above, both reading and math are responding favorably to the recent changes in programming. We will continue to implement our efforts and monitor the impact of our modifications.

Question: With the changes in language (for the past two years post immersion change) what strengths and weaknesses are you seeing with the elementary language program? **Answer:** Focus is slightly more targeted with only offering one language in addition to Mandarin.

Students are still selecting from a variety of language options during their 5th grade selection, which allows us to continue to support 4 languages in the district. This allows us to build a curriculum focused on proficiency and aligned to best practice for teaching language. A challenge we face is that this change is still new. Once students have had Spanish instruction for a series of years, we will comprehensively evaluate how that instruction is impacting students' language performance as they enter 5th grade.

Question: Where can we find more information on the science curriculum per grade and science benchmarks since they no longer meet as a science class? Interdisciplinary is a great buzzword, but how do we know the kids are really getting the science (part of "STEM" focus) that they need? **Answer:** All students attend science pullouts. What has been added is that science is now integrated into classroom instruction for some units so that it is a deeper and more well rounded experience and not taught in isolation. All units K-8 have been built or are being built with an inquiry-based – student-driven— model in mind and are aligned to Next Generation Science Standards. Next Generation Science Standards are linked on our D67 Curriculum page on the website <http://www.lakeforestschoools.org/district-departments/curriculum/lf67-curriculum/index.aspx?wp359302943-slide=5>. K-4 Parents received curriculum handouts at Curriculum Night in the fall. All content areas were listed on the handout.

- **DPM – Question:** Now that block scheduling is in place where is the district with finals before winter break? **Answer:** Last year, the high school began to engage in conversations regarding holding exams after winter break. The feedback was extremely helpful. At that time, they made a decision to focus on the implementation of the new school day and temporarily place the conversations on hold. The high school will continue to investigate this change and involve all stakeholders in the discussions when they reengage.

Question: How is it decided when to have the official start of winter break? Many parents have been discussing it and most are in agreement that they would prefer to not release the kids 10 days before Christmas, but have more time after the holidays with their kids. They

noticed that St Mary's didn't get out until the Wed or Thursday before Christmas, and some of the parents have students in both schools, which made it very inconvenient. Who decides this, what are the criteria and do the parents have any say? **Answer: The D67 calendar committee, comprised of teachers, staff and administration, drafts the calendar after they consider all variables, days required by the state, holidays, in-services, etc. The committee also tries to keep as many weeks as they can whole (5 days) to increase student attendance and support instruction. They also cross reference with LFHS and other area schools to attempt to coordinate holidays for families that have children in multiple schools. The Board of Education reviews and approves the calendar.**

Spirit of 67 Update: Kimberly Carris, Yvonne Bruce

- The Spirit of 67 has secured 4 homes for this year's Home Tour. Thank you for sharing your beautiful homes with us! Also, please be sure to volunteer for a Home Tour shift and encourage others to do the same. There are three shift times available: 8:45am to 11am, 10:45am to 1:00pm or 12:45pm to 3:00pm. All volunteers receive a discount on a purchase of a Home Tour ticket. If interested, please contact Brooke Rolek (Sheridan Staffing Captain) at bbrolek@gmail.com
- Have a 4th grader, 8th grader or business? Why not buy a Congratulations Page or an advertisement in the Home Tour ad book. You can visit our website or contact Lydia Conopeotis.
- To those of you who have submitted grants, the grant committee is busy reviewing all the requests! We are excited to announce that some of the schools have used the Dorothy Chantler Fund.
- If you haven't become a donor yet, please do so to help support our schools. You can find our link on the school webpage or go to <http://www.spiritof67foundation.org>.
- Thank you for your continued support!

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

- The yearbook deadline has now passed and all yearbooks have been ordered. Any parent who hadn't ordered was personally emailed a reminder and a hard copy letter was also sent home.
- Yearbooks will be distributed on the last day of school to students.
- Thank you to everyone who contributed their photos and to the volunteers who designed pages!

Visiting Author: Danielle Sullivan, Katie Frekko

- **Fine Arts-** “Ease the Tease” Performed by Imagination Theatre Co. (final Fine Arts Performance of 2016/2017) will come to Sheridan on March 16th 1:15-2:30 for K-4th 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:

- Pop-In Math Game Night – March 14th from 5-6pm being held in the Everett Elementary School Gym – Kindergarten through 4th grade students from all of District 67 elementary schools are invited to attend - - Please RSVP using the following link by March 12th – <https://tinyurl.com/popinmath>
- Games provided by the Spirit of 67 Dorothy Chantler grant
- Popsicles provided by the APT

Next APT Meeting: (APT Annual Meeting)

Wednesday, March 8th, 2017 @ CROYA from 9-11am.

Presenter information: René Romero Schuler is one of the most important and well-collected contemporary artists to emerge out of the Midwest in the last 10 years. René has shared her artistic talent and passion by teaching at the Illinois Institute of Art and Chicago City Colleges and lecturing at Northwestern University. She continues her work with students through Art From The Heart- a not-for-profit organization bringing arts education to schools and students in need. "My work is deeply connected to my soul, and I attempt to convey that in everything that I do."

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