



Community Council Meeting

10/03, 6:30 pm

Agenda

Director's Update

IJ Article

Visit from New School

Tours are first Wednesday of the month

Waitlists in all grades except K/1

Election Recap

Play structure build - Monday the 14th

Roxy is tour parent

Teacher's Update

Ms. Rebecca

K/1 is loving the phonics program and support from Tori Chappell.

All TK/1s are going to be bats - please donate black material for costumes

$\frac{3}{4}$ - doing her own inquiry arc

$\frac{1}{2}$ - writing letters to every state and receiving letters back.

Pumpkin Carving - on Halloween, right before lunch

8:30 am - start gutting the pumpkins

One pumpkin every 2 kids - 70 pumpkins - each class brings 10-15

Engage families to create class decorations

Parent: drummer

Help with the parade

Ghost busters dance

No sugary treats

Check on allergies

Find suggestions for green

Events committee - day itself - gutting pumpkins, set up music, guide the parade, lay out tarps (need 5 parents per class) 8:30-3pm

Room parents - Pumpkins, butcher paper is preferred - have kids come through on the blacktop

Election Update

Cheryl Flick and Amy Gramajo are nominees elected.

Being Good Neighbors

Middle School Discussion

High demand from families and prospective families for Tk-8 program

Pros and cons of extending the program

It's a lot of work!

Renewal process is changing

Request oversight by District

We have a strong program that is currently not at risk. We're finally out of startup mode.

School Engagement

Subcommittee Chair Updates

Updates, if any, from Community Council subcommittee chairs:

Events

- Cafecitos
 - + Jane's will be the first class to host
 - + Jane to host with Roxy
- Fall Community Gathering - 11/9 or 11/15?
- 11/15 or 11/16

Safe Routes to School

- Walk/Roll day recap
- Parking/traffic issues?

Clothing Swap

8:30 10/3

Fundraising

Each class host a dinner and give fundraising pitch

Auction - each class makes something that goes to the auction

Class baskets

Live auction for handmade items

Merrell to look at Bartenders

Parent Ed

- 1) Seems like Alison Park Gender Diversity event was a great turnout - any thoughts/lessons learned about what brought the turnout? Things we should start/stop/continue doing for next time?
- 2) Natalie will meet with Luke this month to talk about other possible topics for this year. What's on my radar - open to others but we almost never get agenda time so I will send a survey out to parents for other ideas. For the survey, do I use any tool like Survey Monkey or does Parent Square have this capability?

Natalie would love to know what's on parents minds re: Parent Ed and what topics they'd like to learn more (as it relates to RVC). Some ideas:

- RVC Charter / Vision / Culture session where Luke + some involved with Charter petition share what RVC stands for, what might need to be changed, and how new-er families feel it resonates (in preparation for 2020 petition). Ideally, what comes out is plan to solidify our Vision and Values so that we can post that somewhere for all to see at school.
- Moms Demand Action - will schedule for Jan/Feb
- "Technology" - will probably do this in a 'salon style' where I could share some resources but generally, we all share what we're doing and what's working/not working.
- Hear from a Parenting expert on "Independence" - how do we let out the leash on our kids and still protect them in today's scary world?

School Play

NOTES

Introductions

Director's update: Luke

*we were in the paper, it was generally positive. Nice turn for a change

*Shurnece (SP) is coming next week. Admin from the New School.

*we have 193 kids, 2 new kids starting in 2 weeks.

*tours are once a month now. 1st wed. mainly for people interested in Kindergarten next year.

*want to keep lining up parents to participate in tour.

*we have waitlists for basically all grades (not K/1)

*play structure is set to be installed MOnday 10/14 (not school day, Indigenous People's day). Need able bodied adults to help set it up.

Teacher's Update: ms rebecca

K/1, is loving the phonics awareness program. All teachers grateful to Tori Chapelle. Constantly bringing us curriculum ideas, etc. kids are loving it.

Finishing butterfly/month study and comparison. Next arc is 'how do we entertain ourselves without technology' and looking at Halloween coming up - local mammals - will all be Bats, and make the costumes from scratch in class. We'll need lots of black!

The 2/3's - are starting their Fairfax enquiry study. Leaning towards comparative study of the area over the past 200 years. Learning the states. Switched math time. Really into snakes.

4/5's: also doing the united states. Currently writing letters to every state, receiving them back and pinning to the map. Nina is getting heavy into creativity - is doing her own enquiry arcs as the 3/4 teacher.

Pumpkin fest on Halloween, thursday. What's needed for this: Events committee help. Get parents here, to help, cut off the tops, and help carve.

How many pumkins? Probably 100. Pumkins for 1/3 of students is enough. Good to get them now when cheaper. Similar to last year.

Need parent volunteers also for event and parade.

IMportant note: no haloween party, cake, sugary deserts! For class parties, food stays nutritious. Check on nut allergies.

Divide tasks?

Events committee: responsible for the day, it's events

Room parents - pumkins, in room stuff. Tarps, knives, etc. set up, cleanup. Butcher paper is best because it can be composted. Big rolls of brown paper.

Election UPdate:

Parent board members: votes from 59 people, from back to school night. No write ins.

Amy and Cheryl voted in.

Letter for 'welcome to the community'. 2 unhappy responses.

Middle School Discussion [Luke]:

Is an increasing conversation. Became regular conversation last year, and on all the tours. Much of this group here tonight here to talk about.

We need to consider it, and consider it seriously. Lots of implications, lots of ways to do it, with it's own implications. It make sense at some point to have a middle school. Need to consider timing and politics, and financial implications and whatever we do is in line with our vision.

Merrell: what's it like to pick a middle school? For my 5th grader (at the time) white hill didn't seem a fit; looked at private schools, some interest but also not a fit - group of RVC 5th year parents felt the same. Some went to White Hill. for some there's a home school group and taking turns as parents supervising etc.

The work/effort/risks of trying to start middle school now seems really daunting.

Luke: we initially thought we might have the space, but in reality now, doesn't seem we have the space (outside of doing portables, yurts or another location)

There is an impact on our charter. We are going up for renewal this summer. AB1505 signed by Gavin Newsom Gov today. Largely is good, process is streamlined for renewal - as long as not adding or changing anything. We want the charter re-application to be as smooth as possible.

Will be a lot of work and a big step.

Separate charter is an option - would be completely separate of Luke and this board.

Sharon - also part of AB1505, new financial considerations to starting a charter.

Current charter petition can be revised - material revision - in the middle of the 5 year term. So don't necessarily need to wait for the next 5 year renewal. State does not want us to revise our charter.

Renewal process might be court decided, instead of state decided. Plenty of land mines in the whole petition/charter renewal process.

Con: Big risk to our whole school to change the charter enough to add a middle school. And would reignite tensions with the district. Plus we don't know how to do a middle school, we came into elementary school with 15 years experience knowing what we're doing.

Sharon: so there's lots of challenges, what to parents think?

We're part of the homeschool coop, a year ago the 'what are we going to do?' and talks started, lots of people interested. Families can get together and co-op if public school, private school doesn't seem to be a fit.

Luke: don't anticipate having a middle school in time for the 5th grade students