

Parent Group meeting 9-27-22

Parent group meeting purpose: to support the school, the teachers and the kids. We host the school's largest fundraiser, the Pancake Breakfast & Silent Auction in June. Let's try scheduling our parent group meetings for one Tuesday every month from 8:30-9:30 a.m..

Parent & Teacher Social Gathering at the Red Apple FarmBrew Barn, Tuesday October 18, 2022, 6-8pm. With live music that night, until 7 p.m. Drinks and food provided by the Gardner Ale House. **Join us for a night out!**

School Theme for the year: Stewardship. Spending the fall helping kids understand what it means to care for each other, the natural world we live in, the things in our life, our communities, etc. the kids get it and are really engaging with the theme. Also looking at our footprint as a school, in terms of the waste we're creating to ensure we're being more efficient and effective in what we're putting out in the world. Terra cycle, via Subaru dealerships, takes snack wrappers (kind bar, chips, etc) and have drop stations at their various dealerships. Classrooms experimented with this last year and now have compost, recycling and now snack wrappers to take to the dealerships. Terra cycle turns snack wrappers into park benches. Zero waste boxes cost \$180 to have one at the school, we will include this as part of room jobs and engage the kids in the learning. Sonya ordered one and anticipates we will fill one a year. If parents are on board can the parent group funds cover the cost of the box? YES.

Do any parents have connections with a Subaru dealership that may be willing to sponsor a box for the village school?

Terra cycle has other free programs that parents are encouraged to check out as well.

Parent group funds typically come from the sale of Dean's Beans coffee and the yard sale funds from the annual pancake breakfast and silent auction fundraiser in June. Sara will share the parent group fund balance at a future meeting.

Sara is the new bookkeeper at the Village School and will work on the books at the school on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons.

Monday morning messages in All School Sing from Rise to the kids around what stewardship means to help the kids learn and engage with the theme this year. This past Monday: Single use plastic - water bottles that get tossed out, end up in the ocean. We're trying to cut back on kids having disposable, single use plastic water bottles in the classroom. Rise prefers the kids use the drinking fountains. We had to have water bottles during Covid but now the kids are able to use the fountains and reduce the clanging and banging of bottles. Reusable water bottles are totally fine, and not necessary this year as kids are able to use the water fountains.

Juice boxes and sugary drinks - when kids are drinking juice they're getting empty calories and filling up on juice rather than food. The American Society of Pediatrics recommends water. Kids who have juice in their lunch boxes will tend not to eat the healthy food they have in their lunch boxes. We encourage kids to drink water.

Nutrition week in January to review healthy foods and nutrition with the kids.

Parent work day: Sunday October 2, 2022, 9-3 pm

- Bark mulch to spread

- Chain saws to clear around the pond, dead trees to cut down (wood can stay there for the kids to enjoy)
- Blueberry bush to plant
- Indoors we have hooks to put into the wall (drill gun needed), spackle the walls
- Log pile moved from the soccer field
- Wd40 the door hinges
- Deep clean bathrooms
- Fix picnic tables that need repairing, kids use these for lunch each day
- Wire clippers needed to clip wires along the fence on the kids hike.

Bring the kids, come any time during the day and stay for as long as you can. It's a fun day for all and many hands make for light work. If we each do a little we can get quite a bit done during the day.

Banking - Jackie Wood volunteers to help the kids with student banking on early Friday afternoon 12-12:45. **If any parent is interested in volunteering to help with this please let Jackie and Rise know.** Good to have a second parent to parent volunteer to work with Jackie on this. Banking will probably start up in October. The bank treated the tellers from the region to a field trip to the New England Aquarium. Our student tellers (5th -6th graders) really enjoyed this experience.

Preschool tent cover - the tent is awesome and the entire preschool area is really a delightful outdoor classroom. The tent holds them so well. **Rise ordered a new canopy for \$150, can the parent group chip in to cover this? Yes.**

Facebook page for parents - join it! It's a great way to connect with other parents and school functions. **Katherine will send the link around to parents to sign up.**

Friday - no school. Ale house is catering lunch for the teachers. **We need a volunteer to deliver lunch from the ale house to the village school. Katherine will do it.**

Parking & lining with parking spots. Rise will ask someone to do this.

Brooke will be attending the next parent group meeting to discuss how we teach health in the school. It begins with body awareness and body image in the early years and the program grows with the kids. She does a wonderful job providing health education to the kids and will present the purpose and approach to parents next month.

Library space for parent resources, social justice books, etc. Katherine, Jane and Brooke will discuss bookshelf up high to keep the books off the ground and the space free on the floor.

Anti racism parent group at the school. We're still sorting out the format of this that works for parents. The greatest challenge seems to be the format that works for parents. **Is there a parent that wants to lead this or hold the coordination?** Perhaps the trainers working with the school would be willing to hold a couple sessions with the parents. They may be a resource for parents.

Jane is going to check out puppets and writing a grant to cover the event during 11-2 of the silent auction. Thank you Jane! This is a great addition.