

Journeys School

Parent Council Meeting Minutes

October 1, 2008 5:30-7:00pm

The first all-parent Parent Council meeting of the school year was held on Wednesday October 1, 2008, from 5:30-7 pm, with good representation of Journeys School families and PC officers.

1. Nate McClennen, Head of School welcomed parents
 - a. He reviewed the Programmatic Strategic Plan for the 2008-2009 academic year. Interested parents can obtain a more detailed outline of the Plan from Nate.
 - b. He gave an overview of how Basecamp News and the online Journal work.
 - c. Nate encouraged parents to attend one of the numerous State of School meetings that will be happening this year.

2. Katie Pierce introduced
 - a. Parent Council Officers: Co-Presidents Katie Pierce, Kathy Coosaia / Secretary Annie Fenn
 - b. Grade Level Representatives: PK Rep Melissa Reinert / LES Rep Kathy Coosaia
UES Reps Annie Fenn and Jennifer Reichert / MS/HS Rep Katie Pierce
 - c. Staff Liaison Tammie Van Holland

3. Katie also gave parents an overview of the mission of the Parent Council and discussed the various opportunities for classroom and school support:
 - a. **Event Support:** Set-up 15 minutes before, clean up 15 minutes after the regularly scheduled all-school events, ie Back To School Potluck, Winter Celebration, Graduation, Summer Potluck. A sign-up sheet was available.
 - b. **Teacher Breakfasts:** Parents gave strong feedback that they would like to continue these. Mondays 7am, provide breakfast for 30 staff members, drop-off only, or stay and clean up as well. Tammie will be the contact person to determine location of the Teacher Breakfast, as it changes frequently. A sign-up sheet was provided to get the first few months of breakfasts covered.
 - c. **Teacher Appreciation Week:** a week in the spring to celebrate teachers with special treats and kid-generated expressions of appreciation.
 - d. **Parent Council Meetings/Parent Coffee:** will happen the first Thursday of each month from 8-9 am in the Welcome Center. All parents are welcome to stop in after drop-off and join the PC meeting, or just come for coffee.

4. Tammie introduced herself as Director of Admissions and staff liaison for the PC
 - a. **Open Houses:** welcomed parents to serve as tour guides during Open Houses. Also mentioned that our current families are our best ambassadors. If you hear of prospective families, please let Tammie know. She is available to do tours anytime.
 - b. **Community:** discussed ideas to build community for the JS family, and opened the floor for discussion regarding needs and wants of the parents for social and family events that could be facilitated by the PC. Ideas included meeting for skiing, mom get-togethers, info meeting about other areas of Teton Science Schools, cocktail party and more. A sign-up sheet was available.

5. Heather Marks introduced herself as Director of Advancement
 - a. Annual Fund: Reviewed purpose, goals, importance of the Annual Fund to support the JS. A goal of 65% parent participation is expected, in keeping with the average participation at independent schools nationwide. Reminded parents of upcoming Annual Fund Event at the Amangani (December 12, 6-9 pm).
 - b. Capital Campaign for TSS: Reviewed the Walton Family three million dollar challenge grant which finishes December 2008. To date we have raised just over 2/3 of the \$3,000,000 goal.

6. Annie opened the floor for discussion regarding an Education/Book Club, to see if there was any parent interest. This could be a once per trimester or less gathering of parents interested in delving into the literature of our children's education. Books by Mel Levine or Richard Louv (Last Child in the Woods) might be good choices. Amanda Jane Leslie expressed interest as well, and we will generate a list of books and let parents know.
 - a. Annie and Jennifer also referred UES parents to sign-up sheets for classroom support for Snack, Cleaning, and Odds and Ends.

7. OPEN DISCUSSION: The meeting closed with an open discussion. Some ideas generated include the following:
 - a. Parent Mixer early in the school year as an opportunity for parents to meet other parents at their child's grade levels. Ideally, one evening event and one morning event would give the most opportunity for parents to participate. Parents new to JS in the past expressed how helpful this was when they first came to Journeys, in getting to know other parents.
 - b. Parents expressed an interest in getting together on a regular basis with events outside of the realm of Advancement (as Tim Dykema puts it "Drinking wine without asking for money.")
 - c. One parent would like to reduce the amount of paper coming home in folders in the LES.
 - d. A "Parent Council" page added to Basecamp News would be helpful to notify parents of upcoming social and other events. This page will be added when the new website comes out around December. Currently PC announcements are in the all school category.
 - e. One parent thought a standing meeting time would work best for parents to remember.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR UPCOMING PARENT COUNCIL "FIRST THURSDAYS"

8:00-8:30 coffee, 8:30 -9:00 meeting

November 6, 2008

December 4, 2008

January 8, 2009 (second Thursday due to Winter Break)

February 5, 2009

March 5, 2009

April 16, 2009 (third Thursday due to Spring Break)

May 7, 2009

June 4, 2009