

Newsletter

May/June 2010, Volume 10, Issue 6



Note from the Board

Dear Families,

As we approach the end of the school year, the board has had the opportunity to evaluate the year and review our strengths and limitations. We always recognize the invaluable strength of our families, as they contribute their time, expertise, ideas, man power, connections and love to the school. In many discussions that the board has had with the Parent Organization and the teachers, we have been looking for the best way to maximize that strength to best support our school, and give parents a strong voice in our activities and events. Traditionally, we have our board, the parent organization and officers and this year, a fundraising coordinator. After much discussion, we have decided to expand the board and merge with the parent organization, giving one voice for decision-making, programs and support for the school. We hope that this move will decrease the number of meetings the parents attend, and give a single forum for brain storming and idea creation. In the past, we have had dedicated parents running the parent organization, who then have to coordinate their efforts with both the board and the teachers. We trust that this expansion will allow us to act more effectively, efficiently and be more responsive to the wishes and needs of the parents.

The board's responsibilities address the budget and finances, school operations and compliance, human resources, long-term goals, and general administration. We see this expanded role also taking on the direction of fundraising, as is generally the case with most non-profit boards. We meet once a month, and the meetings generally last 2 hours. We occasionally review material, ideas or problems via email. Our current board members are myself, Kim Sapunar, Dave Larmouth, Amanda Marshall, Brad Kelley, and Stewart Stout. This year's parent organization officers are Sue Delventhal, Lisa Neal, and Diane McMillen. In previous years as May comes around, we would ask for nominations for the parent organization officers. This year, we are asking for nominations for our expanded board/parent organization.

Calendar of Events:

Parent Child Tea	May 16
No School	May 31
Financial Aid due	May 28
Board Meeting	June 2
Last Day of School	June 17
School Picnic	June 17

We currently have 5 board members and 3 parent organization officers, and we would like to have at least 7 board members going into next year. A nomination box will be in the foyer. We will check with the parents who have been nominated about their willingness to participate, and then the board will vote to bring in new members (as stated in our by-laws). Parents would be able to work in the role that they feel most comfortable in, that is, we generally divide responsibilities by our strengths. Some members focus on budgets and finance, some research issues or ideas for the school, some are familiar with laws, regulations or human resource issues, some on the physical maintenance of the school, and some on social events. We welcome any parent involvement and would be happy to incorporate your strengths. Please nominate someone you think would like to participate, or nominate yourself! We look forward to this new "School Meeting" forum as a direct way to best serve the school's needs.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or any other board member (contact information located on back page of newsletter).

Many thanks,

Kim Sapunar
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News from the Teachers

We would like to invite you to our

Primary & Elementary Sing-A-Long and Extended Day Graduation

Last Day of School, Thursday, June 17, 2010
11:30am, Primary Classroom

Program will include a sing-a-long which includes ALL Students
and the Extended Day Graduation Ceremony.



THANK YOU

Many Thanks to the Haughey family. They fundraised \$350.00 selling "Bike More Than You Ride" T-shirts on their website www.haughey.com

Fundraising

A round of Thanks to Andrea and Jessica for organizing and implementing the plant sale. Thanks also to those families who pulled a shift manning the sales, we appreciate your help. The sale brought in \$800 to the school.

Fireworks!

And now, we are asking for one last round of help for our 4th of July firework fundraiser sale - shifts are available from June 25 to July 4th - sign up in the office.

End of Year Picnic

Thursday, June 17th, 4-7pm
Ed Grenfell Park (off of Baker Creek Rd)

Potluck Picnic:

A-E salad/pasta dish
F-M main dish (not pasta)
N-Z fruit/veggie dish

Each dish should feed 12-15 people.
Beverages and Cake will be provided.

Please bring your own tableware; plates, plastic cups, cutlery & napkins.

See school emails and flyer for more details.

Many Thanks to Subha Pathial and Julie Donnelly for their hard work over the last year. Their employer, Intel, has graciously donated \$810.00 for their combined volunteer hours.

“Education in a New World ... education is a natural process carried out by the human individual, and is acquired not by listening to words, but by experiences in the environment.” --
Dr. Maria Montessori

Scholarships:

Each school year there are a few scholarship discounts that are available through the school. If you are interested in applying for a tuition scholarship discount for the 2010-2011 school year, please ask for an application from the office. Please submit requests by May 28th. **All applications must have supporting financial documents included or they will be rejected – see the bottom of the form.** They will be reviewed at the July board meeting. All requests are confidential and reviewed only by the board. Scholarship discounts are given based on a family's financial need, history with the school, parent commitment towards the school in terms of the number of volunteer hours they have given, and the ability of the school's budget to accommodate the requests. Both Elementary and Primary requests are accepted.

Financial Reminders:

A reminder that outstanding tuition for the 2009-2010 school year must be paid by the end of June, unless otherwise arranged, to ensure your child's return place in the fall. If you have an unpaid balance, your child's place for the fall will not be held.

If you have any financial questions or concerns, please speak with your teachers, or Kim Sapunar of the board.

SOS/FUNDRAISER COMMITMENTS –

Any incomplete SOS hours and fundraising commitments not met by May 25th, will be billed on your May 25th statement. Any commitments completed after this date through July 4th will be adjusted accordingly.

Parent Organization News

The Cirque du Soleil performance of KOOZA was fantastic! The amazing strength, talent, and enthusiasm of the performers along with the costumes, choreography, and music made this a very special event for all those who attended. We would like to say “*Thank You*” to Kimya Nguyen who suggested the idea and gathered the information about the performance.

The Parent Organization would like to remind families of the “End of the Year Potluck”. It will be on the last day of school - June 17th from 4:00 - 7:00 pm. at the Ed Grenfell Park off Baker Creek Road. This is a nice way to celebrate the end of the school year, socialize with each other, and enjoy delicious food.

We will also have two Potluck/Play Dates during the summer. The dates of those are July 14th and August 11th at East Wortman Park from 5:30 to 7:30 pm. This provides our children with an opportunity to play with their class mates as the parents relax and visit. It is always nice to see each other and hear about summer vacations, gardens, and new plans. We also welcome new families that have children starting in September.

It has been a pleasure serving as your P.O. President and I look forward to the reorganization of the Board and P.O. I am excited for the changes and feel confident that the new Board/P.O. is headed in the right direction when meeting the schools needs.

Don't forget to nominate yourself or who you might think would be a great asset next year serving on the P.O./Board.

Many thanks to Lisa and Diane for working with me this year. It's been a pleasure.

Best wishes,
Sue Delventhal

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**Cultivating the Desire
to Learn**

Please contribute to future newsletter issues.

*Contact Kim Sapunar with your ideas and
articles.*

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