**CM PTA BoD Meeting 3/9/21**

**President’s Report: Meghan Russo**

Upcoming events:

* 3/18 ProKids Assembly day/evening events
* Rock Painting will take place in the Spring; students will be painting their rocks during art class. Kids will pick up rocks in April and bring to school, parameters for size will be provided. Kids can put in garden or share them with other kids.
  + Considering ideas of what to do with rock including…
    - Bring to senior center building
    - Scavenger hunts
    - Other ideas welcome

Concerns: COVID Fatigue & Supporting Mental Health for the kids

* Parent Facebook post about difficulties in getting their child to get out of the car and go to school, reflects impact of pandemic on kids emotional and mental health.
* After holidays kids are in a slump with COVID fatigue
* Spirit day assembly followed by hot chocolate and meditation helped to brighten spirits.
* Kids are resilient but fatigued.

**Question From PTA:** What other options are there to enhance mental health of our kids? How can community come together to help one another? What is Administration & staff planning to help mental health of kids and when will this be communicated to parents?

**Principal’s Report: Dr. Falcone**

Update on virus & cases:

* Another case identified last night in Cannondale. No further exposure in that case.
* Over weekend Dr. Falcone was in contact with health dept and other schools conducting cross tracing across multiple cases.
* Contact tracing based on number of minutes and distance is basic measure but has many variables to consider for those in contact with virus positive person such as:
  + Time at lunch without mask
  + Size of the room
  + Eating in cafeteria vs. smaller space
  + Whether class teacher was in the area with others all day long vs. 45 min etc. Cross contact tracing for cumulative time tracing of any positive person impacting another person.
  + Specials are 45 min and cross with multiple contacts across the day with positive cases casting a broader net.
* All of these factors led to a spike in Staff needing to be quarantined.
* Students testing positive have traveled or exposed to cannodale.

**Actions take:**

* School has done deep cleaning and sanitized school.
* Dr. Falcone has also sent out reminder for families to take temperatures before school.
* Results of ventilation system testing are excellent so that is not an issue. Ok to open windows in some cases as weather permits.

Challenges in ensuring consistent communication by school and adminstration have come up.

* Misinformation has created some anxiety for all.
* Inconsistent information sent out by school & admin communication regarding how to treat kids who come in contact with positive case.

**Action taken:**

* Admin is going back to make sure to align communication so that it is consistent.
* Newsletter communication is being sent out that will be consistent moving forward.
* Maria Coleman is asking all schools to update and align communication.

Wellbeing of kids:

* Whether remote or at school it still is not normal school experience as we are in pandemic. Teachers have been amazing trying to help the kids both academically and emotionally to enhance their well-being.
* Families, staff and kids are all hitting a wall after a year of COVID restrictions.
* A spike in March was predicted, but all are hopeful that spring break will bring hope, new attitude and optimism.
* In the meantime, school will continue to reinforce with kids social distance and hygiene.
* Positive to see staff get vaccines and be able to connect with them in waiting area, makes a difference to connect.
* Community needs to come together to help one another.

**Action taken:**

* Dr Falcone & Staff are looking at all options to enhance mental health of our kids. Dr Falcone will communicate more about how the staff plan to help mental health of kids and bring more school spirit in coming weeks.
* Administration has a group activity planned to support remote learners.
* Dr. Falcone open to participate in any activities that will brighten moods.

Overall Learning Loss Issue:

* Don’t perceive there is learning loss relative to other kids in US, given context of pandemic.
* Any loss for any reason or trauma, requires that an assessment be done by teachers to figure out where kids are and then bring them along by providing help to fill gaps.
* To fill learning gaps teaching cohesiveness is key, which is more possible in elementary school due to students have same teacher all day.
* Biggest determinant of classroom & student success is effectiveness of teacher.
* School budget discussions right now are focused on keeping class size small as teacher time to plan to address an individual child’s learning loss is impacted by class size.
* Teachers will have less time to create effectives & impactful plans if class size gets too big. Currently class size is 19-21 and should max out at 24.
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**Action taken:**

* Each teacher is doing an assessment to determine where each kid is in their learning and identifying where gaps may exist.
* Teachers are then providing support by creating learning plans for the entire class as well as for small groups. As part of these plans, the teachers are taking into consider each individual child’s current level of well-being and health.

Learning loss focus will be on math:

* Specific loss evident in test scores for math, ELA no loss.
* Math program is great but can be more powerful with responsive lesson planning for learning loss.
* Teachers are taking note of where learning loss is and special strategies are being developed to address math learning loss. Will share with all to review highlights of what will be done in coming weeks.
* According to Mrs. Froehlich teachers are reviewing data together, identifying loss and sharing student difficulties.
* Education plans are focused on ensuring students are learning all the building blocks they need to progress to more difficult math learning to ensure things are connected. Assessment is done at the beginning and after to ensure instruction matches the learner’s needs. Team model has been helpful to address gaps by pooling what each teacher sees.

**Action taken:**

* Dr. Falcone open to holding a Parent Forum Night on learning loss to provide more information on what is being done and how parents can support.
* Action planning to address math learning loss will look at multiple years, not quick fix, long term process to address and build this area.
* Teachers are also being given more math training on the 17th.
* Some districts in area are offering summer school to fill math learning loss, but Cider Mill will do supplemental math program only. No formal plan for summer school at this time as all need a break after such as difficult year.
* Instead, strategies to give students more math practice and homework are planned. Teachers will begin to integrate math homework practice to ensure students will continue to progress in math.
* Return on Wednesday will be on half days. To continue planing for blended in person and remote learning and getting plans into Schoology.

On A Brighter Note Updates:

* Progress reports will go out on 3/24
* Class placement letters were sent out and needs for placements are due back 4/2 and this will highlight in the upcoming newsletter.
* Plan on how to bring more joy into school for kids include month long activities:
  + Bubble & Brew on 3/16 for the teachers
  + Silver Linings Voluntary Lunch on 3/17
  + Spirit Day show with house colors
  + Green Zero Waste Day with activities
  + Fun Book on social discourse,
  + Trivia Night 4/17
  + Book Club kicking off
  + Bee Kind Dress like a bee day 4/1; Bee Kind mask sale for adults and kids

**Yearbook: Jennifer Carvajal**

* Yearbook forms for grads to be sent out today along with instructions on how to connect the payments for ads
* Student surveys will be going out
* Need more photos for yearbook from parents, please submit to shutter fly
* Need more class photos from teachers
* Reading Rocks to announce winners, $30K+ raised and up to $400K raised in total
* All winners will be in upcoming newspaper

**Treasurer: Manisha**

* Financials were sent out this week; no deposits on Mobil Arq since December

**Membership: Gina**

* 6 new members; 20% below where we were a year ago; 270 families and 9 Teachers

**Fund Raising & PTA Recruiting: Meghan Russo**

* Starting to fill positions for the 2021-22 school year; Treasurer, President have been filled
* Still looking for: Fundraising; spirit wear
* Looking into an online store for next year as it may make more sense from a profit perspective as well as convenience for shoppers
* Working on a list of committee chairs returning/not returning for nominations.
* Zero waste committee email yesterday morning, calling all students to recycle something that can be posted online to do at home and a winner will get prize on 3/26.
* Spirit day will be communicated and PTA will buy spirit apparel for teachers, and plan a promotional sale.

**BOD Of Education Update: Sabeth**

* BOD of Educ Meeting tonight, Thursday canceled
* Tonight BOD will go through budget again and Wednesday school day plan
* Board of Ed needs to trim their budget; 3% increase from LY