



Carbondale New School
Creative, quality education • Pre-K through 8th grade

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December Newsletter 2016

12-12-16

From the Associate Director's Desk

Welcome December!

December brought the Lights Fantastic Parade. Thank you to Courtney Haddick for filling out all the paperwork and getting us enrolled, Mike Long for pulling the float, and the Karayiannis family, Chris Wallace, Maryanne Felkins, and everyone else that participated in creating, building, and walking during the parade.

Still to come is the Student-Led Conferences, winter parties, and the Winter Program. It's an exciting time!

A special thank you to all the families that helped during the Playground Beautification Day. It was amazing to come back to CNS and see this transformation. We have such a wonderful playground and it should be showcased to the fullest. Thank you to Mike Long for the stump removal. It was such a big task that made a huge impact on the safety of our playground. Thank you Valerie and Jessica for helping with the children, Tristan for cleaning gutters, Dong, Neicey and Fran for garden weeding, Courtney, Jen, and Lance for raking, Sarah for painting the gazebo, Tom and Kyle for trenching to run internet to the modular, Adam for rethreading the gazebo rail-rope, Paul and Marta for stump moving and disposal, Jen, Adam, and others for weed eating, Jeremy and Chad for cleaning out the front beds, Aurora and Emily for painting and weeding, and all the children who scrubbed the playhouse. THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!



From the December 1st Board Meeting

The school currently has 42 students attending and could support more. School staff is ready for the fundraiser at Barnes and Noble this Saturday the 10th. The grounds committee presented a quote for fencing and a gate for the playground. The board decided to mark certain fundraisers to finance the fence and possibly other school improvement projects. The board is also working on creating a set of criteria that would outline when students may face dismissal. And finally, Arwen Mullens was named 8th grade student representative to the board. Arwen has attended and participated in several meetings and her input has been greatly valued so far. For successive years, the current 8th grade class will chose a replacement representative.

The next Board meeting will be January 12th at 6pm.

From the Buildings and Grounds Committee

The playground cleanup day held on November 19th was a huge success. We were able to accomplish many of the items on our list including cleaning out garden beds, removal of old logs, cleaning out the gutters on both buildings, removal of the stumps, construction of the pallet compost, weeding and weed eating, painting and repairing the gazebo, and many other items. Thank you to all the parents and volunteers who helped.

The next building and grounds committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday January 5th.

From the Curriculum Committee

The Curriculum Committee has been working to gather input from CNS students, teachers, staff, and parents. Shannon Green has taken on the huge project of interviewing students (bit by bit...an ongoing process?), and Jeremy Slagoski created a first draft of a survey to be sent to parents regarding the CNS curriculum, which the committee came together to refine. (Look for the survey to come to your inboxes sometime after the new year.) We also plan to look as specific aspects of the curriculum, along with modifying a survey that we can then send to all students for their input. One of our important goals for after the new year is to get input from the CNS teachers regarding the barriers they identify to being able to teach, and to students being able to learn.

The next Curriculum meeting will be January 6th at 3:15.

From the Diversity Committee

The Diversity Committee has been working to develop a diversity survey, which will be conducted at the beginning of the spring semester. Based on the survey, the committee will carry out various activities to facilitate discussions on diversity issues and to create a friendlier multi-cultural CNS community.

Contact Dong Han in regards to next meeting.

From the Finance Committee

The Finance Committee works on the CNS budget. As the new year comes we will start planning recommendations for tuition and salary for the 2017/2018 school year. We are always talking about ways of increasing CNS funds and ways to save money.

The next Finance meeting will be January 5th at 4pm.

From the Communications Committee

At the communications committee meeting we focused on coming up with inexpensive approaches to marketing. We also talked about how to use social media effectively to project the image of our school as diverse, cooperative, and fun, and are planning to invite families to record short testimonials at an event like the corporation meeting to put up on our Facebook page.

Sarah is working on getting a student newspaper up and running as an extra-curricular activity.

We have made new person-neutral business cards that can be handed out along with our current marketing pamphlets at events where they are allowed.

Our current project is a donor request letter for the 2016 year.

The CC is also reviewing past media materials and plans to work with SIU's Media Chair, Mavis Adjei on a new and comprehensive marketing strategy.

The next Communication Committee meeting is December 14th at 4pm.

Craft Fair

Craft fair was a huge success and gets better every year, thanks to all our wonderful families who contribute. The total for the school is \$1025. Thank you Laurie for leading this fundraiser every year!

PreK/K Service Project

Ms. Kathy's class is collecting new toys, hats, gloves, and socks for the children at The Women's Center. We will be collecting until December 14th. The collections box is in the main building foyer. Look for the big box that says TOYS.

Artsonia

Artsonia is a website where CNS uploads pictures of your child's art. You can invite family and friends to view the artwork and become fans. Various items can also be purchased with your child's art. Visit www.artsonia.com.

Amazon Smile

Do you like to shop from Amazon? If you select Carbondale New School through the Amazon Smile program, a portion of your proceeds benefits our school. Visit www.amazon.com.

Kroger Card

Are you signed up for the Kroger Card? You can specify CNS to get a percentage back of your purchase of groceries. This is an easy way to help CNS.

Winter Weather

Please note that if inclement weather occurs, Channels 3, 6, and 12 and radio stations WINI, WQUL-FN, and WSIU will be notified if school is canceled. CNS does not follow the closing procedures for the surrounding areas public school system.

Rebate Opportunities

The following rebate opportunities are available:

playground duty on Thursday from 3:00 – 3:30pm

All rebate positions are paid at \$9/hour (comes off your tuition).

Calendar of Events:

Dec. 10: Barnes and Noble Book Fair

Dec. 14: Winter parties (See classroom newsletters for specific information.)

Dec. 14: Communications Committee meeting 4pm

Dec. 15 & 16: Student Led Conferences (Contact your child's teacher for further information.)

Dec. 15: Winter Program 7pm

Dec. 19 – January 2: No School/Winter Break

Jan. 3: Return to School

Jan. 5: Finance Committee meeting 4pm

Buildings and Ground Meeting (Contact Tristan Throgmorton for time.)

Jan. 6: Curriculum Committee meeting 3:15pm

Jan. 12: Board Meeting 6pm

Jan. 13: Noon Dismissal with childcare

Jan. 16: No School/No childcare

Jan. 19: Locally Grown meeting 5:30pm