



February Newsletter 2017

02-01-17

From the Associate Director's Desk

February is here and brings us the Valentine's Day dance and the Fresh and Fit fundraiser. Look for more information in your mailboxes or by email.

I would like to start by saying thank you to Tristan, Jessica, Carla, and Dan for helping out with the water issues in the modular building. The floor is fixed and the leak is no longer. I would also like to say thank you to Jim King for cleaning up the playground trees and limbs after the ice storm. It sure looks good. The balance beam is wonderful! A final thank you to EZ Rental for the trencher that was used over fall beautification. The playground looks great and will only be getting better.

Jessica and Courtney are working hard on getting re-certification for Nature Explore. I'm looking forward to some of the changes. Annie has already provided beautiful signs for the PreK/K fort area and the 1st-8th fort area. Thanks Annie!

I would like to remind everyone of the electronics policy. The policy regarding electronics is as follows: Electronics can be used on Friday and/or after school indoor recess. Cell phones are included as electronics. Please make sure that all students are following this CNS policy.

From the January Board Meeting

The January board meeting was very productive (and it should have been, it lasted 4 hours!). We discussed setting a policy for student dismissals so that it would be more transparent and give the school guidelines. We are still searching for a new accountant to assist us with taxes. The board is also considering changing the policy for sending accounts to collections based on total amount owed rather than 90 days past due. The board also approved new tuition rates for full day for the 2017-18 school year. Please be on the lookout for that communication.

Finance Committee

The finance committee has completed the tuition proposal for 2017/2018 school year and is Board approved. This information was sent by email to the corporation on February 27th. We have put together a salary proposal to present to the Board on February 2nd. We meet the Thursday before every Board meeting. Next meeting is February 23rd at 4pm.

From the Buildings and Grounds Committee

The building and grounds committee met Thursday the fifth of January at 8:15pm. Items discussed included a need to upgrade the smoke alarm system throughout the main building as some rooms do not have them. Also, discussed was a need for wood chips and/or sawdust for the playground to help with the mud problem. Lastly, it was brought up that a parent would like to donate zoysia grass plugs for the soccer field. No further meetings of the building and grounds committee are scheduled for the remainder of the school year.

From the Curriculum Committee

On Friday 1/27 the curriculum committee met and elected Sarah Curtis and Maryanne Felkins as co-chairs moving forward. We discussed the results of the parent survey thus far, and made plans to discuss the most pressing issues and come up with possible plans at our next meeting which is scheduled on Friday, March 3rd at 3:15pm. We had 19 responses to discuss at January's meeting, and we decided to ask the office to distribute reminder emails to parents and attach a deadline for responses of February 28th. Sarah is going to work up a draft of a questionnaire for teachers asking for input on their needs from curriculum committee. Shannon is going to coordinate with the playground supervisor on using the math blocks we got from Dr. Bu for possible after-school activities and Dr. Wu has offered to help with training.

From the Diversity Committee

The diversity survey received 19 responses. The committee is processing the data and producing a report. The next committee meeting will be Friday, Feb 10, 2:30-3:30pm.

From the Communications Committee

This month we met with Mavis Adjel, a professor of marketing at SIUC. We asked her for input on how we can improve our image in the community, raise awareness about the school, and hopefully recruit new students. We worked on simplifying the brochure, and Sarah will create a new mock-up based on the old design but with some minor verbiage changes that Mavis and the committee agreed would be more positively received. We also discussed where to put brochures in order to reach newcomers to Carbondale—some ideas include hospitals and pediatricians who are both potentially new to the community and talk regularly with parents, and realtors. Mavis suggested that we offer potential locations for our brochures a sort of trade to display their information at our school. We also discussed language that might be off-putting to people who don't know anything else about our school—notably “independent” can signal “not enough supervision” or “kids teach themselves” or “kids do what they want” so we discussed different ways to communicate our educational philosophy in ways that will be more attractive to typical parents. The main goal for our next meeting (Wednesday, March 8th at 5pm) is to increase consistency in our language across media (FB, Youtube, website, brochure etc.) so that there isn't a sense of confusion for possibly interested families.

From the Fundraisers Committee

The second round of LG letters has been sent out, as well an additional 35 or so hand delivered to businesses not on the followup list for previous donations. Follow up phone calls will be made in about 2 weeks.

LG committee is looking into possible venues.

We have received the catalogs for the fit and fresh fundraiser but since the shipping was delayed we will be extending the deadline for turn in to the office to Feb 10th.

The Polka Dot Paint Party will be March 25th from 10-1. I will make tickets available for purchase about 1 month prior to event.

Valentine's Dance: Thank you Ms. Laurie and Jon!

The Valentine's Day dance will be held February 17th from 6:45 – 8:45 pm. Admission is \$5.00 per student. Parents are welcome, free, and we need you to help supervise. Your time can be used towards service hours. Refreshments served (Donations needed and welcomed). There will be a sign-up sheet in the foyer. Dress is casual and dressy. It's an evening of fun, dancing, socializing, and snacking. All grades are welcome. However PreK through 1st graders need to have an adult accompany them. You may bring music to share as long as the lyrics are appropriate. You may bring a friend provided an adult is with you. The admission fee makes students eligible for three raffle tickets (student prizes drawn throughout the evening). Extra raffle tickets will be available at the dance at two for \$1.00. Student raffle tickets are separate from the adult tickets. There will be a separate 50/50 raffle for the adults. Come enjoy an evening of FUN!

Neighborhood Co-op Wooden Nickels

For any purchase requiring a bag, if you bring your own bag, you will receive a wooden nickel per transaction to donate to CNS. There is a place to put the wooden nickel at the co-op. CNS will get \$0.05 cents for every wooden nickel. Go shop at Neighborhood Co-op and take your bags. This is an easy way to help raise money for CNS.

Barnes and Noble

We had around 10 students that came to listen to Ms. Laurie read. This year Barnes and Noble did not allow us to purchase online and get the discount. All purchases came from inside the Carbondale store. It seems we had a wonderful turn out. The profit was \$753.53. Ms. Melissa received one book from her wish list and Carla received 2 books. They would like to send out a big THANK YOU!

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: PLEASE ENROLL!!!

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. Currently we have only 9 families enrolled in this. Please take the time and enroll. Every little bit helps. For those that shopped from September 1st to November 30th you helped us to receive \$68.28. Let's get some more families enrolled and increase this amount.

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:

There are no rebate opportunities available at this time.

Volunteer Opportunities

The following volunteer opportunities are available:

Clean the CNS banner.

Wash mop heads.

Provide after school activity on the playground once a week.

Calendar of Events:

February 10: Diversity Committee meeting 2:30
Deadline to order Fresh and Fit
February 17: Valentine's Dance 6:45-8:45
February 20: No School
February 24: No School/End of Grading Period
February 25: Ms. Melissa takes over as Associate Director
March 3: Curriculum Committee meeting 3:15
March 8: Communications Committee meeting 5:00
March 25: Polka Dot Party 10:00-1:00

Wish lists

Ms. Carla

- washi tape
- extra fine tip markers and pens (.5mm or smaller)
- AAA batteries
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- gift cards to Petco, Wal-Mart, Kroger for Hershey and Quags
- Barnes and Noble gift cards to help with books
- Amazon gift cards to help with books and printer cartridge

Ms. Melissa

- tape (masking and Scotch)
- index cards
- Post it notes
- Amazon gift cards to help with books

Ms. Kathy

- Large tree cookies to make paths.
- Extra socks, underwear, and gloves

Office

- Copy paper
- Kcups (compostable)
- bandaids
- expo markers
- Bic Cristal pens (blue)
- large paper clips
- new dry erase board for the gate
- Canon 240XL printer cartridges (black and color)
- metal binder clips (small and large)
- 3 ring medium sized binders (New)

Buildings and Grounds

- Fencing for front of main building.
- Large shed to house outdoor equipment
- Deck boxes to house equipment in certain zones
- Basement windows
- hay or straw or wood chips to help with playground mud
- \$ to help pay for any of the above items

Nature Explore: We will be sending out a list of items we need for our playground. All donations are greatly appreciated.