

## Grade Level Meeting Guidelines

1. The grade level chairs are the representative voice for the parents of their grade. They notify their class representatives of the upcoming grade level meetings so they may communicate in a timely fashion to the parents of their class for any agenda items. If a parent brings up a concern or idea that the grade level chair does not feel is valid, it is the chair's obligation to address the issue at the meeting.
2. The format of the grade level meetings is informal and conversational.
3. The Grade Level Meeting is not the venue to discuss individual teachers and/or students. Parents with those concerns should be directed either back to the individual teacher, Ms. Monaco or Ms. Soler.
4. In the interest of covering all grades in a timely fashion, it may be necessary to limit the amount of time used to discuss a particular topic.

### Grade Level Meeting

June 9, 2010

#### Summary

##### *I. Kindergarten*

- Clarification on school policy to inform parents if lice has entered the child's class and school in general: Notices are currently sent out when lice enters a child's class. Sending out a school wide notice might generate a negative reaction, but it's something that Ms. Monaco will think about.
- Possibility of hiring experts to do lice checks at \$2 per head: This question has been raised in the past, and the school will not pay for this service because the district's philosophy is that lice is not a health issue. The PTA will not pay for it either because there are many variables out of our control, including play dates, sleepovers, sports, vacations, camps, other schools, siblings, parental diligence in checking for lice and eliminating the problem, etc. Lice checks only identify the presence of lice or nits, but it does not prevent future outbreaks, so having three or four checks a year, whether they are done by PTA volunteers or professionals, will not guarantee a lice free school. We will continue to discuss options, such as provide training for parents at the beginning of the school year, and be more specific about lice preventing methods in the summer mailing to parents. In the meanwhile, Ms. Monaco encourages parents to assume that there is always going to be lice present in our child's environment, so we should be vigilant and diligent about it.
- 1<sup>st</sup> Grade teacher status for the fall: Ms. Monaco will announce the staffing for next year in "*PAWS*" for News on 6/18. If there is a teacher with whom you've had a first hand experience, and you feel very strongly about not having him/her for your child,

Ms. Monaco suggests to put that in writing every year, as teachers sometimes change grade levels.

- Possibility of allowing classes to compete against each other on field day: In the past years we have had a K grade level picnic; this is the first year we're having a K field day, and the P.E. teachers graciously accepted to host it. As with anything new, the teachers will see how it works, and they welcome suggestions for improving field days next year. This year, the K students will have several children from their classroom in their team. Also, having children in their team from other classes, who they most likely know from recess or specials, is a nice transition to 1<sup>st</sup> Grade.

*II. 1<sup>st</sup> Grade*

- Teachers formally greeting each student in the morning as they enter the classroom: Ms. Monaco agrees that this is a good practice as it sets the tone for the day, teaches manners, and allows children to practice eye contact. She will follow up with the teachers to ensure they formally greet students in the mornings.

*III. 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade*

No issues/questions raised.

*IV. 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade*

- Clarification on cursive philosophy: All 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade classes should finish the cursive book by the end of the year.

*VI. 4<sup>th</sup> Grade*

- Effect of new budget on 5<sup>th</sup> Grade class trips: Since the elementary school trip allocation was fully reinstated, Ms. Monaco does not expect that there will be a loss in trips in any grade.
- Effect of new budget on practice tests for standardized testing: There will be practice tests, but they will no longer be scored by retired teachers. Also, the elementary schools will no longer be giving the ERB tests at the beginning of the year. The ERB (Educational Record Bureau) is an educational service organization that provides more challenging assessments to private and suburban schools.

*VII. 5<sup>th</sup> Grade*

No issues/questions raised.

*VIII. Special Education*

- Information on new specialized K/1 class: This class, currently at Chatsworth, will be at Murray next year. The class consists of seven children; for five of them, Murray is their home school. The class will have a full-time teacher, Kim Hickey (née Brown), a

full-time teaching assistant, and a full-time aide. Some of the children will be mainstreamed for part of the day with one of the adults in their specialized class. Ms. Monaco will meet with the space allocation committee to find a space for this class.