

PALS meeting February 15, 2017:

Attendees:

Katie Gross, Sheila Williams Ridge, Ross Thompson, Angie Brain, Mara Liss, Katie Bird, Basma Ibrahim DeVries, Jun Li

Events:

- **Gym Jam:** good turn out, a lot of alumni families, raised \$3900 (more than any other time), suggestion to keep a tally of alumni and current families next year and sending Gym Jam info to other childcares on campus, more communication out to the community.
- **Holiday Give Event:** Went very well, supported three different families.
- **Creativity night:** Main idea: a family event to show another facet of what the lab school offers. Each room does something different and then an offering outside as well. It is a great community event/collective experience.
- **Earth day clean up and Green Market:** Last year was first year and it was very successful: 9-12 on Saturday in May, got pizza afterwards. Cleaned up playgrounds, swept off equipment, got it ready for spring, did a green market the week before and had people bring in toys not using anymore to swap with other people, including outdoor clothes. Rest was donated to local organization.
- **All school pizza party:** End of year gathering, Teddy Bear Band, lots of pizzas, on lawn, a celebration, be together, creativity projects, face painting.
- **Spring Camping Trip:** have coordinators for this already, but will open it up to two nights (not decided yet as to have it start on Friday evening or leave on Monday-coordinators to decide with Sheila). Cost of lodge is \$150/day, could possibly use Gym Jam donations for this (big motor activities). This would allow for an additional hike, encourage families to bring bikes to use bike trails (mark trails better). It would be an option for each family to stay one or two nights. May need to change camping assignments. Consider polling families to find out if they would rather come on Friday or have a Monday departure (it is also Memorial Day Weekend). Will need to know how many sites to reserve soon. 15 or so people come without staying the night usually.
- **Soiree:** new date (April 8), letter to families to be sent out soon, plan to have families ask for donations and/or donate sponsorships and add them to Google spreadsheet (make sure In Kind Donation form is filled out for each donation and return donation and form to Sheila or Katie). Another soiree planning committee meeting first week of March, will then send out list for volunteer opportunities for soiree.

Other ideas for soiree or throughout year: Great Gatherings (any parents can donate this): Great Gatherings are themed parties, intimate dinners, grade-level gatherings, or family activities hosted by other Lab School families. You purchase tickets to attend the Great Gathering, the host/s (can be multiple families) cover the costs, and all proceeds go directly to the Lab school. (maybe consider having a bulletin board or online bidding site if we want it to be year long instead of just at soiree). Consider having a few families offer great gatherings at soiree so people can understand what they are like and plan to continue throughout year?

Parent Education: Next education night: Big Body, Rough and Tumble Play: what is it, benefits of it, how to promote it in your home, Tuesday, March 7, 2017, 6-7:30 pm, childcare provided, taught by Ross.

Parent Communication/Volunteer Opportunities: Ideas on how to improve communication regarding volunteer opportunities: bulletin board/binder with reminder to look at Google shared document (an active list maintained by Sheila with volunteer needs on same document as dish week list), as well as having teachers put link in their weekly emails occasionally or send out periodic reminders on how to access the document.

Mondays are also a good time to check in with Sheila to find out what her weekly to-do list is and where she needs help for the week.

There will also be a new webpage next year (consider having Sheila have her own page to keep updated on volunteer needs, etc)

Other communication ideas include: using GroupMe (Group texting), MeetUp or other forum to encourage parents to communicate directly with each other.

Lab School Space Update:

Plans are underway regarding new Lab School space. The College of Education is in the process of narrowing down the 10 architectural firm bids down to three. After the three finalists are chosen, a representative from the Lab School will be involved to share feedback about the finalists. Lab School goals include sustainably built, and an understanding of emphasis on education and research. After a firm is chosen, there will be a pre-design phase and a space will need to be chosen at that time (multiple options currently). Later this spring, there will likely be an opportunity for families to weigh in on pre-design. After this, there will be a year of waiting for funding approvals, after which time will be spent working on planning and design with a goal of hoping to break ground in December 2020.

Teacher Update: Elizabeth is not going to be teaching in Lab School next year, but will be a part of Institute of Child Development. There is a timeline put together for hiring of new teacher and after approval of job code, recruitment will be done locally and nationally with plans to do interviewing after spring break. This committee is looking for a parent(s) to be a part of interviewing or to give feedback and attend other events. If you have ideas about this process or would like to participate, contact Sheila.

Parking: Sheila has new parking passes to use for the rest of this year and summer.