

Lower School Grade Level Reps Meeting: December 5, 2014

In attendance: Ayoub, Balog, Ferrency, Hare, Howell, Kelly, Kimmel, McHenry, Ryms

Grade level updates:

Kindergarten –

- Students have been excited about the “Gnomes” project!
- Vocabulary has been increasing.
- Communication has been great; parents are very pleased. (Literacy feedback!)
- Good accommodations for nutritional needs of students.
- Concern about movies - How often are they shown?
 - Ms. Cook shared that movies (always relevant to unit or discipline) are a way for teachers to have one-on-one style interview assessments. Because students can not write to show their understanding, teachers have conversations around comprehension.
 - Also, as one of the “honey pot” rewards (ECS PBIS) earned by an entire classroom’s good behavior, *movie afternoon* (more like 30-45 minutes of a G-rated film of student choice) is one of many items that can be pulled from the honey pot.

1st grade –

- Notes from meetings will be/have been shared with parents.
- Parents may need more information around protocol and use of MAPS testing.
- Parents were concerned about students taking their shoes off during the day.
 - Ms. Cook shared that the school nurse had immediately emailed the faculty expressing her concern. Shoes will no longer be taken off during the day because of “dirt.”
- A substitute teacher had “yelled” at students. That was, in a way “good news” because it is not the general climate or expectation of our faculty.

2nd grade –

- Make fewer math options (?)

3rd grade –

- Economy system uses math skills
- Conference time (10 minutes) may not be enough.
- Can report cards be sent out ahead of time?
- Can parents provide guided conversation topics ahead of time?

General:

- How do we parents get to know faculty?
- After a conversation about RTI, parent wanted to know about students on the other end of the spectrum.
- Are gifted students challenged? Discussed differentiation in the classroom, gifted support.
- Can we enhance community building efforts? Bus family/neighborhood pot lucks or other gatherings?

Next meeting is Friday, January 9, 2015 at 9:00 (following a general lower school coffee)