

## Grade Level Representatives Notes

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Dear ECS Families and Faculty,

We wanted to let you know about a collaborative initiative amongst the school administration and Parent Community of ECS - the Grade Representatives Committee. This committee is comprised of school principals and volunteer representatives from each grade level.

The purpose of the Grade Reps program is to *collect trending concerns and feedback from each grade to share with the administration with an eye toward problem solving when needed*. We welcome your questions and concerns and look forward to addressing them during these monthly meetings. Feedback / notes will be shared through the room parents and can also be found online: <http://ecspco.org/volunteer/grade-representatives/>.

### Notes from Friday, January 10, 2018

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ECS Faculty Attending: Ashley Bergman, Mandy Cribbs, Jaleah Robinson, Nikki Augustine

#### **Celebrations:**

- The Upper School is excited about the concert on January 18th. We will showcase our 4th and 5th grade music program as well as our band and orchestra.
- Parents are feeling more connected to their child's school work through the use of Google Docs. They hope to see that work continue.
- Mr. Burke deserves a shout out for his recent lesson on sustainability and the real life connection to car mileage
- The 4th grade parents are happy that this year there seems to be a slower transition for the use of technology and 1:1 computing.
- Parents really love the discovery block and the play based feel for kindergarten and 1st grade.
- The Upper School is starting a "Leave It Better Than You Found It" campaign. Each homebase is assigned an area of the school to watch over. Students and staff are responsible for ensuring that their space is left clean and ready for other community members to use throughout the day. Our facilities department will award a letter grade to each space. Homebases that earn an A for their space will earn a dress down day!

**ECS asks to Grade level Reps:**

- Please participate in our expansion conversations. The next two dates are 1/24 and 1/31. Both sessions are held from 6:30-7:30pm in the Upper School Cafe.

**Notes:****Q: Is there an opportunity for our Upper School students to meet as a large group like they do at Lower?**

**A:** Each month we hold grade level community meetings in the cafeteria. During these meetings we celebrate the student of the month and any birthdays. We also discuss the character trait of the month and the students learn how they can embody that trait throughout their day. These meetings are a great time to gather as a community and learn from each other. We would love to meet as an entire school, but we are unable to find a space large enough to accommodate us.

**Q: How does the morning crossing guard at Lower interact with the school?**

**A:** The morning crossing guard is not employed by ECS or the city, she is a neighbor who has volunteered to cross children as she puts her own child on the bus. Ashley is going to reach out to our afternoon officer to discuss ways that we can better support our students and traffic in the morning.

**Q: Why did we change the use of dress down days this year?**

**A:** We use dress down days each year as a fundraising activity. Typically, our 8th grade requests to use them to help with their end of year trip. This year our 8th grade community decided not to use them and opted to use other fundraising opportunities. We will still have dress down days, but they are just going to be used as rewards and celebration days rather than fundraisers.

**Q: How can we support the need for childcare on half days?**

**A:** Half days are used to create and design classroom instruction. We use half days so that we can continue this valuable work and get our students in for a partial day of instruction. We have used stay and plays in the past to help parents with childcare but this may or may not be what our parents need on those days. We will invite Kristan Abeshouse to our next meeting to discuss the stay and plays and the ways that PCO and EDay can collaborate to ensure our parents feel supported on half days.

**Q: What does an individual orchestra lesson schedule look like?**

**A:** The schedule is designed on a rotating basis so students do not miss the same class each week. Ms. Perdue developed a 3 cycle rotation with her rock, paper and scissors groups. The students are aware of the rotation and the schedule is posted on her door each week as a reminder. Please reach out to Ms. Perdue if you have specific questions about your student's schedule.

**Q: How is the school supporting the use of social media and digital citizenship throughout the year?**

A: Teachers incorporate digital citizenship lessons into their curriculum. Typically students start the year with explicit lessons when they start working on their chromebooks. As the year progresses, the lessons are embedded into the curriculum. The PCO is looking to host an event for parents regarding social media in the spring. When this date is selected, we will make sure to announce it through the Monday Blast and grade level newsletters. Stay tuned!!