ECS Grade Rep Notes 1/8/16

GENERAL

- 1. Ski club cancellation was disappointing but understandable given the rainy weather
- 2. Orchestra concert in Jan. instead of Dec.
- 3. Welcome Laura Hudson to the teaching team in Grade 1
- 4. Families are interested in volunteering but may not know how to get involved
 - a. what are the needs for each grade and can we send that out to all parents to fill?
- Families are interested in having an orientation night at the school; the introduction to 2015-16 school year was held entirely at the lower school, not giving parents of new, upper school students a chance to see classrooms, etc.
 a. orientation can be the back to school night ?
- 6. ECS has a unique philosophy of education that is sometimes challenging to capture in terms of traditional assessment methods. Parents are interested in finding middle ground between fill in a bubble and the lofty collaboration critical thinker, where kids are taught according to their learning styles including work that includes individual, group, or both
- 7. Parents feel strongly that graded work should be sent home on a regular basis so they have a sense of what is happening in school and also can better support their child's learning at home
 - a. what is the priority and type of information that parents see at each grade level
 - b. parents want that paper with the red mark
 - c. 5th grade has a send home folder routine that is excellent
 - d. consistent routines across grades would be helpful; there is a sense among some families that your experience is only as good as the team you get
 - e. there is an assessment committee that has been working on this issue for the past two years; outcomes and results are expected to be presented soon

Kindergarten

- Parents would like more day to day volunteer opportunities room parents can assist by identifying regular needs and putting those out to the parents
- Would like to see and orientation/ communication about ECS as new students/parents (Back to school night)
- K is setting up homebase website to share more pictures

First (Nothing to report)

Second

- Do nows - not corrected and all sent home at one time - can't go over it if it isn't sent home as it is finished - parents want to see graded work frequently

Third

- nice one page schoology intro paper home from Ms. K. (send to Mandy)
- 3rd grade is going on field trips- how is this possible given the spending freeze? The field trips have been free of charge/donated by sponsoring organization.

Fourth

- Parents are concerned about amount of time students are spending online and monitoring of what is happening online when students are finished with work
 - what are the monitoring systems used? kids are able to get on games, read real news
 - can we track what kids have been on?
 - IT will be notified that students are accessing sites that may not be appropriate
- A group of parents met with administration regarding curriculum and sending homework home; the outcomes of this meeting include commitment by 4th grade team to get more information home to families. Families will get an email when teachers plan to send work home.

Fifth

- There seem to be issues with the mathematics curriculum; some students are not feeling challenged (seems remedial)
- Families need more information about 'detracking' for math in 6th grade; they are concerned this means students will not have opportunity to be challenged as they were when different math sections were offered. The administration explained that math students will still receive individualized instruction and that students will be challenged; the only change is that this will occur within the classroom (whereas students used to go to separate math classes)

6-8

- 8th Grade Parents would like more communication