

Grade Level Representatives Notes

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 Wednesday March 7 and April 4, 2018

Celebrations:

The Lower School Penny Wars raised almost 800 dollars for a mystery charity (the students are writing grants now to determine the charity)

Our food drive for Feeding America collected almost 14,000 pounds of food (1.1lb = 1 meal) up from 1,400 from last year!

Home Access Center is up and running! Parents are able to see updated assignments and grades for their students in all grade levels. Please reach out to your student's teachers if you have any questions.

Notes:

Q: Do we have any additional options for the lunch menu this year?

A: Our food service partner, CKP underwent an internal audit and decided to place all of their schools on the same meal plan. The good news is that they used our dietary information to build the meals, the one downside is that we cannot be as flexible with our meal planning. We can also report that since the shift, revenue in the cafe has not gone down nor has the amount of compost gone up. We currently only produce 1 bag of compost per building per day. Also all of our leftovers are donated to local charities each Friday to help us eliminate wasted food. Our food service director, Nikki Augustine, does take all of your feedback into consideration when making changes, so please reach out to her if you have any further concerns or questions.

Q: Can ECS send a team to next year's Science and Engineering Fair (PJAS)? This year, only one student participated thanks to parent and teacher support.

A: This year we are sending all of our 6th and 7th grade students to the Intel Science and Engineering Fair. We feel that this one more closely aligns to our values in the science department. We are always excited to have our students to showcase their passion for science in the community!

Q: Are there any updates from the athletic department?

A: Aaron Coleman is currently working on separating the middle school and K-5 sports programs in preparation for expansion. Currently our 4th and 5th graders are participating in basketball, Cross Country sign ups went live on April 2nd, our 7th graders are starting the Bike ECS program. Mr. Coleman is also working on building interscholastic sports teams for our 6th-8th graders. Look for a parent feedback survey this spring!

Q: How can we find out more about school safety and ECS' practices for both prevention and crisis support?

A: Please join us on April 26th to hear more about our practices, how we are working to collaborate with PPS and how we support both the emotional well being of your children and keep school safety as a priority.

Q: What's the status of hikes in the lower school?

A: Hikes and our outdoor policy have not changed, there has been a lull with the cold temperatures, but we are still bundling up and getting out!

Q: Foreign Language addition with expansion. There is a strong ECS parent group committed to trying to help bring a foreign language program to ECS. Is this a possibility as you make plans for the expansion? If so, please engage the parent group to see if they can help.

A: We are in the process of analyzing the data from the staff, student and parent surveys. When the data is ready to share out, we will do so in the Monday Blast. Thank you to all who participated. We will use the information in our decision making phase and then share those decisions out once they are made.

Q: What were the Lottery breakdowns per grade level?

The number of applications we received per grade level are as follows:

K-283 1st-111 2nd-57 3rd-63 4th-46 5th-40 6th-60 7th-11 8th-10

Q: How can I find out what optional homework is available for my student in the Lower School?

A: Homework and practice is always available, please reach out to teachers if you would like anything additional sent home in any grade.

Q: What are the practices for getting the message out about lottery spots in other grade levels?

A: When it is time for the lottery, anyone who is still on our waiting list receives an email alerting them that they applications for the next year are available and encouraging them to reapply. Each year we have open houses for each grade level and advertise those on Facebook and on our website. The information is also available on our website under FAQ, then enrollment.

Q: Can parents assume that ECS will always follow PPS with weather delays and cancellations?

A: YES, ECS will follow PPS with all weather related delays and cancellations.

Q: What is the schedule for PSSAs?

A: During the week of April 9th testing will be for grades 3rd through 8th, from arrival time through noon on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. During the week of April 16th testing will be for grades 3rd through 8th, from arrival through noon on Monday and Tuesday. During the week of the 23rd testing will be for grades 4th and 8th only, from arrival through noon on Monday and Tuesday. There will be make up tests and individual tests being taken in the afternoons and the rest of each week. It is important to get enough rest each night and eat a good breakfast prior to testing. Students will still be able to get breakfast here at school on test days. We know that many students can feel a bit anxious during the testing weeks. Please remind them that this is just one piece of data, and not the only thing that defines who they are as a student.