

Henking Hoffman PTA Meeting
Tuesday, April 21, 2009
Hoffman
Called to order at 9:31 AM

Attendees: Laura Horwitz, Mark Walther, Neal Siegellak, Ande Wells, Mary Patronik, Marcy Sotirchos, Jodi Hiller, Maureen, Geiger, and Angela McCune

The March Minutes were approved.

President's Report-Ande Wells

Amazing Minds has begun the second session at Henking. The first session of this program was a success.

PTA Council-Ande Wells

Meryl Brown, the Principal from Glen Grove, has announced that she is resigning at the end of this school year. Her family is moving to Oak Park and she will be working in River Forest. A search has begun to try and fill her position.

The milk provided by Food Services is currently under investigation. They are exploring whether it contains RBST which is a growth hormone. Brett will get back to Council on this matter next month.

The meeting picked up from the discussion last month involving the ELL students and their families and how to help them find success in the educational system. One thing that Mark O'Brien from GBS touched on was that reading was the key to success. The Henking/Hoffman PTA is donating \$1,000 in book credits to be split between the two schools to provide books for the ELL classrooms.

Treasurer's Report-Laura Horwitz

Laura presented a copy of the budget and pointed out that over half of the budget goes to Cultural Arts, Visiting Author, Teacher Appreciation Lunch, and Administrative Costs. We did not have a major fund raiser this year but we were able to cover our costs and we are able to provide 1-2 wish list items for each school for a cost of approximately \$1-2,000. In the Fall it would be useful if each school provided the PTA with a Wish List to use for fundraising.

Special Guests-Hoffman Bilingual Teachers

Kristy Tierney is the 3rd grade Bilingual Teacher at Hoffman. She has 16 students in her class; these kids have been together since 1st grade. Math, Reading and Social Studies is in Spanish and English and they cover the same curriculum as the other 3rd grade classes. The goal is to be biliterate in both languages and they want to preserve the student's native language. The bilingual program is now starting in kindergarten; it is too late to start it in 1st grade. Next year there will be two kindergarten bilingual classes, 2 bilingual 1st grades, one bilingual 2nd grade and one 4th grade.

Mr. Larenas, Mrs. Spina, and Mrs. Wilson provided a presentation to inform us about the ELL program and the goals of the program. Several students from Ms. Tierney's class helped with the presentation. Ms. Tierney and Mrs. Laurie, an associate

in the class, have seen immense progress in all of the students. The MAPA (Maestros, Alumnos y Padres Avanzando) group has been beneficial in that it has increased communication with the parents. The level of participation of the parents is high. They have also attended Math Night, International Night, and a variety of field trips. The teachers have built a relationship and the parents trust these teachers. They also found that if the information being sent home from school is translated there is a greater level of participation by the parents. The family unit is the most important component in the Hispanic Culture and to increase academic achievement they must include the family. The next MAPA Literacy Night is April 29. When the PTA asked how we can help, the ELL teachers responded that the children need more books for their homes, they need school supplies for the home and parents have asked for a Community Center in Michael Todd. The PTA can help with the first two requests but the Community Center may be beyond our scope. The new Glenview/Northbrook Youth Center may be able to address some of these needs.

Another group that is trying to address the low reading scores is ARC (Awesome Reading Club) which meets 2 times a week for one hour from 1/15-4/30. The goal is to improve fluency and comprehension. Title 1 funds are supporting this program. Transportation and snacks are also provided. They hope to boost reading scores, confidence and pride. Ms. Tierney has already noticed increased comprehension in her bilingual class. They want to resume this program in September. Henking has a similar program called the Hawk Reading Club which is continuing till mid May. There are 54 students in the club with a total of 18 teachers. The initial data shows that the children are increasing their ability to read by 2 minutes per minute per week.

Principal's Report

Neal Siegellak-Henking School

Happy "Earth Week": Mrs. Walsh is the PTA "Green Team" leader, coordinating activities for this week. They include:

--Students bringing recyclable materials for "Recycled Rhythm." Classroom teachers, you will need to store the items in the classroom or in students' backpacks and have students take them to their music class. Students should take the materials home after they have used them in music.

--Piece/Peace Quilt: Students bringing strips of recyclable materials to art class. Classroom teachers, you will need to store the items in the classroom or in students' backpacks and have students take them to their art class.

--Students who buy a school lunch or who bring a "Waste-Free Lunch" will receive raffle tickets each day. A couple of parents have volunteered to help Associates to distribute tickets. There will be a drawing on Friday for several items made from recycled materials.

--I will announce "Mind-Up and Power Down" for the last 22 minutes of school on Wednesday, April 22. Teachers may choose to shut down power during this instructional time.

--Wear green on Friday.

TV Turnoff Week: Shonne Ehrhardt has worked with teachers to provide activities for each night of this week:

Monday: Activities at the Glenview Public Library

Tuesday: Pizza Night

Wednesday: Earth Day Picnic at Crowley Park

Thursday: District 34 Family Night and Ice Cream Night

Friday: Coupon for Splash Landings

Many other activities and ideas were sent home in backpack mail last week.

Book Club: The *Local School Council* has organized a book club for the book, *Living Simply with Children* by, Marie Sherlock. Carmen Gray from the Glenview Public Library will lead the discussion, along with Kirsten Considine on April 22 at Henking School at 7:00.

Bilingual Kindergarten Parent Orientation: Will take place April 21 and 23. Currently there are 18 students registered for the 2009-10 school year.

Staff Update: We wish Candice Wu well as she transitions to Attea Middle School for next year. In addition to the art opening at Henking, we are currently interviewing candidates for bilingual Spanish classroom positions at kindergarten, first grade, and second grade. In 2009-10 there will be two half day kindergarten, two first grades, and one second grade class in the bilingual Spanish program. This is an increase in two sections from the 2008-09 school year.

Empty Bowls: The evening was a tremendous success. There were over 200 people who attended. Over \$3000 was raised for the Northfield Food Pantry. Henking School was fortunate to have the leadership of Candice Wu and Mary Patronik on this project. The donations of soup and time was appreciated.

Padres Alumnos Maestros Avanzando: . . .or *PALMA* is a newly formed group designed to help parents of Spanish-speaking students navigate the American educational system (*NAES*). Lillian Uhler, Madeline Collins, Sabina Beyer, and Melissa Litwin attended the *NAES* training in February and they are excited about the first meeting with parents on May 5. The teachers will plan four evening meetings with parents during the course of the next year. The meetings will strengthen the partnership between students, parents, and teachers to support learning.

Open House: . . .will take place on May 7 from 6-7:30. Parents will have an opportunity to see some of the finest of their children's work and they will have a chance to meet Henking's incoming principal.

Kindergarten Spring Sing: May 8 at 10:00 and 2:00.

Mother Goose: The kindergartners enjoyed watching "Mother Goose" come to life on March 24.

Author Visit: Kay Winters, author of “My Teacher for President” and other children’s books, shared her writing with students. The three assemblies on April 15 were interactive.

Teacher Appreciation Lunch: The staff felt very appreciated on March 18. Thank you to Mary Garvey, Cathy Freidinger, and all of the parent volunteers who helped make this event so special.

Mark Walther-Hoffman School

- Thank you for the AWESOME TEACHER APPRECIATION LUNCH to Marcy Sotirchos and Liz Skweres.
- Happy TV-Turn-Off Week!
- Happy Earth Week!
- Special thanks to the PTA for purchasing a book for every student for TV-Turn-Off Week. Thanks to Cindy Weickert for her leadership.
- Thanks to Kirsten Considine, our LRC Director, for coordinating the distribution of yellow caution tape. Did you place it on your TV?
- Thank you Melissa Walsh for helping to coordinate Earth Week activities:
 - Waste-free lunches
 - Sneaker Drive
 - Caps Collection
 - Wear Green Garb Wed. 4/22
 - Walk/Ride Bike to School
 - Power Down-lights off in school from 2:00-2:30 PM.
- After School Sports now completed for grades 4 and 5....3rd grade will start in May. Special thanks to our PE teachers Pat Hoeft, Drew Russell and Terri Kimura!
- Peace Garden- 5th graders are cleaning the Courtyard with the help of Anastasia Mitas, Katie Czelatdko, Markus Hartnett, Pat Hoeft and Drew Russell.
- Drama-In-Residence has been occurring last week and this week! Thank you PTA for making this happen! Parents are invited to see our dramatic presentations in all Drama classes this week! Please attend!
- 5th grade Robert Crown “Life Begins” presentations were held last week! Well reviewed information and our students were recognized for their knowledge and conduct by the presenters!
- 5th Grade Transition Dialogues occurred last Wednesday! Staff from Springman and Attea met with our 5th grade teachers to receive information helpful to each one of our students!
- NWEA testing in reading, math and language begins Wednesday-results will be shared with you before the end of the school year.
- MAPA III-Wednesday 4/29 from 7:00-8:30 PM.
- Band/Choir Concert Wed. 5/6 at Attea at 7:00 PM.
- 3rd Grade Orientation has begun! We will meet with 2nd grade on Monday April 20. 2nd graders visit on May 19 and 20 and Parent Orientation is May 21 from 6-7:00 PM.
- Open House May 21 from 6:30-7:30 PM.

- Book Fair May 20-21. Special thanks to Lara Herbolsheimer and Krista Rachiele for their enthusiastic leadership!
- Parent Input for Student Placement due May 22.
- What a great year for Hoffman School!

Committee Reports

Spa Fundraiser-Michelle Sklena and Bobbie Murokh

It was a great evening! The final numbers are not in yet but it looks like approximately \$1600 was raised for the Henking Hoffman PTA.

Empty Bowls-Mary Patronik

This event was a huge success; \$3,200 was raised to go to the Northfield Food Pantry. There is a question about doing this event next year because the art teacher at Henking is going to be moving to Attea. Mary needs to talk with the new art teacher.

Motion to close at 11:45 PM.