

January 10, 2017

Mena's update

Guests tonight are Ms. Breen and Mrs. Lacy to talk about the States of Matter program that the PTO funded. It fits with the second grade curriculum that already exists and enhanced the learning that had already happened. Former Cunniff teacher, Judy Kearney, was the instructor who acted as Jupiter Judy for an hour and a half. The program began on the rug with vocabulary and materials. It was educational for the students and teachers who can now enhance their curriculum next year. The program began with a molecule dance and a water race was the first experiment. Students learned about cohesion using a racetrack and water. Students were engaged and conversation from Judy was a bonus. Next, they moved toward the penny experiment with drops of water on a penny. They also talked about solid, liquid and gas. Another benefit of the program was that it was collaborative, engaging kids in small and larger groups. To get the students moving, they played with tornado tubes and density tubes. Each student took home a test tube with different liquids in them. The second grade is very appreciative for our support in this project. The program is highly recommended for other topics and grade levels. This was a one-day program that was very amenable to the classroom's schedule. The program was recommended by Judy Kearney.

Mena sent out a Newsletter earlier this evening. The PK/K information night is next Wednesday, January 18 at 6:30.

Made in the Shade, a musical Jazz tour is coming on Friday for the lower grades.

Two doors have been replaced in the building. They will be painted over the summer. MCAS schedule is out. ELL testing will begin next week.

Homework task force starts this week. And, two courses will begin: Math Olympiad and Homework Club, thanks to a donation from a parent. Weather Bug will also continue thanks to a \$1000.00 grant from last year's fifth grade class.

Angela Scott, a recruitment specialist from Girl Scouts, also presented at this month's meeting. There is a first grade group here that meets once a month immediately after school at Cunniff from 2:30 to 4:00. She wanted to come to share information. There are several camps that are offered over school vacation weeks and during the summer. To start another troupe, only a volunteer is needed. Realistically, they meet once or twice a month between 1 and 2 hours per session. If you are interested in beginning a troupe, contact Angela Scott directly.

Tina's Budget update: See attached photo.

Other news:

Choice Award voting has closed, but a winner has not yet been announced.

Book Fair went very well. The format was great. Next year, younger grades may go with older grades to lessen the trinkets being bought. Total sales were \$6,051.00,

including about \$300 on line and about \$1,000 on Sunday. Thank you Britt, for taking over the Book fair next year!

Spelling Bee update: if you are interested in helping, contact Jackie Airasian. Teachers are also needed to call words for their grades. An email will be sent out soon. Please register early.

Ed Foundation Grants are being reviewed next Thursday, January 19. Cunniff has requested funds to bring author, Emily Boone, back for 2 grades (perhaps 1st and 2nd).

If you have time to look for grants, please consider writing one to find money to be used at Cunniff. In general, look for grants for enrichment or classroom supplies. If you are interested, contact Lauren Stefano.

Tina: Movie Night will be showing Trolls on February 10 from 6pm to 8pm. Admission and all snacks (available by ticket) will be \$1. We will either purchase popcorn or pop it there. Maria will look into getting water and candy and will also contact the high school for volunteers.

Ericka and Box Tops: First grade won, we received a check for over \$800. There will be another pay out in April. A competition will begin again in the spring.

Sweatshirt sales: Thank you, Britt. It was a great idea and a great success. Britt will look into starting a sale of other items in the spring.

We are considering using Lifetouch for portraits instead of Coffee Pond. There may be a spring portrait weekend as a fundraiser. Stay tuned for details.

Scholarship for former Cunniff students is on hold. We will take this year off and revisit next year to see if and how we would like this to continue.

Do be continued next month: Raffle, Chipotle fundraiser night.

Next meeting is Tuesday, February 7, 2017.