

BCSIS Ed Council Meeting February 2018-2019 School Year

Mindfulness regarding participation during meeting (Meaghan)

- We want to try to practice what we are doing in our classrooms to help facilitate a more balanced communication in our Ed Council meetings. Concepts to follow:
 - If you are the person that seems to makes an offer all the time, try to sit back and allow others to make an offer first. This will help honor those that are more shy or quiet and/or not apt to jump in first. That way, more voices will be heard.
 - On the flip side, if you are someone who tends to sit back, please make an offer more often.

Teacher update (Erin)

- **How are you are using arts integration in your classroom to promote/enhance students' engagement in learning?**
 - **5th**: Karen and Kimberly had guest artist Rosie Waters in the classrooms for two weeks. Rosie uses a myriad of performance art methods like freezes, persistence, and dramatic accuracy to deepen students' experiences in literacy. For example, students would do character freeze methods that physically embodied the experience a specific character was feeling. This way, students' connected more intimately with the characters, a skill that is easily applied in social situations in real life. Additionally, students' experience dramatically speaking the characters' experiences allows them to practice using their own voices, a skill necessary in both the academic and social world. From the freezes, the students then wrote themed poetry based on their own experiences embodying the characters.
 - **4th**: The 4th grade team uses drama and movement to embody science concepts. As a part of the 4th grade energy unit, the students will use their bodies to mimic the process of a coal-fired power plant. In doing, this rather than just showing a diagram or a photo, students bridge the concept with an actual movement. The students have to make their own movement based on their understanding of the way their individual part works. Additionally, they have to understand how their movement/part of the plant impacts the next person's. The result of the exercise is a deeper and more embodied understanding of the concept.
 - **3rd**: The 3rd grade team is reviewing parts of speech, ie nouns, verbs, and adjectives, through dramatic tableaux. A tableau looks the same way a freeze does- students use their bodies to demonstrate the meaning of something. They will then use their bodies to demonstrate sentence structures, stringing a group of "parts of speech" (the students) together. This deeper understanding of the parts of speech will help students identify POS in their poetry and later help write persuasive writing pieces and informational writing.
 - **2nd**: Grade 2 is working on their Hero's unit. As the children learn about people who have made a difference in our world they begin to be able to

define what a hero is and how they too can become an everyday hero. Children define character traits through dramatic tableaux, they use inferring during dramatic character interviews, and they create sock dolls of their hero. We are in the midst of researching, learning where to find information, and writing notes. The next step is writing a biography. We are also creating timelines of each hero's lifetime. The final activity is a presentation...the child dresses as their hero and presents their life.

- **1st:** Both teachers are studying Leo Lionni as an artist and an author. The themes of his works are on community and creativity, both big values at BCSIS. From an artistic lens, the students are looking at his works that include collage and painting. From a literacy lens, the students are engaging in character interviews, a scenario in which one student acts as a character in the book and answers interview questions from the rest of the class from the perspective of that character. From this, students create their own visual watercolor artworks based on these interviews then proceed to write book recommendations to interested parties :) The integrated elements in first grade are innumerable, allowing students to exercise oracy and character understanding through dramatic practice. Themes of books are enhanced by the visual artmaking and all activities are woven with all school values like honoring the learning community.
- **Kindergarten:** Kindergarten celebrated Valentine's Day and used it as a way to discuss the different kinds of love that exist, ie personal love (love for self and how to take care of and support oneself), love for the greater world and taking care of nature and animals, love for family, love for friends, and love for community. They then read a beautiful book to the students titled Love by Matt Delapena. Inspired by the illustrations of the book, the students made their own heart watercolor paintings and wrote what they think love is. As the students were doing the project, they were encouraged to stop and look around the classroom and see what levels of love were happening around them: parent volunteers are examples of love for community; fellow students helping one another are examples of love for friends; the families who the project was being made for is an example of love for family. Through the art project, the students' understanding of a somewhat abstract but very developmentally appropriate concept was enhanced.

Spring Community Meeting Topic (Megan, Emily H. & Teacher Reps)

- Event is scheduled for April 18th / 5:30 / with childcare (circus)
- In tandem with the teacher's focus of building self-awareness and responsibility, they are interested in an event focused on Executive Functioning, and how to support parents to help their kids truly really embed it at home and in the classroom. Staff is interested in bringing a specialist who is an expert at Executive Functioning who can speak to skills and strategy.
 - So far, they are having a hard time finding someone who can speak to that. Send any ideas to Phil, Emily or Meagan. Some current ideas:

- Smart but Scattered – the author of that book who might live in Boulder.
- Late, Lost and Unprepared, another author to check in to
- Kim reach out to her contact at Jarrow Montessorri for ideas
- Phil brought up the possibility of paying a few teachers a stipend to present, which they are open to, but more interested in finding an expert in the field.
- More info on what are EF skills and strategies:
 - Organizing
 - Focusing
 - Decision making
 - Producing
 - Staying on track
 - We are also really interested in the “why” of why it may be more of a challenge in this day and age.
- In regards to next years spring topic, we should be speaking/thinking about it in the fall, so we are more on top of it.
- Ed Council is happy with the topic, so we can give it to Phil and the teachers to figure out

Report out on 3rd - 5th grade pick up area (Kristen)

- Kristen last year proposed the idea to move 3rd, 4th and 5th graders away from black top and on to the green for pick up for three reasons
 1. To avoid the health issues from the exhaust
 2. Safety issues from the bottleneck
 3. To help create more community b/c there is no hang out area on the black top and parents seem to spend less time connecting with each other in that pick up spot.
- She has been exploring this since last spring and presented it in a staff meeting in October.
- There was openness to the concerns, and yet still universal opposition to the idea for many reasons at this point.
- However, the experience of such an open conversation was enlightening and appreciated, from both sides.
- At this point, if there is ever a group of parents that want to look at community after school, Phil would love to be a part of that conversation, and invite teachers to be part of that team.
 - Maybe have a coffee talk to create a brainstorming session to pull together ideas for community and then maybe a team will emerge from that
 - Micha will make it a Thursday Newsblast
 - Emily H will work with the coffee talk coordinator to help shape and manage the event.

Scheduling conversation around Vaccination reporting (Kristen)

The state of emergency in Washington over the measles outbreak got Kristen thinking about the idea of Ed Council getting more informed and possibly involved. BVSD has almost twice the exemptions as Clark County (from data published in 2017/18.)

We have invited Stephanie Faren, the BVSD Director of Health Services, to our next meeting, March 20, in order to answer questions and give us more information about the following:

- Current vaccination exemption rates at BCSIS
- Current numbers of families who have not shared required records
- Any data on number of kids who have compromised immune systems
- Other related data and topics

Kristen will gather questions before the next meeting and share them with Stephanie. Micha will include in next NewsBlast a reminder of when to keep your child home from school and include a reminder to update vaccination records with Ruth.

Finance and Fundraising Update (Laurie & Emily H)

- This is the time we start to talk about next year's budget.
- Laurie passed out copies of the current budget. Please review the document and send her desired changes. We will vote in May.
- Met as a finance team in January to review this year and next year's budget, including next years fundraising
- Overall we are on target to raise \$100k and we are probably going to spend \$125k – we are using the surplus we had and will still have a small cushion left over of about \$5 to \$10k into next year – plus still have our \$30k CD for emergencies.
- The only new addition to next year's budget is for the academic tutors, which is about \$30k more than we have had in budgets past. We need to raise MORE money to fund this moving forward – and it is a major priority to make it happen.
 - The teachers say the tutor program is amazing. Emily says it has changed how her entire classroom feels and what she feels she can provide her classrooms.
 - Ideas on how to increase fundraising were discussed in the last finance meeting and landed mostly around adding a spring fundraising effort into the mix. Ideas discussed:
 - Finance team has said that we think we can get more out of CGC if we spread it over the year. Currently, our main fundraising efforts include:
 - CGC
 - Winter Festival
 - Grocery Cards

us \$18k over two years to help us transition to this new budget – so we can be covered for the next three years, but eventually it will be about an \$8k hit yearly.

Agenda items for next month

- Choosing another photo company
- Filling volunteer roles
- How do we expand this group – should we have 1 or 2 evening meetings
 - Maybe do a bit more recognition of Ed Council to get people excited to be a part of Ed Council
- Micha: Facebook page. It's a tool we aren't utilizing – she wants to restructure it a bit and do a roll call for parents and questions to get people to join appropriately
 - How to use it as more of a social group