

Virtual PTA Meeting

Date: May 6, 2020

Time: 7:38 p.m.

*Pledge of Alliegance

Presidents Report:

****Jodi Heywood & Danielle Pomeranz***

Events

- All events have been either put on hold or cancelled.
- Money will be given back for the murder mystery and bowling events.
- Initialed through Cheddar Up so when the refund is given statements will say *Cheddar Up Refund*.
- Some deposits were made to companies. Waiting to hear from those companies to receive a refund of the deposits. Everyone will continue to be updated.

Events - next school year

- Hoping to pick up where we left off but it is uncertain of how the DOE will begin the next school year.

Virtual Events

- A Parent is a yoga instructor and will be offering family yoga Wednesday – Zoom class 4:00pm.
More information will be on the Facebook page and on Remind.
- Other events like this are being discussed but nothing else is definitive.
- If anyone has any ideas/classes/workshops they can offer - contact Jodi and Danielle.

Daffodil Project

- Article was in the wave, written by Mrs. Welsome.
- Includes how the project started and what is happening now.

***Contact Danielle or Jodi if you need them. They are working hard to continue to meet the needs of the students.*

Principal's Report

****Mrs. Welsome***

Recognition School

- Named a Recognition school by the NYS Department of Education for 2019. This is based on 2018 test score data. We are one of six schools in district 27 to receive this recognition. 95% or more students must take the state exam in order to be considered.

Remote Learning

- All staff email accessible through the school website.
- Letters sent through Remind are also on the website.
- Looking at remote learning in phases.

Phase 1 – learning phase for staff. For example, learning to use platforms, staff provided PD for each other. Many teachers posted assignments and provided feedback.

When we found out that we were not going to be going back to the building we began working on more live interactions and small group teaching. Google Meets began being used for community building, small group instruction and more video recording teaching were provided.

In Phase 1 the parents were needed more of the time. In Phase 2 the students are starting to work independently. We are beginning phase 3, which is getting in touch with staff members to provide additional services. For example, paraprofessionals may read bedtime stories and cluster teachers will provide experiences, either pre recorded or live.

We will continue with small group instruction and video recordings of lessons.

- Certain that mistakes have been made and more will be made. However the staff is constantly learning. They have worked at a purposeful pace that is attainable and doable. Everyone, both staff and families, had to come at this at their own pace. Some families want more work, while others want less. Administration is listening to all voices.
- Teachers have completed a survey to determine what on line platforms they need assistance with and what they are proficient. Workshops will be arranged accordingly.
- Through Remind, the DOE sent a remote learning survey. Results will be coming in this week, based on Grade bands. Survey can still be filled out because the deadline was extended.
- Teacher teams meet weekly. Each student, in each class, is named in order to determine who needs more support. A middle school student was not participating. Administration, teachers and the student met to get the student back on track.
- Kathy Meade delivers Chrome books around Breezy Point and Rockaway. Approximately 86 computers have been loaned by the school.
- The start of the school year, administration was focusing on problem solving, resilience and perseverance. They are continuing to do so.
- Google classrooms are being monitored. Approximately 712 students are in the Google Classrooms with approximately 110 Google Classrooms. There have been 2 new admits during this remote learning period.
- Deana Folchetti-Puglin is monitoring all special education services. Trying to keep pace with the IEP timelines for annual reviews.
- Response to the question about why there is not more live instruction.

The DOE has encouraged but not mandated live instruction. It is important that instruction is available for all students that can be accessed anytime of day and as many times as needed. Some parents are working during the day and students cannot work until the evening.

- Response to the question why live lessons are not being recorded and posted.

This is difficult with the number of students that are in classes and the issues that occur with the devices during lessons. For example, computers freezing, some not on mute, etc. It would not be something that is as beneficial as a prerecorded lesson. Based on the feedback received, the bulk of instructional videos are recorded and can be accessed all of the time. Additionally, related service providers are providing tele-therapy all day long. These times can become problematic and conflict with live lessons. Also, many families are sharing devices or if there are multiple devices sometimes problems occur and they only have use of one. Teachers have their own children that they are instructing and videos are being prepared at night or early morning.

- Grading Policy - End of the year grades will be *Meets Standards* or *Needs Improvement*. It is unclear of how to determine this. Decisions will be made about our school when discussed with instructional team and this will be shared. In Middle School, there will also be a grade *NX* which means all necessary course work is not complete. The students will continue work in the summer and then be graded after all work is completed.

- Social Emotional Learning Committee – consisting of teachers along with guidance counselor has been planning *Feel Good Fridays*. Last Friday - Hash tag photos. Next Friday May 15th – crazy hat and hair day. On *Feel good Fridays* there are also social emotional lessons that teachers share with their students.
- Pre K and Kindergarten Stepping ups and Graduation - No in person events but virtual celebrations will happen. Pre k will be prerecorded. Kindergarten is still being planned. 8th grade graduation will be a live celebration via zoom. Teacher, Regina Restivo, has been working to plan some special “things” to happen for the 8th graders.
- 5th grade celebrations – hopefully in the future they can come back for some type of celebration.
- Students entering pre k and k – folder is on the school website. All forms that are needed to register will be on the website.
- Administration has asked for teachers’ schedules. This would be something that is good for parents to have as well.

***If anyone needs extra support Mrs. Welsome and Mrs. Folchetti-Puglin will schedule 1:1 Google meets. Please reach out if needed.*

Parent Questions/Concerns/Suggestions

- Kids are feeling disconnected – Can we have one meeting for the students to be all together; not necessarily academic but something so that they can be together? Mrs. Welsome will speak to the teachers. Many times younger grades are doing a read alouds. There should be at least one meet like this a week. If not, we are moving in that direction.
- Are contingency plans being made for September? Nothing has been communicated to Mrs. Welsome. Principals have been finding out all information from the media, when parents do.
- Can we have lawn signs with the school name like SFDS has done? This will be discussed with the PTA. Something like this is in the process of being done for the 8th grade.
- Can there be Monday morning videos to walk the kids through the week so they know what to expect? Mrs. Welsome will discuss this with teachers.
- Suggestion - Senior pictures were hung on a school fence at a Long Island School. A banner is planned for our school fence for the graduating class.
- Has there been a decision about how the May Parent Teacher Conferences will be conducted? This was supposed to be tomorrow. Mrs. Welsome has been meeting with teachers about students who received Promotion in Doubt. Teachers will continue to make parent outreach in a flexible schedule. Parent out reach is happening on an on-going basis.
- Suggestions were made for students to participate in group lunches, watch a movie together or for the librarian to make book recommendations. ****Perhaps class parents can organize this and invite the teacher to join.**

Meeting Ended at 8:34 p.m.