



## Parent Council Meeting Notes August 19, 2009

### 1. Parent Council's Role and New Ideas

- Notes from the special meeting in July will be posted on the Parent Council Website.
- Role of Parent Council: Support the school and support the teachers.
  - Many committees already formed. Fundraisers that have happened in past years planned again for this year.
- Do you think Parent Council expects too much from parents?
  - Request: all families involved in one activity or committee.
  - Some events/committees very easy, some require greater time commitment.
  - No response.
- Any new ideas for Parent Council?
  - Library committee: Teacher council started a library committee, perhaps parent council wants to get involved? Some examples of activities: organizing books, deciding what books need replaced.
    - Administration is requesting volunteers to help with the school's library. **Volunteers are needed to sort through the current books and organize the library.** This will be an easy volunteer opportunity that parents can do with their child. If you are interested please contact Donna Ramaswamy at [parent.council.clifton@gmail.com](mailto:parent.council.clifton@gmail.com)
  - No response.
- Do parents see a need for support groups?
  - E.g., children with allergies, new moms (with infants) returning to work
  - We do have a Yahoo group that could be used for this function.
    - We do not use the listserv for this purpose
    - Contact [LABST@emory.edu](mailto:LABST@emory.edu) to join school listserv
  - No response.
- Do you want to see Parent Council provide speakers?
  - Last year suggested injury prevention speaker from CHOA. Ready to have that person present.
  - Timing: Lunch? After school?
  - Other topics? Nutrition? Developmental?
    - Desire for presentation on developmental milestones.
    - **Any parents that have a skill at workplace that they would be willing to share, please let parent council know.**
      - Immediate needs: A/V and Website
- Is there an interest in having an after school program?
  - Logistical concerns
  - Examples: ballet provided at school at 3pm
  - Lots of parents have asked about this.
  - Concerns: may be excluding some children who couldn't afford to do this if done during classroom hours.

#### Officers

#### Co-Presidents

Donna Ramaswamy (Clifton): [parent.council.clifton@gmail.com](mailto:parent.council.clifton@gmail.com), Pam Eidson (Clairmont): [pam.eidson@gmail.com](mailto:pam.eidson@gmail.com), Calinda Lee (Clifton): [calinda.lee@emory.edu](mailto:calinda.lee@emory.edu)  
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- Can we look at integrating any of this into the curriculum?
- Seems to be enough interest for further discussion.
- Consider doing a survey of parents for ideas, then working with school administration on logistics.
- **Are there ideas for places to hold the senior camp?** It is currently held off-site (junior camp held at Clifton School), but they would like alternate locations.
  - They need a big space.
  - If you know of anything, please let school administration know.
- Should we do a contribution via grocery stores cards (e.g., use your Kroger rewards card and money goes back to the school)?
  - Donna will look into it.
- Curriculum discussion: Beth will discuss with the administration team about expanding the curriculum within the Reggio Philosophy.

## 2. Classroom Involvement

- Room reps should have reached out to their rooms by now.
- Hopefully room is getting organized, and can function as a support group.
- Room should support teachers.
- Hand washing is going to be a big thing to stress this year.
- Parents should get involved with the classroom.
- Teachers are coming up with a list of expectations for parents.
- Suggestion: set up a Yahoo e-mail group, or picture sharing website like Shutterfly ([www.shutterfly.com](http://www.shutterfly.com))

## 3. Book Fair (Pat and Shelly)

Sept 12<sup>th</sup> (Saturday) 10am at Barnes and Noble on Moreland Avenue

- 1<sup>st</sup> official fundraiser
- Asking room reps to help make it the best book fair ever!
- If you are able to come in person, please do so.
- If unable to come, please use the voucher at any Barnes and Noble store that weekend (September 12-14)
- Vouchers and a wish list of books from your teachers were provided via e-mail, and on the doors of the classrooms.
  - Clairmont campus doesn't have vouchers in classroom yet, but will soon.
- If you can't find a book on the list in the store, choose another one to buy.
- Ask your family and friends across the country to take the voucher and buy a book.
- You can buy anything in the store (e.g. books, music, café) using the voucher and the school gets credit for it.
- If we spend up to \$2,000 we will receive 15% in B&N Gift Cards, >\$2000 20-25% in gift cards
- Not able to use the voucher online.
- Room reps: create list, and have people sign up for books so there is less duplication.

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1700 Clifton Road  
Atlanta, GA 30322  
404-636-4073



1900 Starvine Way  
Atlanta, GA 30322  
404-315-6340

- The Barnes and Noble on Moreland is doing a special purchase of books on our wish list so that they are for sure available.
- **Bring books you purchased to school and present to your classroom.**
- Working on book plaques that say “This book is presented to \_\_\_classroom on behalf of \_\_\_ family”.

#### 4. Nutrition survey update (Maria)

- Nutrition committee decided to do a survey of parents.
  - Last April/May they developed a survey.
  - Survey open in June/July, and sent to parents via e-mail.
- Got input from 200 out of 400 families from Clifton School.
  - Signaled to committee that nutrition issues are important to parents.
- Tabulating results now.
- Nutrition committee meeting in September to present results. The plan is for the committee to develop an action plan based on the results, and determine how to communicate results to the entire school.
- More to come in the next month.

#### 5. Harvest Festival (Sascha)

- Sascha passed out a handout that will be posted on the Parent Council Website.
- Posposed:
  - Octoboofest
    - Saturday, October 24, 10am-1pm
    - Festival held at Clifton School Clairmont Campus – in the parking lot. You park in the deck.
    - Mini fundraiser for parent council to pay for expenses like mailings
    - Room reps: work together in pairs from village (rooms that share a bathroom) to do a booth/activity
      - Age appropriate for your village
    - Tickets sold for \$1 for each booth/activity.
    - Requires some planning.
    - E-mails will go to room reps with more information.
    - Ideas for consideration:
      - Costume contest?
      - Possibility for music? Band? Julie?
    - List of booths/activities from past years will be shared.
    - Food is usually served. Will look into healthy options.
    - **Need a Clairmont site coordinator**
    - Will send out tips for parents (like bringing a towel in case there is water-based activity)

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## 6. Administration update (Beth)

- Swine flu plan was sent out. Thoughts or suggestions should be sent to administration.
  - Will follow CDC Guidelines.
  - Look at hand washing and sanitizing.
  - Monitoring fevers closer.
  - Relying on CDC guidelines for how to communicate.
  - Daycare guidance hasn't come out yet. Daycare guidance will hopefully be out in the next month.
  - It will be hard to determine if a person has H1N1 or seasonal flu.
  - Lisa Delaney offered to do a training for teachers.
  - Hope to have people that are working on the issue notify administration so we have a resource pool of folks knowledgeable about the flu.
  - Will send links to information from the CDC Website to the listserv.
- Accreditation
  - Beth provided a handout that summarizes the meeting held last month re: loss of accreditation.
  - The school has done an appeal. We should know the outcome by September 15.
  - What happens if appeal fails? Can either go back through whole accreditation process again, or look at other accreditation agencies to see if those are a good fit. There are several other options for accreditation.

## 7. Teacher Council-update (Jennifer/Sebrina)

- Looking for activities for groups to do outside of school (e.g. Breast Cancer walk, outings, etc.). More information to follow.
- Parent council wants the teachers to know we would love more teachers to come to parent council meetings.
- Teachers may want to join committees as teacher liaisons, so we will ask them if they're interested.

## 8. Volunteers/sub-committees (IT, Nutrition, Safety, Teacher campaign, Sunshine, Auction)

- Every family is asked to serve on at least one parent-sponsored event this school year.
- Lots of volunteers have signed up. Someone will get in touch with you soon.
- Teacher Appreciation Campaign committee meeting: September 9 at 12:15pm at Clifton Campus
- Still need volunteers for safety committee. Need chairs for IT, Safety, Auction, and Sunshine committees. E-mail any of the parent council officers if you are interested.

## 9. One cause: Online purchases earn contributions to the school

Go to: <http://www.onecause.com> and pick The Clifton School and start shopping!

- 11 new joiners this month.

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- Contests for the first few schools that gets 20 new members between August 10 – October 21 (\$250), and the school to spend the most gets \$1,000.
- To date this year, we've made \$1821.
- Please add the One Cause tool bar to your computer. The school gets \$0.02 for each search from it.

#### **10. Clifton School branded items**

(on Parent Council website: <http://cliftonschool.emory.edu>)

- Lots of items available for purchase – onsies, t-shirt, hat, etc.
- The school makes a profit on each item sold.
- Not requiring people to buy t-shirts, but may ask kids to wear the shirt on a particular day to show school spirit.
- Will provide forms for people that can't/don't use the Web
- Consider buying a t-shirt for your teachers.
- Could use parent council funds to pre-purchase items and have them for sale on site at the October fest, or other times.

**Next meeting: Wednesday September 16<sup>th</sup> at Noon, Clairmont Campus.**

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