

Kinderhaven Parent Board Meeting 1/15/15

Attendance

Present: Sarah Lockhart, Suzanne Sands, Emily O'Brien, Lisa Lersch, Jane Duncan, Molly O'Neil, Eva Minnig, Julie Sommers, Annie Lenzke, Chris Bjork, and Lizzy Jaworski

Absent: Nicole Phelan, Sarah Steiner, Katie McCarney, and Penny Robbins

Welcome Back – Sarah

- Thank you to Nicole for hosting the Purple Parent Coffee before the break. Thank you also to Jane and Molly for all of their work on the recent Open House.
- Please REMEMBER to keep your position logs up to date especially if you plan to leave the board or hope to switch positions next year.

November Meeting Notes – Suzanne

- No changes or questions.

Treasurer's Report – Emily

- Bills are paid or in the process of being paid.
- All funds for depositing and check requests should continue to go through Emily.

Director's Update—Penny's Report read by Sarah

- **Fall Drop In & Open House Events** We had 22 families at the open house (that I know of), 8 families at the drop in, and I've shown the school to 8 families with three more scheduled before registration. I'm thrilled with this response! I have also talked to numerous people on the phone since the beginning of the school year. Thank you to Molly, Jane and you for all of your help and publicity! Also, we might want to send Cathy J. a thank you after registration is over for her attention to our events. I will be handwriting thank you notes to all of the families who attended the open house over the next week as well.
- **What is a Teacher Research Day?** It is different than an "institute day" and I want people to know what it is and why we do them. All of our teachers, including teacher's aides, are expected to do a research project throughout the year. This entails actual observation, becoming familiar with research articles, and writing summaries about those articles. By the end of the year, they have a presentation that they do for the other teachers, and they also have to write a complete research summary. This allows our teachers to stay current on the information out there either about early childhood or Reggio in particular. Because they share this information with the staff, the staff also benefits from such extended research. The children also benefit, as most of the teachers' projects are applicable to their teaching methods or classroom interactions. "Institute Day" means that we are either going to a training somewhere or someone is coming to us to do a training. This Friday is a "research day" where the teachers are expected to spend the day either observing at another location or researching their topic. Next Friday they need to turn in summaries of at least three research articles and/or observations that they have completed. For instance, Kelly will be going to the art museum in Milwaukee to research some of the artists she is instituting in the Red Class this year. I hope that clarifies what our "days off" entail.

- **Registration Policies Review:** Returning families need to register as close to Jan. 20th as humanly possible. If they can do it on that day, even better. It is imperative, however, that they register BEFORE the 27th at 8:30am. After that, there is no guarantee that they will get back in to the program. Last year, I was calling two families the night before, because they had not registered and I knew they wanted to...Other than that, I will hand out numbers at 6am on the 27th. We will call the numbers in order until all of the numbers have been called. Waiting lists may occur, but all of the numbers will be called. If people arrive prior to 6am, I will put out a notepad so they can write the order in which they arrived. I will also provide coffee and donuts after 6am (I'm not sure I can get it before that). I also think we have either some older t-shirts to give out to those who successfully get in or some of the Kinderhaven bags that Halperins printed. I like to give them something from the school when they leave. I will also have a list of instructions about the forms for the new school year at that time. I hope that answers everyone's questions about registration.
- **TAKE TWO** We are also looking at the possibility that we will do Take Two Monday-Thursday next year. It has really been a great addition, and I would love to see that program grow as well. We are hoping that the rec may see the need for us to eventually take over that other room as well. That's a future hope...

Fall PR & Recruiting – Molly & Jane

- Huge turn out as Penny reported. The families that attended were very enthusiastic about the school.

Survey – Lisa

- There were 24 responses to the survey. That is a little less than half of our families and is down a bit from last Spring.
- Board related feedback was shared. A desire for more communication from Room Parents was expressed along with a request that they be introduced more formally at the beginning of the year. Also a request for a Purple Class Parent Social came up.
- There was a brief discussion of the feedback and we hope to take action related to the Purple Class Parent Social in February. We also talked about considering parent coffees during class at CROYA in the future as well as Chris conducting a parent yoga class there during preschool. The idea of starting a Kinderhaven Book Club was also brought up in our discussion.

Social Events - Jane

- **Parent Paddle Party Details** – It will be on Saturday, January 24th. It's \$10 per person. Invites went out. Jane is looking into getting the beer donated. Board members volunteered to provide wine that is left over will be used for Giving Tree. Reminders will go out with additional details about what to bring and wear. So far 11 couples are signed up to attend.
- **WINE Sign UP Get the wine to Jane in advance or bring to the event.**
 - RED – Annie, Julie, Lizzy, Eva, Emily, Sarah L., Suzanne
 - WHITE – Chris, Molly

Giving Tree – Sarah & Annie

- The committee is hard at work planning this year's event.
- It will be held at Elawa Farm.
- The theme is in the works and a save the date will come out soon.
- There will be a small carefully selected auction and a Heads or Tails wine raffle.

Kindershop - Julie

- The storage unit is actually pretty full.
- The committee is scheduled to meet on Thursday, January 22nd.
- Annie offered to post a plug for donations on Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Market Place.
- Once they meet collection drive details will be shared. Julie is willing to take stuff anytime.

Upcoming Important Dates MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Paddle Party Saturday, January 24th

REGISTRATION FOR RETURNING FAMILIES

BEGINS JANUARY 20th at 8:30 AM

REGISTRATION FOR NEW FAMILIES

BEGINS JANUARY 27th



NEXT MEETING:

Thursday, February 19th at 9:30 AM @ CROYA

Thank you for reading to the end of the Parent Board Notes! *If you send Suzanne an email letting her know you did so you will get a little treat at our next meeting.*

REALLY – Do it!