

SOPA Meeting - November 15th, 2016

Location: The McKee-Mattoo Family Library

Catered by: CPK Encino

Meeting began at 6:45 P.M.

Family Night at CPK Encino: Tuesday, November 29th at 16101 Ventura Blvd. Ste. 200, Encino Place, CA 91436

Halloween Carnival Results: Caryn gave out a survey to fill out in order to determine things we should Stop, Start, or Continue to do at future carnivals. We cut down the budget a lot this year, especially by getting rid of the Haunted House. She thanked Currie for coming up with the TorT Village. 902 people paid to go through the village. It profited over \$3500. This community event allowed people to participate and get to know each other.

Last year's carnival made just under \$35,000. This year, we're at \$43,000. Over \$8000 more than last year, with money still coming in from selling chips and drinks.

Tiger Fund Update: At \$46,000 with %15 giving. The Tile party is at the end of February. The deadline to give to participate for this is the end of January. And she reminded everyone about the special dinner that a \$1500 donation gets you.

Thanksgiving Food Drive/Holiday Gingerbread Family Drive: Larissa spoke about the Food Drive. She's looking for volunteers for Thursday to help collect and organize the food. At 11:15 on Thursday meeting at auditorium. In December there's a gift drive with designated families. She spoke about some misconceptions, like the Little Live Pet last year. People sometime ask for big ticket items like computers and game consoles. This causes others to groan because they can't afford them themselves...

Similarly, the 17th (Thur) of December is when gifts are picked up for the Holiday Drive.

Beautification Day: December 4th. The weekend before the Winter Sing. If you can't make it that day, Carla can provide with a list of things that you can still do to help.

Book Swap: Collecting November 28th - Dec 9th

Winter Sing Decoration volunteers: Lindsay spoke about Winter Sing and what it is comprised of. We also need people to help volunteer decorate boxes, per Marnie Wheeler's request. She'd like to hold a meeting about the decoration this Friday around 7:30-8:00.

Scrip Cards for Holidays: Lisa spoke about scrips, the raffle for \$50, and how with Presto you can purchase scrip and use it instantly while in line.

Winter Camp: Lindsay pitched the Kids Center winter camp as an alternative for what you can do with your kids over the long break.

Talent Show Auditions: The auditions are the 3rd week of January OR after Musical Theater is done. She gave a little background on the show. The Chorus will be opening the show. It's theme is a Night of Stars. There will be an art competition component. There's still some discussions that need to take place with Dax and Joey to figure out the details. The 5th Graders will be hosts/MCs. March 18th. Van Nuys Middle School. March 17th is the rehearsal with an 8:00 out time.

Larissa spoke about the Chorus and the new instructor next year.

Lion King tickets will be on sale at next SOPA meeting.

Rita Drucker mentioned that last year the AP had a designated play area on the playground. This year there's a free-for-all instead. Lindsay said she would speak to Principal Miller. Mrs. LeVantine suggested that the new administration hasn't been familiar with the previous setup. We have more yard aides than ever before. This led to a bigger discussion that might be good to bring up at the next Coffee & Chat. Perhaps a blend of the two ideas would be in order.

Then Principal Miller came in to discuss. She spoke to the issue. We're in the process of creating play areas where each class will be designated two play areas, like Handball and Basketball. This will be a rotating system based on classes. We're hoping to start that the week after returning from Thanksgiving. She also has noticed the lack of play equipment. And she has ordered soccer balls, volley balls, basketballs, tether balls, basketball nets, kickballs, flags for football, jump ropes, carom boards, etc. The next thing will be working with the supervision staff over where to keep the equipment, etc. For now, it's more about the safety of the students, walking instead of running, etc.

She's spoken to Mr. Ventura about repainting the lines on the blacktop, the track, and trimming the trees on the Dickens side. They'll also be doing a power wash throughout the school. The re-seeding project is still in active development.

Principal Miller also mentioned trying something new with Kinder. Moving up the lunch time because they were going to lunch with 1st grade. Instead we'll stagger it so they aren't all having play time together. Because the Kinder yard can't accommodate all of the Kinders, we'll have designated areas for the different kids.

She commented on the unhealthy snacks she's witnessed. Chip bags. Where's your fruit? Though that does't mean she can alter the breakfast menu.

Larissa complained about the Zuka bag nightmares. However, we can't impose what kind of backpacks the students can and can't use.

Carla spoke of her efforts to put together a Positive reinforcement committee. Be safe, responsible, respectful. Terrific Tigers Tickets. When kids are “caught” being safe, the teachers’ will get tickets for a jar that on Friday they’ll pull out a name. The winner gets to pick from a Treasure Chest in the main office.

Caryn spoke about the Yard Aides getting their fitness laps in while the kids go left unattended. Miller said that training is going on with them now. She’s aware.

After school, the only kids who should be on campus are YS and Kids Center. YS going to the cafeteria. This allows it to be easier seen who the campus stragglers are. They should be off the yard by 2:50. SOPA selling snacks is the only issue that still must be contended with in this new system.

Laura asked about the program overseeing Student Intervention that Mark Rea did last year. Cayla is doing that again this year. Ms. Matthews is working with her. We’re starting it the week of November 28th.

The meeting concluded at 7:50 P.M.

The next SOPA Meeting will be January 24th.