

## **November 7**

### **President's Report**

1. Playground update - Drainage issue and debris found in upper playground remains a safety hazard. Preliminary estimate to fix issues, refill dirt, and install turf is \$160K, according to DCPS/DGS. PTA is advocating for joint funding between PTA and DCPS to fix the issue.
2. Experiential Learning Coordinator - Glover Park resident Julie Schneider has assumed the part-time position to help teachers coordinate field trips tied to class curriculum. Julie encourages parents to contact her with suggestions.
3. Hardy feeder school collaboration - Strong interest from parents of Stoddert, Mann, Key, Hyde, and Eaton to make Hardy the destination middle school for all 5 feeder schools. Goal is to keep momentum going and to continue dialogue between feeder schools, Hardy administration, and DCPS.
4. Lice – Lice continues to be a problem. PTA will circulate and update information sent to parents early in the school year.
5. Stoddert Directory - It is up and running. Accessible to the whole school community. Password is listed on the bottom of the Chalkboard.
6. DCPS boundary process - Parent community encouraged to stay involved. Leigh McKenna is part of the focus group.

### **Principal's Report**

1. Stoddert's green status continues to serve as a model for other schools. Representatives from Baltimore City schools visited Stoddert to learn about how to build and maintain green schools.
2. Gifted and Talented program - New staff member, Ms Hong, is tasked with organizing the process. It includes how to identify students, how to test them, and how to measure outcomes and set goals. Teacher testing is expected to begin in the 2nd grade during the 2nd semester. To start, only 20 students will be identified for the program.
3. 5<sup>th</sup> grade is going to use "Dancing Classrooms" program.

### **Teacher's Report**

1. PTA funded games / equipment to help enrich indoor recess.
2. Need parent volunteers to help composting during lunch.
3. 1500 daffodils and crocuses were planted around Stoddert.
4. Goal is to have increased presence of teachers during PTA meetings.

### **Big Chili Report**

1. Neil Hare volunteered to chair the committee.
2. Goal is to make it a community event.
3. Possible venues include the New Zealand Embassy and Copley Lounge at Georgetown University.

### **Other Business**

1. Request by Brian Cohen to find sister school that needs resources and help reach the first \$5K.

### **Guest Speaker**

1. David Catania, DC Council member and chair of the DC Education Committee, provided an overview of activities/programs provided by the Education Committee.

**December 16, 2013**

### **President's Report**

1. Big Chili date is set for Saturday, April 5, at the New Zealand Embassy.
2. Hardy feeder schools collaboration: At a followup meeting between DCPS central office staff, Principal Pride and the feeder school representatives, DCPS put forth a draft plan to continue improvements at Hardy. Focus on math, foreign language, school-wide enrichment model, and stability of funding. Plan is to offer internal placement testing (not CAS) to 5<sup>th</sup> graders to better place them in appropriate 6<sup>th</sup> grade-level math classes. Algebra and Geometry will be offered and 2 full-time STEM teachers will be retained. Hardy principal, Trish Pride, will visit Stoddert to speak to parents about the school and why it should be a destination school for Stoddert students (date and time to be determined).
3. Update from Julie Schneider, Experiential Learning Coordinator: Provided summary of activities she has offered to various classes. It was recommended that she revisit scheduling with each class so all grade levels benefit from the resource instead of offering her assistance on an as needed/requested basis.
4. Fillmore representatives continue to press DCPS on budget update. Parents were asked for their feedback on Fillmore observations and children's experiences. It was recommended that Fillmore improve communication with the community. For example, a holiday concert was not widely advertised/communicated to the Glover Park community. Some found out about the event the day of and would have like to attend if they were aware of the concert ahead of time.
5. Playground: The landscape architect, Sustainable Life Designs will present draft plans to Stoddert in January. While not scheduled yet, the renovation could begin before the school year ends. Stoddert needs to explore additional resources to create play areas during the renovation.
6. Lice: Continue to update lice resource handout.
7. Whole Foods would like to conduct a healthy eating demo during the January PTA meeting. It was suggested that instead of holding the demo at a PTA meeting, WF can have the demo at the store and invite Stoddert parents to come. Leigh McKenna will follow-up with WF.
8. Family Fun Night is set for March 1.

### **Principal's Report**

1. Gifted and Talented program implementation is underway at Stoddert, making the school the first elementary school in DCPS to offer a G&T program.
2. A full-time foreign language teacher will be provided by the State Department free of charge. Plan is to survey parents on which foreign language to offer – Chinese or Arabic.
3. For 2014-2015 school year, Pre-K is back to two classes and K will have three classes.

### **Communications Report**

1. Chalkboard is updated on Wednesdays; send items to Anne Banner and Jen Perry.
2. Jen can issue logins to various Stoddert website sections to allow others to update their sections/information.
3. Volunteer(s) is needed to spearhead the teacher's page on the Stoddert website. The teacher's page would be a nice way to communicate with parents on curriculum updates etc.

### **Garden Report**

1. Alice Waters recently visited the Stoddert Garden.
2. An invitation was sent to First Lady Michelle Obama to visit the garden.

3. A grant application for up to \$15K was submitted.