

Chenery PTO minutes – November 20, 2014

Introductions from PTO Board & parents attending the meeting.

Chenery Update – KSG discussed the PTO/CMS reception prior to PTO meeting. This was an opportunity for Boston and Belmont families to connect and develop relationships. She also mentioned the new mentoring program in which a CMS faculty member is paired with a Boston child to offer academic support and social support.

KSG mentioned that there has been some significant behind the scenes infrastructure work to CMS (generator, etc.). Hopefully, this will prevent an future power outages, etc. and all will run smoothly.

This fall, the CMS faculty has secured IPAD carts to bring localized resources to classroom teachers. There are two classroom sets of IPADS that come with a cart. Grades 6 – 8 may access. This is to supplement the computer labs, as student population has outgrown the computer lab space. (Also cuts down on transition time to/from lab). 30 teachers have been trained to use the carts; they sign them out and then they are in class for use. Example s of use: view interactive PowerPoints slides and also let kids follow individual research interests. The cart sits in the class and kids may use after signing out.

Student council work such as Spirit Days (once a month) and Anti-Bullying day (once a month – wear orange) highlighted. Do different social events – trivia nights, dances, skating party, after school events. Upcoming trivia night is on 12/3. Adults & younger siblings welcome as part of teams. It is a fundraiser for DC trip. Talent show is big fundraiser, Jan. 29th. 370 kids at the first dance of the year.

Box tops reminder from Leon Dyer. Bring in box tops to school and give to homeroom teacher. Funds raised support student council events. Set up homeroom challenges – top homeroom gets a party and each kid will get a \$10 gift card.

Also looking to start student council foundation, that will give grants around school as needed.

Library update –

Karen Duff, CMS librarian, introduced herself. She has long history working in Boston Public Libraries and is a resource for Boston families in addition to Belmont families. She is in her 8th year at CMS. Karen showed her edline page – it is open to all , no need to sign into edl ine. (Google: Chenery edline). Karen discussed FBE funding that provided ebooks for students. You may search CMS catalog from home (catalog is called Destiny). Families may set up an account in Destiny to access those ebooks. Email Karen, and she will walk you through it.

CMS library has core books in Spanish, Korean, Mandarin, French for incoming students who might prefer to read core book in native language.

CMS book fair is the biggest fundraiser for the library. Library has no line item in the budget, so all books bought are funded by this book fair. It will be during the first week in Dec.

Ellen, the tech librarian from Belmont Public Library spoke about Museum passes available to anyone with a Belmont library card. Boston families may sign up for library cards online. You may reserve passes online, but will have to pick up at library.

She mentioned Science Technology Engineering Math programs that the library are hosting.

Library has many databases to access. You can use the library's subscription to Consumer Reports, for example. The databases also include language learning databases you may access with your library card.

Cynthia, the YA librarian spoke about the Teen Center on the library webpage. It has resources and information for teens. Every month there are a number of programs for local teens. You may sign up for email to get a notice of upcoming programs. Sign up online. Website include "What's New" a list of new books that have recently arrived at the library.

Wednesdays, Hot Chocolate & Homework, first Wednesdays of the month for middle schoolers only. They get snack, do homework and an activity for those that finish early.

On Fridays, OTAKUrabu – a meet up to watch anime, talk manga and game, do a craft or activity.

There is a testing and education reference center – with practice tests, ebooks, for SSAT, PSAT, SAT, AP or GED.

Also, there is free access to tutor.com – you can get a live tutor from 2 – 10pm, online. Tutors are college and masters students who use a "live whiteboard" environment and audio to work with those that need it.

There is a "Book a librarian" feature – you may book a reference librarian to help you find information for a school research project, M – F, from 3 – 5pm.

There is a book club for 7th & 8th graders, first Monday of the month. Kids meet and talk books.

PTO Committee Updates –

PTO clubs – session well underway. Latin did not have enough enrollment so didn't run that one this year – will look to run that in winter/spring when there is more of a focus on upcoming language requirements. Sessions wind down in Dec. and then new session will start in January. Final session begins in April.

Treasurer's Report –

We are down in fundraising for Annual Appeal & Genevieve's Fundraising. All funds raised are put back into the schools. Participation rate is low (800 plus families at Chenery).

PTO recently paid to buy anti-bullying t-shirt.