

KMPTA Minutes
November 19, 2008

In Attendance:

Kingsley Staff: Renee Farkes, Bill McCarthy, Julia Osborne (Early Childhood Representative), Pete Zetlan (Elementary Representative),

KMPTA: Betsy Russell & Erika Toomey, Co-Presidents; Wendy Vianna, Treasurer; Mimi Moss, Secretary; Wendy George, Library; Becky Kidder Smith, Kids' Club; Laura Reisfeld, Admissions

Parents: Melissa Norton, Lee Doyle, Darla Soukas, Emily Webster

Agenda:

1. Brief Introductions
 2. Updates from Kingsley Administration
 - a. HOS
 - b. Director of Elementary
 3. Faculty Forum – Montessori at Home
 4. KMPTA Committee Updates
 - a. Book Fair
 - b. Gala Planning
 - c. Kids' Club Jr. December Event
 - d. Wellness Program
 5. Next KMPTA Meeting
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1. Brief Introductions

2. Updates from Kingsley Administration

- Renee Farkes:
 - Parent Speaker Series – Internet Safety tomorrow morning
 - Giving:
 - o Annual Fund: beyond 50% of goal
 - o Community Meeting next Wed morning for students K-6 will feature a film about world hunger and a kickoff to the food drive
- Bill McCarthy:
 - Shawna Doust has been hired as an interim teacher while Sarah Goodale, an Elementary teacher, is on maternity leave
 - Tomorrow is first Pizza Day – Ks coming to Exeter to their “buddy classes”. School provides pizza in addition to kids’ lunches.

3. **Faculty Forum – Montessori at Home:** Pete Zetlan, Elementary & Julia Osborne, Early Childhood
- See attached document for Teacher Notes
 - For Toddlers, let them participate in household duties & allow socialization with other children outside school. Let them try new things and try not to interfere with their choices as long as they are safe/reasonable.
 - For Preschoolers, redirect them while giving choices so they feel like they are in control. Allow kids to make mistakes and learn from them.
 - Bringing Montessori materials into your home may discourage them from using them at school. Ask your child's teacher about it before doing so.
 - For Elementary students, modeling behavior, observe their choices and redirect if needed. Give more responsibilities such as remembering to bring their homework to school, packing their own lunch, etc. Kids can learn to take responsibility for their own actions – use logical consequences that address what they have done so it makes sense to them.
 - In practical life there are ways to bring Montessori home such as using math in the supermarket, going to the library or museum to see something they've shown interest in. Have them clean up after themselves always – they do it at school so can do it at home. Children also thrive on routine so having it at home is helpful.
 - Questions asked were:
 - Q: If they put their own shoes on backwards, should we change to the correct feet? A: As long as they are comfortable we don't change it. They are proud to have done it themselves.
 - Q: Is being home a "break" from school? A: Kids are at their 'best' at school sometimes so it can be a good idea to let kids 'let loose' a bit at home
 - Wendy V. suggested having an evening workshop on this subject

4. **KMPTA Committee Updates:**

- Book Fair: Wendy George
 - Still need more volunteers
 - Still need classrooms' wish lists
 - Setting up storytime in the library possibly with parents and/or upper elementary kids reading out loud, or perhaps parents overseeing kids in the library
- Gala: Darla Soukas
 - Trying to feel out parent community
 - Thinking of offering a car or year's tuition as raffle prize
 - Other idea is to offer parents sponsorship of a teacher and guest to attend the gala with \$ tax deductible donation
 - Volunteer opportunities will be set up, break down, running the auction, etc.
 - Venue options include hotels & contemporary spaces

- Kids' Club: Becky Kidder Smith
 - Kids' Club Jr. on Dec. 4th at noon will feature snowmen making, bird feeder making and include a pizza lunch
 - No performance this year
 - Will send email to Upper Elementary kids to see who would like to volunteer as Jr. Helpers

- Wellness: Betsy Russell
 - This year there are awareness "seasons"
 - Fall is nutrition – "What's in my lunchbox"? is the theme
 - Looking for parent with healthcare or nutrition background to go into classrooms and makes suggestions for making a healthy lunch
 - Will display pictures of kids' healthy lunches

- Admissions: Laura Reisfeld
 - All school open house Dec. 3rd
 - Many applicant families attended curriculum night – great feedback
 - Admissions data is in annual report
 - Admissions deadline Jan. 15

- Note card Fundraiser
 - Raised \$1700 for Kingsley
 - Preschool participation was spotty - next year kids will create one card in art, one at home.

5. Next KMPTA meeting: Wednesday, December 17th at 8:30am at Exeter