

PPP for September 2017

Receiving this year's package of PPP applications was the biggest yet! By the second week of July, most families were placed in their PPP role for the 2017/2018 school year. For the most part, everyone received their top pick which is great. I have found that if a parent is happy doing the volunteer role they are doing and that they got the role they most desired, they respond with more eagerness and willingness to participate, not just because they have to.

The number of pay in lieu also went down this year with only 11 families participating this way. Our lowest number yet. Because of this, we are able to have a more balanced placement of people. For example, all roles in the library have been filled with no gaps which has not happened before. It's a great balance this year.

The new position of Saturday Maintenance with a team of 10, is also a great addition to the options of volunteer work. For families that work full time, this has been an amazing option in addition to the pancake breakfast team! The feedback was very positive from the lead after the first Saturday on Sept. 9th. They are scheduled every second Saturday from 1-3 and probably could have stayed longer to get all done that was needed. There are a lot of things that need maintenance now that the school is in its 5th operational year and having this team will be invaluable.

The one area still in need of on the regular schedule is after school supervision. This has always been a hard area to position. However, with the 4 mandatory shifts, this has offered a huge relief! With all the extra help, we are sometimes even "over staffed", particularly in the morning. In looking at the schedule going into the colder months, this will lessen. People are scheduling themselves in the beginning of the year and the end, most likely due to weather. Regardless, it has been great seeing all the families helping out in this area.

With the implementation of the new "On Volunteer" system this school year, I found that besides it being a learning curve for everyone, people have been receptive to it. Once one becomes familiar with it, it's very easy to use. One function of it that has been particularly great for families is the "Check-In/Check-Out" function. Every family is assigned a private 4-digit pin number. On the day they are scheduled to supervise one of their 4 shifts, they simply go to one of the Chrome books in the lobby to Check-In using this 4-digit pin. Then when they are done supervising, they Check-Out. This time stamps their logged time. This "Check-In/Check-Out" system is used for half the PPP positions. The other half of the PPP positions, which are

“Commitments” (in which the family commits to a particular volunteer role and as long as they have met their obligation of attending meetings and the events, their 40-hour PPP obligation is met) does not use the Check-In/Check-Out system but rather, the schedule is slotted into their portals already and the Team Lead has authorization to “Verify” their team’s hours only. Each area of commitment has an assigned Lead. For example, the Saturday Maintenance Team. Their lead is Jansen Tomas. After the Saturday maintenance is done, she can go onto her portal and view her team for that day. If they have all showed up, she can check off the verification box. She can also mark someone as a “No Show” if they were not there or can adjust someone’s hours if they were late. If someone has not attended all their required commitment hours, they will have to make it up elsewhere.

The great thing about the new system is the self-accountability of the parent. They all have a portal and in the portal, it shows the 40 hours being equivalent to \$800. Once the parent completes something they are scheduled to (library, teacher helper, supervision, soup kitchen etc...) it will show the reduction of not only their 40 hours, but also their financial responsibility. It is a great incentive to see that money being reduced every time the parent participates.

The families in the school who are part of the CISVA, PEC or Pay In Lieu have already had their portals adjusted to show a zero balance.

Overall the start of the school year in regards to the Parent Participation Program is a great one. We have the highest number of participating families yet and I love to see this! It builds community and shows our children how rewarding volunteering can be!!!

Tania