

FELE

Familias En La Escuela

November 2012 IAMS LSC Report

Updates - Old Business

PreK Literacy Night Sponsored by Pearson -

The PreK Literacy Night has been moved to November 28th. Julie Lackoff has been organizing this with the preK teachers.

Fiesta Cultural Update -

Fiesta Cultural was held on Saturday, November 10, 2012. FELE received favorable feedback from many parents in attendance. Sue Cartagena and Annette Booczko were the co-chairs of the event. Committee included: Mateo Mulcahy, Abner Bardeguez, Michelle Morales, Andres, Ms. Gallo, and Jennifer Goolsby. Events included food, entertainment, arts activities, workshops, reading room and a raffle. Entertainment included outside groups as well as IAMS student group performances. This year we will also add some individual acts, such as piano solos, from IAMS Middle School students. New Tshirts and sweatshirts were designed. FELE still has some inventory left and will continue to sell the shirts.

Fiesta raised \$20,356.00 for the Curriculum of the Americas. See break out below:

Raffle	\$11,317.00
Culinary Sponsorships	\$300.00
\$100 Sponsorships	\$700.00
Family Tickets Purchased	\$250.00
Other Donations	\$30.00
T-shirt Sales	\$830.00
<u>Day of Event Proceeds (excluding T-shirts)</u>	<u>\$6,929.00</u>
Total Proceeds	\$20,356.00

Committee Updates – New Business

Health/Wellness Committee –

The Wellness Committee is busy planning our second annual Rock the Casa to be held on Feb. 2, 2013 at Metro from 11-2 pm. Our two Chairwomen are working to incorporate the middle school as part of the planning committee in hopes of providing leadership opportunities to our upper grades and to encourage their participation. All funds raised will go toward supporting our Outdoor Learning Spaces/Grounds Improvement initiative.

For the second year in a row, we participated in Fiesta Cultural by making aguas frescas

in place of selling soda. This year we sold over \$500 worth of drinks, most of which were fresh and homemade in our community. Big thanks to our lunch room manager who helped with all the Fiesta clean-up and supported our efforts.

We have recently inventoried all of the bathrooms on each floor and will be submitting a request for additional paper towel holders and soap/sanitizer dispensers to mirror what we have on the first floor.

We have helped to organize a Playworks training for our recess/lunch supervisors which will be held on Dec. 5.

We are hoping to secure a social skating date for the Rink on Wrigley for an upcoming winter half day.

We are finalizing our initial draft for the Outdoor Learning Spaces with the architect who is doing the drawing and look forward to having a completed document at the end of the year to be reviewed by the work group, approved by administration, and used as our first fundraising piece.

We continue to advocate for our US Healthier School Challenge certification and hope to have administration complete their final piece by the end of the year to secure our commitment to the health and well-being of our student body. We strongly believe that healthy body and mind are inextricably tied and know that healthy children perform better in school.

CPS recently adopted a new Wellness Policy. We would like to spotlight that the district has adopted a policy that does not allow withholding recess as a punitive measure (Section H.2 states: "Teachers and other school personnel shall not use physical activity [e.g. running laps, push-ups as a punishment] or withhold opportunities for physical activity [e.g. withholding recess, physical education] as punishment."). Our administration must begin its work with teachers and supervisory staff to come up with accepted practices and alternatives, which will improve our community dynamics and the lives of our children. There is a recess supervisor who IS withholding recess from children at this time (for being too loud in the lunchroom). This is the issue that is suspending our certification for the USHealthier School Challenge, Go for the Gold.

Arts in Schools Committee –

Nothing new to report.

Major Gifts Committee –

Ileana Cervantes and Tiffany Chiang will be partnering with Rock the Casa, Tech Gala and SpiritWear chairs to develop Family Sponsorship packages that give IAMS families the opportunity to support both events, gain some benefits/perks and assist FELE in bringing in donations earlier than the events themselves. The goal is to have the packages finalized before the holiday break so they can be communicated in early January when students and families are back in school.

Communication Committee –

The second Puma newsletter will come out just before the holiday break in December. Text can be sent to Delia Cosentino at delia@halfwaypond.com. If photos are sent, FELE must also have written permission to print the photo from parents of any students featured.

Communication committee has been working closely with the Volunteers committee to facilitate the creation of gmail accounts for volunteers and for all members of FELE. This would assist with communication and the keepsaking of documents, etc.

FELE monthly reports will be posted on the FELE page of the IAMS website so that the public can access those reports.

Volunteers Committee -

Volunteer Committee is up and running with weekly emails to parents in grades pk-4, with the exception of a few classes. It has been difficult to get the parents' contact information because some teachers were concerned parents would be upset if they shared this info with room parents. Even though these emails are an extension of the classroom, with volunteering opportunities, teachers asked room parents to reacquire them. This took some time, but hopefully we have gotten all of the current parent information.

At Parent/Teacher conferences, we gave 5-8th grade teachers a form for parents to fill out so we can assemble those class lists for grade email and updates. We are still in need of room/grade parents for the 5-8th grades, as well as when to start this. We are still trying to sort out and concretize the process for preK – 4th.

Next year, we plan to ask that parents authorize their information to be used for room parent communication and student directory all in one form. By doing this, we hope to reduce some of this "start up" work that room parents have had to undertake and have all of this information upfront.

Future Events Update –

1. **Rock La Casa** – a date for Rock La Casa (RTC) has been finalized. It will be held on February 2, 2013. Currently Pam Kleinert, one of the co-chairs, is working on creating a package offer to Families: Family Entrance fee + T-shirt for (\$30) is one of the ideas currently.

The money raised will go towards the outdoor learning space, which includes a turf field

Pam has met with Dr. Vallez and suggested the Middle School students help with the planning and implementation of RTC. Dr. Vallez agreed and suggested that Pam work with Rosario to identify the students.

2. **Tech Gala** – FELE has secured three parents to co-chair the Tech Gala: Marisol Morales, Nikki Pesch and Mary Beth LeMay. They have already begun meeting with Jennifer Goolsby.

Miscellaneous – After December 2012, Michelle Morales will no longer be the co-president of FELE. After much deliberation, she has decided to step down under the advisement of her therapist. FELE will discuss this during their December 11, 2012 meeting and will decide how to go about selecting another candidate for the co-president position

FELE Committees and Chairs (please feel free to contact us if you have any questions):

FELE: Michelle Morales (morales.michelle75@gmail.com), Monica Aguilar (daosmo9800@sbcglobal.net) – co-chairs

Sue Cartagena (suecartagena@earthlink.com) - treasurer

Arts in the Schools: Julie Grisalez (juliegrisalez@hotmail.com) & Angelica Araujo (araujo219@gmail.com)

Health/Wellness Committee: Nancy Zwick (nancy@nancyzwickstudio.com)

Communication: Anamaria Acosta (anama.acosta@gmail.com) & Margot Gordon (verdon9@rcn.com)

Volunteers: Jennifer Goolsby (jhgoolsby@gmail.com) & Elsa Shalaveyus (laregia5@hotmail.com)

Major Gifts: Tiffany Chiang (tiffipop@gmail.com) & Ileana Cervantes (ileana.enteract@rcn.com)