

BIRCH LANE MONTESSORI PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MPAC)
MEETING MINUTES
October 17, 2017 at 7pm

- 1) Welcome/ Introduction
 - a) 18 people present
- 2) Review of Minutes- Shawna Stevens
 - a) Soji Howe moved to approve September 19, 2017 minutes with recommended changes; Tina Zicari seconded the motion; motion passed.
- 3) Vice President's Report- Cindy Pickett
 - a) Fundraising: Usually have a fall event that is mainly a community building event to connect with Montessori families. This is normally at Round Table Pizza- do we want to try something different? Suggestions? Ideas included a paint night and a food cook-off. Cindy will look into ideas and report back.
- 4) Treasurer's Report-Amanda McNicholas (Cindy presented)
 - a) Projected budget leaves us a surplus of \$2,000- need to decide how to spend it. If no one makes a motion, money will be allocated to the reserve. Parent suggestion: increase the amount for supplemental materials. Kelly Vellanoweth (K/1) needs new Room 1 maps. Cindy Pickett moved to put budget surplus into reserve; Monique Wells seconded the motion; motion passed. Sheryl Soucy-Lubell made a second motion to increase the supplemental material funds by \$1,000; Soji Howe seconded the motion; motion passed.
- 5) Teacher's Reports

Lakshmi Aradhya (5/6): 5th graders attended Grow and Give field trip at Farm 2.6. Kids design the menu and then plant the vegetables. They then harvest veggies and make a meal for the seniors. 5th grade literature group reading *One and Only Ivan*; 6th graders are reading *Island of the Blue Dolphins* and *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon*- dioramas will be part of their presentation. Each grade works on grade-specific math while other grade is at PE.

Kelly Vellanoweth (K/1): Student field trip to Impossible Acres led into the life cycle of pumpkins. Kinders are using the moveable alphabet and learning the snake game; 1st graders are working on static addition with golden beads and learning compound words. PE activities include yoga and zumba. Ms. Aradhya's class are big buddies; fun to hang out with them.

Remy Glovin (2/3): Class went to see the play Aladdin and traveled there on bikes-great fun. Students will be studying Asia in the winter will incorporate more ideas from Aladdin. Class just recently had the 2nd great lesson on how life came to earth. Students are working on animal research projects- Google slides presentation for the animal report. New ELA Benchmark Advance program on governments and what they do. All grades are doing the same unit right now with government. Lots of science and history built into the program.

Marissa McBride (2/3): (Report via email) Class is working on wetlands studies that tie into their field trip to Yolo Basin. They are working on a Harry Potter scarecrow for the scarecrow breakfast.

Carol Sadler (4): (Report via email) Class is studying California Native American tribes- right now looking at Chumash cave paintings. Math is focusing on word problems and place value. Student journal entries are going well; they are using good sentences and interesting adjectives.

- 6) Montessori Materials Demonstration- Remy Glovin
 - a) Test Tube Division Demo- (Demo on Birch Lane Montessori Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/blemontessori/>)
- 7) President's Report- Sheryl Soucy-Lubell
 - a) Carol Sadler had been in Room 28 for 2 weeks. She worked in a Montessori classroom last year at Birch Lane. She has been working with the math coach and Emmy Villalobos to get up to speed on Montessori materials and their use in math. She has also been meeting with 5/6 teachers on how to use the materials in her classroom. She is not planning on obtaining her Montessori credential, but is eager to learn them for her 8 month contract.
 - b) The Superintendent is interested in talking to training program leaders to create a Montessori training program. Teachers could do continuing education while subs and paras can get up to speed on the Montessori teaching philosophy.
- 8) Other Business: none
- 9) Adjourned at 8:11 pm