

Mocha Monday

March 26, 2018

School Pictures

Fall pictures were from the waist up, spring pictures are full body. We would like to know what type of pictures will be taken so parents know how to dress their children. Parents shared that this tends to be the trend but that is not typically advertised. The picture deadline was extended until this Friday and includes the new online order codes.

Carline

Concerns about the cars in carline and the cars that are Kroc Center at the intersection of oncoming traffic. There seems to be a back-up at the entrance to the Kroc Center. District personnel are not allowed to direct traffic due to liability reasons.

Suggestions on how to make the carline faster:

1. Have people pay closer attention to students loading. Doors are not being shut and this can make things slower.
2. Parents need to put on their phones as soon as the carline starts moving. Parents on the phone can delay the carline.
3. Look into hiring a traffic director (police). This will run the school around \$300 a week (out of local funds) to provide this service- law enforcement charges \$30 per hour with a minimum of 1 hour of service (\$30 x 2 times per day x five days per week). This is not a viable or realistic option.

Garden

We have spent a day in the garden killing ants, pulling weeds, and getting the beds ready for planting. Ms. Sims shared that April 21 we will be having a garden day at school so that all the community can be involved in getting the beds up and going. There are a couple of different grants opportunities we are applying for to get funding for supplies.

We are trying to get a grant for the rooftop garden as well. We want to put in a beehive and plant wildflowers and succulents. We will know by October if we get the grant.

Suggestions: Have families sign up to “adopt” a weekend to tend the plants. Ms. Blume also mentioned using the garden as a therapy time for her small counseling groups. Innovate will also participate in helping maintain the garden after school.

School Schedule

Testing will take place the last 30 days of schools.

A schedule will be posted after spring break, by April 11, and communication will be sent home via newsletters and homework folders.

Room moms can arrange communication for additional supplies and snacks lined up for testing.

Spring Break will be April 2 – 6.

Read to Succeed

This is the first year that the Read to Succeed legislation has been put into place. This legislation is aimed at 3rd grade students reading below grade level. Students who are not at standard by the end of the year will be invited to participate in a summer reading program through the school district or will be retained next year.

We had about 15 identify has potential candidates after winter testing. We made sure to communicate with the parents of the students to make sure they get the support they need. After spring testing, our numbers dropped from 15 to only 2. Our goal as a school is not to retain but to put more programs and supports in place to get all students on or above grade level.

The South Carolina Department of Education is rolling out a new tool that will give schools ratings. We have not had a new school rating in the past 3 years. We are unsure what this will look like, however, the new system is rumored to take into consideration of population, test scores, English Language Learns, ect. The scores will focus around “growth” of the school from year to year.

Imagine Upstate

AJW will host a booth, “The Learn Stage” at Imagine Upstate. It will be April 7 from 11 to 5. We will host Zip Lines! They will be 60 plus feet long and are

designed for children. They will be close to the ground. We will be located right inside of Flour Field by the playground. Everything at this festival will be STEM focused and everything will be FREE.

School Safety

We reviewed our safety plan and the security of the building. All adults have to go through the office and get checked in before they can enter the building.

There have been several cars that stop at the crosswalk in front of the school. As a school, we can call them and discourage them from dropping kids here. We will also reach out to the Greenville City Police and ask if they can post an officer there for a couple of mornings.

AJW 10 Year Anniversary

We will have our 10 year anniversary in 2020. We need to start planning now. Suggestions:

Dinner and week-long celebration of the history of Mr. Whittenberg, the history of our area and the evolution of West Greenville to offer an inclusive opportunity for all students.

Bring back Alumni

Bring in Community Members

Include Mr. Whittenberg's families and local memorabilia

PTA

There are committee openings for the upcoming year. See Jason Monroe if you are interested in serving.

PTA raised money last year to help fix issues on the playground. The school still needs around \$40,000 to fix the drainage issue on the K5 playground. There is interest in raising more money to renovate/refurbish what we have. Would the community be interested in helping with this project?

PTA will consider setting up a booth at Flour Field for AJ Day on August 15th.

There needs to be a push for membership. There was also the suggestion of having a membership blitz, possible to raffle off 2 bikes.