



Notes from Coffee w/Admin on Monday 3/9/15: Mr. Zamiar & Mrs. Hershiser were in attendance.

- Mr. Z took a moment to thank all the parents, volunteers, classroom coordinators who have worked so hard planning and participating in PBIS, Green Team, D/D dance, etc.
- A parent mentioned that PCCS families who live in Hunters Ridge/College Trail and like to walk/bike to school are working with Lake Forest Hospital and the City of Grayslake to try and get a flashing yellow sign/pedestrian cross walk on Rte 120 at the intersection of Harris/Bobolink. Asked the school to look into it as well and see what can be done to move this forward.
- The issue of teacher absences from the classroom was re-visited, and again a request was made for a calendar parents can access that tracks scheduled teacher absences in advance. If not a calendar, then a more consistent process for teachers to notify parents they will be out of the classroom and a better lead time on the announcement of those scheduled absences.
- A parent mentioned an issue in the 5/6 grade band concerning the lack of returned graded homework. A suggestion was made to institute a "Friday Folder" similar to what is used in the lower grades to help make the collection and returning of graded homework consistent. Further discussion revealed concerns that since the students are not seeing their graded homework, they are missing out on an opportunity to learn and improve from mistakes on homework (or even see if they are on the right track)
- There was a follow-up on a previous discussion about WIN time, a parent noted frustration that after the last discussion, no attempt at better communication about this activity has occurred. Concerns about the structure, benefit, and general effectiveness of this program were discussed.
- Issues were noted regarding the navigational pitfalls of the PCCS website, including specific teacher sites with dead/missing links, inconsistent updates, and general frustration with a less than user-friendly set up of the Parent Portal. Suggestions were made for parents to bookmark their student's teacher pages to avoid having to go through the multi-click process. Also, a possible issue with using Safari vs. Chrome was mentioned (though specific details on actual issues were not available). If you are having trouble accessing the site, please contact the school and have them help you.
- A parent questioned the PARCC testing and what impact it may or may not have on students. Mr. Z confirmed that PARCC tests will not be used for student placement "at this time."

- A parent asked about available resources for the tools area high school use for student placement. Mr. Z noted most schools will use MAP/NWEA 8th grade fall scores, and Grayslake HS will also rely on teacher recommendations. He noted information regarding the placement process should be available to the public on most of the high school websites.

- A parent requested that the administration make sure to notify parents anytime a child interacts with the school social worker.

- Questions about next year's calendar (no set date on when it will be released....has to go through board vote first). Mr. Z did note that the new calendar will have the option to make up emergency days on certain other scheduled days off (for example, make up a snow day by going to school on President's Day).

- Parent asked if camping trip info is available on school website, Ms. Naomi noted yes, but not from the drop down menu. To access the info, click on the "Curriculum" tab, then scroll down to "Trips".

That's all for now! It was one of our best attended coffees. The next (and last) coffee w/ admin meeting this school year will be June 1st! No meetings scheduled for April or May.