

Science Committee met on Sep 28, 2018

Summary:

1. Welcomed two new parent members of the committee

- a. Both are representatives from 1st grade. (now total of 9 parents + Rena + Steve)

2. Remember: Dates for main events:

- a. Science Day (w Hart St) - April 3 (Wed) (~15-20th?? Annual).
 - i. → confirmed
- b. Science Fair - April 9-10 (Tues, Wed) (It's our 5th annual!)
 - i. Same format as last year: **Tues** = set up, parent viewing eve; **Wed** = students present to judges and classrooms
 - ii. → Confirmed
- c. Butterfly Day- June 2 (Sun) (2nd Annual)
 - i. Great news that **Bill Buerge** has agreed to partner with the school again and to offered to have us use the **Mermaid venue** again. (Mermaid is a beautiful venue, normally an \$8000 fee to host an event, so this is a great development!)
- d. Raptor Day – Oct 26 (see below)

3. Ongoing and Upcoming activities

- a. Oaks:
 - i. Developed a plan to bring mulched oak leaves for berms
 - ii. Still working on an alternative watering plan;
- b. Tile Wall:
 - i. Garden wall 2nd installment done! - Kids made space and wildlife themed tiles. Installed by Paul Doolin and several parent volunteers.
 - ii. Artwork OK to submit for VAPA talent show in Nov
 - iii. Tiles up this this week
 - iv. Collaboration with **Alisa Land Hill** (sci committee) & **Paul Doolin** (Topanga Art and Tile).
 - v. Collaboration between **Science** and **VAPA**. Not clear if we'll make money but proceeds go to Science and VAPA, and we get campus beautification and student involvement in any case!

c. Raptor Day – set with Steve Gediman for Oct 26:

- i. We've secured Raptor Events to present.
- ii. We'd like to have one or more teachers partner with us to decide scheduling.
 - 1. Responsibilities: help set scheduling and communicate with other teachers.

- iii. Plan is ~35 min presentation + 5-10 for change over (unless folks prefer otherwise).
 - 1. Amphitheater holds 85-100 students, so 3 or 4 groups.
 - 2. TK/K go first, with room to shorten presentation – based on discussion with Ms. Kort and Ms. Weisberg.
 - 3. Needs:
 - a. How many students in each class and grade?
 - b. Finalize group number and schedule for each group.
 - c. Plan for groups to come and go
 - i. Enter via trail to fire road; Exit via ‘bridge’. (Next group can be staged at fire road/trail entrance.)
 - d. Secure parent volunteers, particularly for lower grades

4. Funding

- a. Science committee is very pleased to announce that we have secured a donation for our school from the **Arnold and Mabel Beckman Foundation** in the amount of \$10,000.
 - i. The Beckman Foundation is a philanthropic organization based in Irvine California. They are dedicated to supporting scientific research, development, and education. The foundation was impressed with our school’s effort to support students’ natural curiosity and to impart in them a sense of environmental stewardship. We are honored to receive this support and recognition from the Beckman Foundation, which is known internationally as a tireless supporter of young scientists and scientific innovation.
 - ii. We’d also like to emphasize this award as an
 - 1. example of how our school can receive recognition (and support) beyond our local community for our efforts with children;
 - 2. and to illustrate what we can do as a team when we all work together to define our goals, build on our strengths and keep the kids front and center.