



# **The Family Partnership Group *at the* Argonne Child Development Center**



## **ACDC Family Partnership Group Meeting Agenda Wednesday, February 5, 2020 at 12:00pm 951 – School Age Room**

### **1. Recent Activities**

- a. Parent Satisfaction Survey – Survey was completed by families in January. Gayle only received notification from about 36 families that they completed the survey. Gayle is hoping the actual response rate was higher. She will find out numbers when the data comes back on the survey in about 2.5 months. She will share the data when it comes back with the Family Partnership Group to review what the center does well on and what needs to be improved to gain parent perspectives and feedback.
- b. Winter Celebration (1/17/20) – We had Sean Masterson, Magician, for the entertainment. Jessica commented that the magic was a little above the little ones and geared more for older kids. Mary Macaroni and another magician we have had seemed better for the audience.
- c. MLK Jr. Day for School Age – We had 10 kids on this day in school age. Ms. April was the teacher for the day.
- d. Preview Event February 4 – No specific comments from families. Gayle explained the difference between Preview and Curriculum Night. Preview is just a look at the next classroom, chance to meet teachers and see the types of materials/activities your child will be doing next. Curriculum Night is really a look at the specific curriculum your child will be doing in the classroom that they are in. Preview is in late winter; Curriculum Night is in the fall.
- e. Kindergarten Round Up February 4 – We have 16 eligible families for Kindergarten. We had a few come to the information session. We will decide about Kindergarten by March 31 so if we are not proceeding, families have time to look at their local public and private school options. If there is a child in KP who misses the kindergarten cut off date of September 1, we would do 1 of 2 things: if the cut off group is large enough, we would divide the class in half by age and have Kelly take the older group and work on more challenging activities. The other teacher would continue normal programming for the new KP group. If we only have a few children miss the kindergarten cut off date, we would have Kelly plan additional activities or more challenging activities in conjunction with what is being planned for the rest of the group. We have done both of these different groupings successfully in the past.

### **2. Upcoming Activities**

- a. Parent Webinar with MTC, February 26 – Gayle has partnered with MTC on a workshop based on feedback from Room Representatives. It will be 2/26 and talk about “Structuring Your Home For Success”. Gayle choose to do it on a non-Family Partnership Group meeting day in order to give her more time to set up the event on Blue Jeans and allow enough time for the whole webinar and Q&A session. Carole Marone will be presenting.
- b. Other Bright Horizons Parent Webinars – Gayle has put together a list of Parent Podcasts and will attach it to the email update. There are several parenting topics available to families to use at any time as they are recorded. Gayle will review the list against the list compiled by the current Room Representatives and if there is a topic not covered, she will look for a presenter on the topic.

- c. Valentine's Day – The class lists were on the update in January and Gayle will put them out this Friday as well. If you celebrate Valentine's Day holiday and want to send your child with valentines, please use the class list. Gayle did factor in the transitions when creating the list.
  - d. President's Day for School Age – Ms. April will be in the camp room on February 17 for school agers.
  - e. Picture Days February 25-26 – Mark your calendars to have your child photographed! We normally do infants, toddlers, twos and siblings on Tuesday and preschool, kprep and faculty on Wednesday. We can be flexible with part time families and those who are not in attendance on Tuesday or Wednesday.
  - f. Activity Calendars for March, April, May are in the works – Ms. Kelly is currently working on the next quarter's calendars.
  - g. Summer Activity Calendars planning has also started – What types of activities do like to see in the summer?
    - i. Sprinkler and Mud Days
    - ii. Pajama Days
    - iii. Other dress up days and include a traditional dress day. Have Pingping come in with her traditional Chinese dress as part of ongoing Community of Cultures week.
    - iv. Cooking activities
    - v. Gardening activities and using the vegetables/fruits in the center cooking activities
  - h. Pulaski Day for School Age, March 2 – This is day that not all school's have off. Ms. April will be here in school age for the day.
  - i. Young Artists' Expo – We will have our annual art exhibit and auction for charity. Each child makes an art piece, it goes on display for the week in 240 and then is "auctioned" off to the family to raise money for the Bright Horizons Foundation for Children. The foundation creates play spaces for child in crisis in homeless and domestic abuse shelters. We have a Bright Space we built and still support, Hesed House in Aurora.
3. Faculty Appreciation
- a. Birthday cards for the month will be completed and sent out to faculty
  - b. Awards of Excellence Nominations begin in February – Gayle will be sending out information for families to nominate teachers who they feel go above and beyond for their family or who consistently give excellent service. Gayle will attach the different award categories for families to review before they enter in their nomination online. Deadline for nominations is February 26.
  - c. Choosing a theme for this year's Faculty Appreciation Week – Melissa suggested a donut theme. Gayle turned that into "donut what we would do without you". All Room Representatives are welcome to email Gayle any other suggestions for the week.
  - d. Contribution Letter to families for Faculty Appreciation Week – Gayle reviewed the letter and after discussing the theme, will update it and send it out to Room Representatives for feedback and more ideas.
4. Treasurer's Report: \$481.62
5. Abri Credit Union Club Account – New Treasurer Needed – Melissa called Gayle later in the day and offered to take on this role. Gayle will support with deposits as needed to the credit union.
6. Other:
- a. Mary Upton from Toddlers (Olivia's mom) has joined as a Room Representative.
  - b. Laura said that we should look for another Infant A parent to be a Room Representative since she will be eventually moving to Infant B. Gayle said that she will see if she can add another parent!

- c. Pingping asked if dance was being canceled for the day if the notification can be put in the app vs. an email. Gayle isn't sure if she puts in the app if parents will get the notification before arriving and checking their child into the classroom on the iPad. Gayle will ask Jacinta and follow up.
  - d. Laura asked Gayle to check her email on the invite list.
7. Next meeting will be Wednesday, March 4, 2020 at Noon. April's meeting will be moved to Wednesday, April 8 due to Gayle's vacation on April 1.

**Attendance:**

Phone In: Amy Mikuta, Melissa Malaniuk, Jessica McChesney, Pingping Sun

In Person: Laura Boon, Gayle Burgher

**Conference Line Option:** If it is more convenient for you to call into our meeting, please use the following line: 866-777-5715, PIN #: 77307922#. You can use \*6 to mute and unmute your line if you are joining the call where there is background noise. Thank you!

**Current Room Representatives:** We have added the children's names next to parent names to help parents who do not attend a way to identify those parents who are Room Representatives.

Infants – Laura Boon (Lucy)

Toddlers – Mary Upton (Olivia), Rachel Heafner (Zeb)

Twos – Juhee Bajaj (Kaira Twos/Jyanshu PS), Melissa Malaniuk (Madison Twos/Max KP), Kendra Kennedy (Seyla)

Preschool – Janet Ford (Mabel PS/Ruby SA), Jessica McChesney (Isaac)

Kindergarten Prep – Gilles Doumy (Elodie KP/Adele SA), Qi Guo (Emily), Bin Liu (Chris)

School Age – Anne Marie March (Elodie KP/Adele SA), Pingping Sun (Liz KP/Sophie SA)