



School Action Team for Partnership

Agenda

December 20, 2023

7:00pm-8:00pm

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| <p>I. Welcome & Introductions</p> | <p>Frank Sedita Brenda Coe Tara Wentzell Laura Schrager Abigail Marshall</p> |
| <p>II. Purpose of School Action Team</p> | <p>See below</p> |
| <p>III. Nourishing Minds Goal: By June 2024, 80% of our K-2 learners will score at or above the Montclair Public Schools standard benchmark for on-grade level performance on the Acadience Learning reading assessment and 100% of learners who are not on grade level</p> | <p>Parent Palooza Update- <i>Ms. Tara Wentzell</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Fall Workshops rescheduled for the Spring <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 4 workshops were offered <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Foundations; Orton Gillingham; Comprehension; Mental Health ○ Dinner and child-care provided ○ Date was 11/29/23- only 20 people signed up to attend the whole event <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Next year- Move date back to October before Halloween, OR only have one night of workshops while we build engagement again (depends on Spring attendance) ● “Teacher Tips” Videos <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Idea- Short videos of teachers providing quick tips for caregivers to support |



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| <p>trajectory at any point during the school year will be scheduled for targeted intervention supports.</p> | <p>their child's learning at home</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Use to promote Literacy Night and Spring Workshops ● Next Year- Package it as a way to engage with the school and your child <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Step 1- Back to School Night- learn about your child's curriculum ○ Step 2- Caregiver Workshops- learn ways to support the curriculum at home ○ Step 3- Literacy Night- practice skills with your child ○ Step 4- Spring Workshops- learn how to continue to support your child over the summer |
| <p>IV. Nurturing Hearts Goal: By June 2024, 80% or more of the Nishuane faculty and staff will be able to articulate the differences between surface, shallow, and deep culture as evidenced by pre-and post-surveys.</p> | <p>Cultural Infusion Update- Ms. Laura Schrager</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Past Initiatives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Latiné and Hispanic Heritage Month ○ Native American Heritage Month ○ Feedback <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Enrichment activity- Make quicker/ easier for families to learn and complete together to increase engagement ● Upcoming Initiatives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Winter Holiday Festival (rescheduling) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No longer rescheduling Winter Celebrations event ▪ Cancel Spring Celebrations event ○ Black History Month |



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- Two caregivers are currently working on: planning the theme; people to highlight; enrichment activity; the assembly
- The committee will meet with Mr. Sedita, Mrs. Coe, Ms. Wentzell and Ms. Shrager to review and implement the plan
- Digital library- Working with MPL and Watchung on a book list
 - Focus on children as change makers
 - 5 teacher read alouds
- **Lunar New Year (Ms. Wentzell will share an update from Ms. Lin)**
 - Parade will be on 2/16/24
 - Two caregivers will help Ms. Lin decorate the auditorium and hang the second grade projects
- **Women's History Month**
 - Laura Shrager will reach out to the committee in January to begin brainstorming and planning ideas

Healthy Bodies, Healthy Minds Update- *Mr. Eric Eder, Ms. Marie Chestnut*

- **Walk, Bike, Roll to School Day**
 - This year- Added "roll" to be more inclusive
 - Participants wrote their names on signs
 - Signs were hung outside of the cafeteria to encouragement being active
 - Next Year



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- Have more signs for students to sign
- Make sure sign material allows marker to show/ stick
- **Apple Crunch**
 - 10/27/23 during lunch periods
 - Students sampled three different kinds of apples and voted for their favorite kind
 - Flyer, with support from a nutritionist (caregiver) included info and tips on healthy eating as well as literacy options on nutrition
 - Next Year
 - Cut apples at someone's home before the event or come to school earlier so all the apples for both lunch periods are cut before the start of lunches
 - Plan to prepare a tray for ABA and prek classes as they don't come to the lunchroom
 - Be cautious of knives left out

Social Justice Update- *Mrs. Brenda Coe*

- **Equity Grant- *Mrs. Brenda Coe***
 - Letter of Intent and Application have been submitted
 - Working with Dr. Maloney and Dr. Picower
 - Purchasing library, funded by PTA, for classrooms to conduct social justice lessons



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- Grant money- \$6,000 to pay teachers to write lessons on the Six Pillars of Social Justice; \$4,000 to train and work with Dr. Maloney and Dr. Picower
- Jan 10th- Find out if grant is accepted
- Three caregiver volunteers working on the teacher application
- Once approved, the application will go out for teachers to apply
 - The committee will review and choose applicants
 - Lesson plan writing will begin
- **Kindness and Justice Challenge- *Ms. Tara Wentzell***
 - Began 12/4/23
 - Students earn a paper “link” for every act of kindness and justice they perform
 - Links are collected and counted; form a chain around the auditorium
 - Lessons on kindness, equity, good citizenship done throughout the school
 - 1 lesson per week
 - Next year- include lessons on self-love/ being kind to one’s self
 - Kindness Calendar- suggested activities for students to do an act of kindness at home/ at school. Students can earn links at home and send back to school
 - Kindness Spirit Week- 1/8/24-1/12/24
 - Flyer will be sent home 1/2
 - MLK Read-In- 1/8/24
 - Classes and staff members partner together to listen to a read aloud on



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| | <p>Dr. Martin Luther King Jr and discuss his work and message</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ MLK Assembly- 1/12/24<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Classes volunteer to perform- Performances around kindness, equity, MLK▪ Number of total, school-wide links earned revealed● Blessing Bags- <i>Ms. Tara Wentzell</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Bags of donated items to be given to Real House Inc., Montclair Salvation Army, and Family Promise (toiletries; socks; gloves; chapstick; peace note; etc)<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Bring to school 1/8/24-1/12/24 AND/OR drop off at Hillside Cafeteria 1/15/24 between 11-2▪ Bags will be counted each day and a “thermometer” made to show how many we received as well as to encourage more to come● MLK Event- <i>Ms. Obie Miranda-Woodley; Ms. Ann Lippel</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">○ In collaboration with Aging Montclair and MSU○ Watch a movie on a children’s march during the Civil Rights Movement○ Gateway panelists will discuss what it was like during the civil rights movement, why they were engaged. They will tie in activism and helping people in need and how we can now help people who are in need.○ Obie reached out to see if elders in Montclair can come and speak about when MLK visited○ Attendees then put together more Blessing Bags (PTA to buy materials). Bags are |
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| | brought over to Hillside's cafeteria by 1pm |
| V. Subcommittee Work Session | <p>Cultural Infusion Upcoming Initiatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Lunar New Year● Black History Month● Women's History Month● Arab American Heritage Month● AANHPI Heritage Month● Jewish Heritage Month● Pride● Caribbean Heritage Month● Juneteenth <p>Disability Acceptance Upcoming Initiatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Lessons and activities● Resources for staff● Resources for families <p>Healthy Bodies, Healthy Minds Upcoming Initiatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Monthly Meet-Ups● Health and Wellness Fair |



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| | <p>Parent Palooza Upcoming Initiatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Spring Workshops <p>Pennies for Pages Upcoming Initiatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kick off Week• Book Swap• Literacy Night• Author Visits• Mobile Library <p>Social Justice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Equity Grant• Kindness and Justice Challenge• Blessing Bags |
| VI. Good of the Order | <p>Budget</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pay staff members when they support our events outside of contractual hours• Author visits<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Enlist many authors to come throughout various days and times. Teachers sign up for author visits; every class should get a visit |



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| | <p>Planning and Engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rather than creating new events or continuing with many events, try to incorporate SATp initiatives into existing/ established events such as MayFair, Pancake Breakfast, etc. (while we try to rebuild community engagement) |
| VII. Next Meetings: | <p>February 22, 2024</p> <p>April 25, 2024</p> <p>June 5, 2024</p> |

II. Purpose of School Action Team



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- A. The district has adopted the School Action Teams for Partnership model to replace School Review. The model was developed by Johns Hopkins' researcher, Dr. Joyce Epstein, who has identified six types of involvement that make school-family-community partnerships successful:**
- 1. Supporting the whole child through academic achievement and social emotional learning;**
 - 2. Effective family advocacy, communication, and engagement;**
 - 3. Ensuring a welcoming school environment;**
 - 4. Offering volunteer opportunities for family and community engagement;**
 - 5. Educating families to support learning at home; and**
 - 6. Collaborating with Montclair Community Partners.**