

Tandem Parent Association Meeting

April 13, 2006

Announcements: A slate of PA officers was announced for next year: Liz Hanson, President, Jenny Clancy, Vice President, Edith McHenry, Past President, Virginia Knight, Treasurer, and Secretary, open. The PA will vote on the slate at the May PA meeting. All comments should be sent to the Nominating Committee members: Linda Kobert, Taylor Randolph, Mindy Barber and Lucia Morse.

Volunteer Luncheon: The PA volunteer luncheon will be held on Monday, May 22 at noon in the Blue Room. All parents who volunteer at Tandem in any way, big or small, are invited to participate in this festive celebration of another successful year at Tandem. A public invitation will be forthcoming in the Friday letter.

Sports Banquet: The annual sports banquet will be held on Thursday, May 18 in the field house. Kathy Kildea will once again provide lasagna and bread. Parents are asked to provide potluck salads and desserts. Details on cost and time will follow.

Tag Sale: The annual Tag Sale will be held next year to benefit Tandem's Diversity Scholarship program. The Tag Sale will be held a date in October TBD. Donations (**NO COMPUTERS!**) are now being accepted at the PA shed. Please contact Linda Kobert, Margaret Maupin or Edith McHenry to arrange a drop-off time. **Hold all clothing donations until September.** A key to the shed is available in the business office, from Roger or Margaret. Anyone is welcome at any time to get the key, sort, price and stack.

Guinevere Higgins presented an end-of-the-year report on the new Science and the Environment Class offered this spring. Nine students took part in the new course. The students conducted energy audits of the buildings and measured rainwater runoff and potential rainwater uses. A report will be presented to Buildings and Grounds. The class also developed non-toxic cleaning products.

Blake McDonald presented a report from the newly formed Environmental Action Committee. The group focused this spring on Tandem's waste disposal and energy costs and potential ways to save money. The group presented the movie "Kilowatt Hours" to the entire school, followed by discussion groups. Fluorescent light bulbs have been sold through a bake sale and in the front office to raise funds for future projects. Total bulb sales are \$300.

The group also changed all of Tandem's toilet paper to recycled paper and all incandescent light bulbs to fluorescent bulbs. The group estimates the difference in cost in terms of bulb/power usage between regular bulbs and fluorescent bulbs is \$9.24 (fluorescent) vs. \$32.80 (standard incandescent). The group hopes to work on using solar power at Tandem in the future.

Nicolas Stahelin spoke on the need to improve environmental stewardship and education at Tandem. Specifically, Nicolas hopes the new Business Manager hired to replace Don Powers will address "green" issues at the school and in the building of a new Middle School. He cited paper usage, cleaning products, wasteful use of materials, energy efficiency of buildings, and the involvement of students at Tandem, as areas where a new Business Manager can lead the school in environmental awareness and think "green".

Guinevere Higgins added that Tandem is hosting the Friends Environmental Educators Network on May 11 and 12. Parents are invited to hear keynote speaker, Pete Myers, parent of 11th grader, Dan Myers.

Guinevere also added that an interesting interview that aired on NPR's "Fresh Air" program on Tuesday, April 11 can be accessed at www.whyy.org/freshair.

David Slezak thanked all the parents who helped with the recent Emphasis Week PACEM group. Parents helped feed and cleanup restrooms after 40 homeless men were fed and sheltered for a week in the field house.

Treasurer's Report: Virginia Knight said the PA received \$13,870 in proceeds from the PA John Howard Fund spring fundraiser, Cabaret! The PA approved Virginia's request to transfer \$10,000 of that money to the John Howard Fund for Faculty Enrichment. The Finance Committee recommended that the remaining \$3,870 be added to the remaining unspent spring fundraiser seed money, \$4,846.43. The PA agreed to set aside the total of \$8,716.43 in seed money for next year's John Howard spring fundraiser account. A chairman is still needed for next year's spring fundraiser.

Virginia said there is \$4,423.58 remaining in the Wish List fund from the lunch program profits. Proposals will be accepted from teachers until Monday, April 24.

Virginia clarified that the money used for seed money for the spring fundraiser will not have any impact on the money set aside for the wish list. The money for the wish list is set aside from lunch program profits. The seed money for the spring fundraiser is set aside from previous seed money and proceeds from this year's fundraiser.

JoAnn Dalley will take anyone interested in a tour of the nature trail following May's PA meeting. JoAnn said 25 species of trees and shrubs have now been identified and marked along the trail. The entry point to the trail is behind the PA shed at the end of the parking lot.

The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlotte Rinehart and Barb Bousquet
