

### **Parents-R-Us Meeting 3/3/16**

- Robert started meeting by letting parents know that hopefully by next school year, the parent group will be led by a parent.
- Parents shared resources. Free bowling and free skating. Jen will get the information out to the families via social media.
- Volunteers have been a huge help, thank you to those who have helped out.
- Facebook page was launched and shared with the parents. Parents found the page and “liked” it. Parents are okay with keeping the page public, as long as we only share the same information on Facebook that we do on Twitter. Currently parents cannot send messages to the Facebook page, they would like to be able to send private messages. Robert will set up a meeting with JP to figure out how to change the settings to do that. Jen sent out a message using Hootsuite which successfully posted to both Twitter and Facebook.
- Autism Support/Awareness Night will be April 18<sup>th</sup> at the Service Center. More information to come, parents were asked to share any thoughts or ideas they might have. Robert talked about Geminni project which can be found on you tube and how video based modeling has been effective in teaching communication skills to children with autism.
- Parents stated the calendar does not always get looked at because their back is against the wall. Jen looked at calendar to see about moving it, however instead we may just put a sign up on the opposite wall reminding parents to look at the calendar behind them. There was also discussion on getting marquee outside, however it was discussed that money is better spent on indoor gross motor room and technology at this time, however it is something we can plan and budget for in the future.
- Mr McKee talked about the Garden Project – He sent out a test email, those who did not receive the email gave them his email address so they can be added. Weather permitting parents will meet at 9:30 am next Thursday, March 10<sup>th</sup> to put in the raised beds weather permitting. If it is raining, the plan is to meet on Friday instead. Afternoon families can come too on Thursday morning and their children can play on the playground while the garden is being put in. Robert will call Dig Right on Monday and have them mark the areas that we cannot dig. There is \$250 budget for this project and we still have \$100 to spend. It was discussed to also get some decorative baskets to hang on the fence and get some strawberry plants and possibly some green bean stalks. Mr. McKee also discussed other vegetables that will be planted. Robert will ask staff at the staff meeting tomorrow if they have anything specific they would like added to the garden area.
- Parents Night Out – This will be addressed at the staff meeting tomorrow and possibly a date will be set for a Friday in April.

- Random Acts of Kindness Week –Update. Thanks for sharing photos from the nursing home. Students enjoyed all the fun projects that they did that week.
- ECSE expansion: Robert shared with the group that 2 additional classrooms will be added at Hamrick next school year and Building Blocks will no longer be in this building. He explained how the number of spots for typically developing students will go from 60 to 112 next year and why it is important to expand and have more students in the community attending. There was also discussion about feelings about having mixed aged classrooms or dividing them up 3-4 year-olds in the morning and Kindergarten bound students in the afternoon. A majority of the parents said that they liked having the mixed aged groups because the older students help the younger students learn and serve as role models. They also like that when their child is 5, they will be able to be a leader in the class and be a role model to others. They did like the idea that team teachers could split the students accordingly by age at certain times during the week to do certain activities but overall like having them mixed.

**Next Meeting:** after April's assembly, April 7<sup>th</sup> at 9:15 & 1:15.