



Cherokee APT Meeting Minutes – September 17, 2014

Cherokee School – IRC

Attendees:

Board Members: Mary Kay Hanlon, Kate Walsh, Tara Janos, Kate Cavanaugh, Kelly Jackson, Judi Olenick, Sophia Koliatsis, Julie Benda Helms, Lisa FlorJancic, Jen Mulloy, Monica Yaun, Andrea Barci, Kristin Vallaly, Lisa Morrison, Stephanie Zimmerman, Julie Sakici, Isabel Witte-Fahlbusch, Connie Hollingsworth, Michelle Palmberg, Anne McEvoy, Susan Loiacano, Heather Drach, Janean Sisler, Tara Eggers, Deb Bradley, Vick Stach, Wiebke Droege, Kristen Lee, Vicki Pasquesi, Desiree Witte, Mike Borkowski, Camille Stohlgren, Ingrid Preiditis, Elena Daniel

The meeting was called to order at 9:35 by President Mary Kay Hanlon.

Welcome/Introductions:

Mary Kay welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited attendants to introduce themselves. We viewed a short video entitled "APT in Action".

Teacher/Staff Report:

Kelly Jackson presented the teacher report.

Staff representatives for the 2014 school year APT will be Kate Cavanaugh (Cherokee School Psychologist /Assessment Coordinator and Krina Lessard, Cherokee Grade 2 teacher)

SCIENCE

3/4 Inspiration Block

K - Beginning science, talking about what is science and reviewing habits of mind

1 – Reviewing expected behaviors and now beginning space patterns unit, identified patterns outside and created a class big book of patterns

2 – Reviewing expected behaviors and now beginning interdependent animal unit, students are utilizing their new knowledge of the word organism (living thing) and finding the needs of organisms to figure out how organisms benefit from their surroundings and other organisms around them

HEALTH OFFICE

Parents should know that we are teaching "hand washing , cover a cough, and how to blow your nose", in classrooms earlier than usual this year in response to info about EV-D68. Parents can help by reinforcing the importance of these healthy habits and by keeping children with symptoms home until fully recovered.

KINDERGARTEN

-Learned about what it means to "fill a bucket"

-Learning about combinations to five and ten in math and exploring with math manipulatives and learning workplaces

-Learning letter names and sounds- will start Team Read soon!

-Learning "Frog Jump Capitals" in handwriting

-Learning about the Habits of Mind in Inquiry Block and All About Me in Language Aquisition Block

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- Beginning to learn about Daily 5 and practicing the routines
- Building classroom community and learning what it means to be a Cherokee Cheetah!

FIRST GRADE

- Learning Habits of Mind during Shared Reading – thinking about your thinking (know your knowing), striving for accuracy, questioning and posing problems, applying past knowledge (use what you learn) using books like “Franklin is Messy” and “The Big Brag” (Dr. Seuss) to help illustrate these
- Learned about David Shannon from Scholastic News looking for main idea and details from the text
- They have begun their narrative unit – Writing “Small Moments” and will be authoring several books based on true stories this year. Also writing in Inspiration Journals
- Math – focus on number combinations for 5 and 10, becoming familiar with math fact families and eliciting higher forms of mathematical thinking. Students created number racks to help visualize numbers, number relationships and number combinations

SECOND GRADE

- As members of different kinds of communities, we learned about Rules and Laws and are continuing with Citizenship.
- As mathematicians, we are learning new Workplace games that focus on counting & comparing 2’s and 5’s. These lessons/games help us with our addition strategies.
- As writers we are writing about “small moments.” We are writing about something we do or something that has happened to us. We have writing tool kits that include: a mini stapler, date stamp, tape, sticky notes, pens, and paper strips/flaps!

As readers, we are making choices in Daily 5! So far we are “Reading to Self” and “Reading to Someone.” We are also making personal reading goals in Comprehension, Accuracy, Fluency and/or Extending Vocabulary.

THIRD GRADE

Math- we are reviewing addition and subtraction strategies. Students are working on "being facile to 20" with addition and subtraction as we introduce various work place activities and establish math forums

Writing- we are building our writing community as we explore various fiction mentor texts.

Reading- we are beginning a unit of study of non-fiction text and exploring various text features as we compare and contrast three different types of non-fiction; literary, reference and biographies

Inspiration- INQUIRY- students went through the inquiry process with the essential question:

“ What would make a good class pet at Cherokee?” After working through the process they convinced the 3rd grade teachers to get a grade level class pet, a beta fish. (name tbd) ;)

FOURTH GRADE

ELA Reading – identifying text features and text structures of informational text to improve comprehension

ELA Writing- writing descriptive/informational pieces about National Parks using mind mapping for note taking

Math – multiplication, division, factors, prime and composite (Bridges Unit 1)

Inspiration – How do successful teams work? Beginning to wrap up findings and prepare presentations.

Reading, Writing, and Inspiration are using the same reading and writing skills (integrated)

EXPLORE

Oct 3rd will be Heritage Celebration with parents during ELA grade 4 Explore.

MUSIC

During this month in 3rd and 4th grade music, 2nd through 4th grade students are in a unit surrounding "The Star-Spangled Banner," as this September is the 200th anniversary of the lyrics being written! Our teachers are teaching the song, the

etiquette used when singing the song, and the historical context surrounding the song's inception tailored to each grade level.

ART/IRC

Dot Day celebration was this week! Cherokee students during ILLI and Art will join over a million children and adults around the globe to celebrate International Dot Day – a grass roots “creativity & courage” movement, started in 2009 by a teacher in Iowa. Inspired by New York Times best-selling author/illustrator Peter H. Reynolds’ classic “storybook for all ages” *The Dot*, International Dot Day inspires young and old to embrace the power of personal creativity to change the world. Dot Day has generated support around the globe, including all 50 U.S. states, all seven continents, and even on the International Space Station. Exploring the themes of creativity, bravery and self-expression, story of a perceptive and caring teacher who reaches a reluctant student who thinks she can’t draw by encouraging her to be brave enough to “just make a mark and see where it takes you.” We will be asking students to wear “dots” for International Dot Day.

APT President’s Report: Presented by Mary Kay Hanlon

Thank you to so many of you who gave up time over the summer to make the start of our school year go so smoothly. I am lucky to be working with such a fabulous group of people and your contributions are so appreciated by the parents, the staff, and especially the children at Cherokee.

Every year, the APT selects a theme and this year it is “resilience.” The Cherokee community has shown time and time again how resilient we are. The staff’s embrace of the Inspiration Block is really energizing and I hope you can sense that enthusiasm in your kids. Quote of the Month: “The greatest glory in living lies not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall.” – Nelson Mandela.

We are all volunteers and I want to be respectful of your time. My hope is that these meetings are informative and you take away a better understanding of efforts here at Cherokee, in the District, and the work of our fellow APT members.

By being on the APT Board, you are also viewed as school leaders/influencers, so when wearing your APT hat, we ask that you keep a neutral position on hot topics. You may also be approached with issues and there are preferred ways to channel those discussions. See Parental Questions, Concerns, or Inquiries sheet in Board Folders.

We are all working toward a common goal to enrich the experience our children have in school. District APT Mission Statement: **PURPOSE:** To foster cooperative working relationships, to promote communication within the school community, and to enhance the education and enrichment of our children. **VISION:** To become a continuously self-renewing organization committed to the above purpose and sensitive to the changing needs of our community. **MISSION:** We will continue to be an integral part of District 67; utilize the talents and resources of the parent community to further educational excellence; take responsibility to be informed; provide constructive feedback through appropriate channels; recognize the importance of each individual and his or her active role in the success of our schools.

Cherokee’s APT also has Goals for this year: Our primary goal is to continue to enrich the Cherokee “experience” through successful events and programs. In order to do this, we need to 1) Strengthen parental involvement and awareness of the APT by increasing family membership, attracting parents who are not APT members to the meetings, and enabling participation/outreach; 2) Optimize APT Board effectiveness by maintaining good attendance, managing given budgets, submitting check requests within 45 days of incurring cost, and reflecting on program for continual improvement; 3) Maintain an electronic, centralized archive of APT information by utilizing Google Docs for monthly reports and event summaries; 4) Continue to improve communication between parents, staff and administration by updating the Cherokee APT website and Friday school newsletter.

One of my first tasks has been to create a Master APT Calendar for the year. I shared an earlier version with you in August, and am still trying to plug in missing dates. As you meet with your committees, please send me any pertinent dates so that I can get them on the calendar. I hope to share it with you shortly.

Procedures... there are a few rules we are asking everyone to follow. We do not want to bombard the office staff or teachers with lots of individual messages... When you want to get a message out in the Friday Newsletter, please send your

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information to ME by Wednesday of that week. I will act as that “funnel” until we identify a Communications Coordinator. This is the same for getting messages up on the APT website. To get messages out to Room Parents, you need to send your information to Connie Hollingsworth and she will forward it on to the Room Parents.

Lastly, Kate has enthusiastically answered the call to help us enter the 21st Century and get our Committee Descriptions, Monthly Reports, Volunteer Lists, Master Calendar, etc. up on Google Docs. I am still learning, but a major benefit of actively using Google Docs is that you would always have access to the most recent version. This also enables us to create an easily accessible archive of our APT efforts, and your successors won’t have to “reinvent the wheel” when it’s their turn to take over. To that end, we appreciate as much detail as you can provide in your monthly reports and any learnings you can share. Thank you for supporting this effort!

Business:

Time Zone is on hiatus this year. Its’ utility is being reviewed at the district level.

Principal’s Report/Guest Speaker: Kelly Jackson

Mrs. Jackson presented the Grade breakdown of the Inspiration block and building plans for implementation for this school year. She mentioned this is a pilot program and discussions to bring this to the other elementary schools will be forthcoming. Curriculum writing began over the summer in order to implement this for the 2014 school year.

She will resume the Principal Chat and Chews this year, updates will be in the Friday newsletter.

The Emotional Wellness Committee (EWC) theme this year is “Being Inspired by Change”.

Vice President’s/Secretary Report: Kate Walsh

-Community events discussed including Rec Center events for the month of October and November, Open Lands and Gorton events.

-The APT will be moving to central google docs account, instructions will be forthcoming for document sharing.

Treasurer’s Report: Tara Janos

-Tara presented a treasury report and discussed breakdown of APT expenses and payor sources.

-Closed out 2013/14 APT Budget with a roll-over of approximately \$200.

-This year’s budget estimated to be about \$3000 for Cherokee, to be finalized and presented in October.

-Met with District 67 Exec Board, Elementary Presidents and fellow Treasurers to align goals and spending priorities for 2013/14.

-Draft plans for 2014/15 budget underway with deadline of September 30th.

-Final budget to be presented to Executive Board and voted upon by APT at October meeting.

-Non-profit letter and reimbursement request forms have been emailed to all committee/event leads and will be presented in hard copy at Sept meeting.

At the Oct APT meeting Tara will present the 2014 budget once finalized.

-Tara asked expense reports and reimbursements be submitted in a timely fashion and for Board Members with current anticipated expenses to reach out to her if there are budget questions.

Board Photo:

Not taken due to time constraints, will plan for next month.

Committee Reports/Announcements:

Art Appreciation: Cyncy Schacher, Liz Olsen, Sophia Koliatsis, Julie Arseneault

Nothing to report at this time, first events will be in January.

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Board of Ed Liaisons: Catherine Harling and Desiree Witte

Our first District 67 Board of Education Meeting (BoE) of the school year is on Tuesday, September 23 at 7:00 at West Campus. All are welcome! You will have an opportunity to ask your questions directly to our Superintendent, Mr. Michael Simeck. If you have a question/comment/compliment you would like us to share with our Mr. Simeck, please email it to Dez Witte by October 13.

Bulletin Board: Annie Kavanagh

No update

Celebration Book Club: Pride Haggerty

The Celebration Book Club has already started with the first letters and order forms going out last week to all children with September birthdays.

Communications Coordinator: TBD

Volunteer needed to filter updates to Mrs. Williams or inclusions in the Friday newsletter. Kristin Vallaly offered to take this role. Submissions are due by Wednesdays.

Community Service: Camille Stohlgren, Katie Ford and Ingrid Prieditis

Currently there are no firm dates or drive details for this committee. The committee is discussing refreshing our events to better serve the district families and they welcome any feedback. Friday, September 26th at 9 am at the Lake Forest Health and Fitness Center will be our first committee meeting for this school year. We will be doing Box Tops again this year.

Emotional Wellness: Deb Bradley

Meetings planned, information will be forthcoming.

Evening Socials: Robin Bermel

Socials have been planned and invitations sent, 1st grade date has conflict and is being rescheduled and will NOT be Oct. 4.

Fine Arts/Visiting Author: Mike Borkowski and Amy Wang

First Visiting author will be:

Bill Buczinsky – Oct 1, 2014 at Cherokee

1. A Child's Voice. www.childs-voice-poetry.com
2. Pied Poetry (book)
3. Kiss the fish poetry: a poetic journey (recording)
4. Strange world: a poetic journey (book)
5. Power poetry 2005: poetry workshop (book)

Upcoming events:

Tsukasa Taiko (elementary schools) January 2015

Theatrebam: School House Rock Live! (elementary schools) April 2015

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Food Service: Adriana Arpino

August 27-September 5th: Lunch Helpers for First Grade & Kindergarten utilized 15 moms. This was specifically to help youngest students start up for this year. Children were happy to see parents in lunchroom. There were extra hands on board for finding straws, helping open yogurts & milk cartons.

Beginning of September: Created Nutrition Bulletin Board, Theme – Breakfast. Selected 4 children’s books on the subject and used them to guide kid’s attention. Max’s Breakfast, Pancakes for Breakfast, We’re making breakfast for Mother, Hey, Pancakes!

September 15: Met with other food liaisons, Sheridan & Deerpath to discuss ideas upcoming events.

Suggest for new parents to read on line the healthy food choices that are offered.

National Nutrition Month Theme is “Bite into a healthy lifestyle”.

Any ideas for theme related activities for NNM. Can be classroom, wellness, or cafeteria, bulletin board

Perhaps to be tied into the weekly e-mails from Cherokee.

Was given contact info of a nutritionist at Lake Forest Hospital who has in the past done grade level presentations to Sheridan and may be able to do the same for Cherokee.

Pass along to Anne Simons any interest in sampling during APT meeting.

Kindergarten Coordinator: Susan Loiacano and Suzanne Thomas

- Ordered t-shirts for kindergarteners (July 20)
- Confirmed number of yard signs available for distribution (Aug 1)
- Assembled welcome bags for kindergarten families, including t-shirts, Welcome letter and Cherokee 101 (wk of Aug 1)
- Distributed welcome bags and yard signs to all kindergarten families (wk of August 18)
- Scheduled and held two kindergarten playdates (held 8/20/14 and 9/2/14 after kindergarten walk-thru)
- Emailed kindergarten families with answers to frequently asked questions the night before school (9/3/14)
- Emailed kindergarten families the night before curriculum night with reminder to return signs and reach out with questions (9/10/14)

LFLB-LDA Liaison: Vicki Stach

Nothing to report at this time, this group had their first meeting last week.

New Families: Anna McEvoy

We had 27 new children (1st through 4th) starting at Cherokee and 25 new families (2 families had two siblings). 21 families attended our new family event, which was held on Thursday, August 21st at 6.00 pm. Plus some extra kindergarten families who could not attend the KG play dates. Only 4 families did not attend.

If you counted total families, brother and sisters etc. we had more than 75 people!

Holding it in the evening at 6.00 pm just before school term started and at school seemed to be a great success with whole families present. We started with a play in the playground, followed by a talk and a school tour. We also served some light refreshments and we handed out new family folders that night. Additional folders were left in the office or delivered to family’s homes the following day depending on their preferences and whether they were in town.

We did ask for formal feedback in a follow up e mail but we only had one response which was positive and we also felt it went well.

In addition all 27 new children/family have a “buddy” family and we achieved this before they started school. This was quite a challenge as we had so many new starters and the school class lists came out only a few days before school started.

Finally we delivered signs to all our new families and all the KG families.

Membership/Directory: Sophia Koliatsis, Julie Benda Helms

Online directory is up and going. Books will be mailed in a few weeks.

Parent Awareness: Jennifer Mower

LEAD has a number of programs on their calendar!

Tuesday Sept. 23, 7-8:30 Community Conversation-Prescription Drug Abuse and Misuse

Come join us for a community conversation about the prescription drug abuse and misuse epidemic. Hear what our community and county are doing to combat this growing epidemic. No RSVP required. Visit <http://www.leadingefforts.org/communityconversations> for more information.

Thursday, Oct. 2, 12-1:30 Speak Up! Prevention Coalition Meeting - LFHS West Campus

The SpeakUP! Prevention Coalition is a grassroots community anti-drug coalition, managed by LEAD and funded by a Federal Drug Free Communities grant. For the past 8 years, SpeakUP! has worked with all sectors of the Lake Forest, Lake Bluff, and Knollwood, IL communities on environmental change strategies to discourage underage drinking and drug use. By collaborating with both adults and youth, SpeakUP! and its partners have significantly reduced the levels of alcohol and drug use among teens. We are making a difference, and you can too! The choices you make with your time will matter to your children and to the community! Join our coalition meetings on the first Thursday of each month.

Wednesday Oct. 8, 7-8:30, Gorton Community Center

LEAD Parent University Keynote with NY Times Bestselling Author Ashley Merryman

Ashely Merryman is the co-author of New York Times bestseller, *NurtureShock*. One of the most influential books about children ever published, *NurtureShock* offers a revolutionary new perspective on children that upends a library's worth of conventional wisdom. The central premise of this book is that many of modern society's strategies for nurturing children are in fact backfiring – because key twists in the science have been overlooked. *NurtureShock* has been featured on Good Morning America, Nightline, All Things Considered, Fresh Air, Newsweek, and many other media sources. If you want to be a better parent, please join us on October 8th. Together, we will try to upend what we know as we get to the core of how children grow, learn, and live.

- Event to be held in the Gorton Community Center auditorium. Questions, please visit <http://www.leadingefforts.org/merryman> or call (847) 295-9075.

Wednesday Oct. 8, 7-8:30 Gorton Community Center

Our "Hidden in Plain Sight" teenage bedroom exhibit will be setup in conjunction with our Parent University Keynote with Ashely Merryman. Come tour the exhibit before or after our keynote event!

This interactive traveling exhibit invites attendees to tour a mock teenage bedroom that contains over 100 items that may be indicative of risky behaviors including substance abuse, underage drinking, eating disorders, sexual activity, suicide and more. We can bring this exhibit to your school, church, or event. Exhibit will be on display in the Gorton Community Center Community Room.

Red Ribbon Week is scheduled to Oct. 25-31

Parent Resources: Susan Loiacano

Updates to be coming further into school year.

Planters: Lindsey Anderson

No current update.

Publishing: Kirsten Collister & Julie Sakici

The # of publishing volunteers needed per classroom was submitted to room parents. Publishing gears up closer to November, at which time, we will have more to report.

Room Parent Coordinator: Connie Hollingsworth

Received class lists for grades 1 - 4 on Tuesday, August 19, 2014. Once I received the class lists I started selecting candidates for room parents. Criteria used included if the parent volunteered to be a room parent, if they are on APT and past Room Parent involvement. Goal is to get as many parents involved as possible. I submitted the list to Kelly Jackson and Mary Kay Hanlon on approximately Wednesday, August 20, 2014. I received approval to start calling the candidates on Saturday, August 23, 2014. Over the next week, I started calling candidates. On Tuesday, September 2, I received the class lists for kindergarten. I started calling the kindergarten volunteers immediately. Wednesday, Sept 3, I emailed the Room Parent Manual, Timeline for Room Parent duties and a form to capture signatures on Curriculum Night. On Thursday, September 4 all Room Parent positions have been filled. Cherokee School has 18 classrooms and 36 Room Parents. Friday, Sept 5, 2014 I

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had the Cherokee Room Parent Orientation meeting. Saturday, Sept 6, 2014 started following up with misc questions that came out of the meeting. Examples include date of Spookfest, Winterfest and Spirit Spring Home Tour.

Spiritwear: Lisa Morrison

Only one sale this year, ends 9/18/14.

School Supplies Program: Julie Olenick

All school supplies were delivered to classrooms before the start of school and it went off without a hitch! Special thanks to the following families for helping out and doing a lot of heavy lifting! Foley, Olenick, Hanlon, Borkowski, Franko, Lutrey, Witte!

Special Events Spookfest: Tara Eggers and Tara Janos

To be held Fri Oct 24, 2014. K/1 will be 5:30-6:30 and 2/3/4 will be 7-8:15. Games, bags and prizes have been ordered. 2-4 more games may be ordered bases on attendance. Permission slips and volunteer forms will be sent out week Sept 22, 2014.

Special Events: Haunted Hallway: Laura Griffith and Heather Drach

A part of Spookfest on Fri., Oct 24th. Issues involve the tight schedule for decorating the haunted hallway, especially hanging the black paper along the walls. We anticipate the need to start the paper hanging for the hallway on Thursday. However, we do not know how this will work with after school program for Thurs. and lunch on Friday. A meeting with the Spookfest committee (Tara Eggers and Tara Janos), along with prior year committee member (Jenn Goldman) will take place this Thurs to discuss this issue and work out a timeframe for decorating and number of volunteers needed.

Special Events: Winterfest: Wiebke Droege, Lisa FlorJancic, Michelle Palmberg

Tentative date: January 23, 2015

Theme: glow/neon party

We are considering dividing up the grades (K-2, 3/4) and putting together 2 separate parties on the same day.

Special Events: Family Picnic/Field Day: Danielle Knighton, Natasha Schnack

Back to School picnic is Sept, 17, 2014 at Townline Park 4:30 – 6:30pm

The Mean Weiner will be there selling hot dogs, burgers, chicken sandwiches, chips and drinks. Cookies will also be for sale. The Deputy Dawg Ice Cream truck will also be there.

Both vendors are confirmed.

Special Events: 4th Grade Celebration: Kirsten Maxwell, Judi Olenick

No update currently

Spirit of 67 Board Reps: Megan Medica, Dez Witte

Thank you to everyone who has made a donation to the SPIRIT for the 2014-15 school year thus far! Your donations are the BACKBONE of the SPIRIT. They not only help us fund fantastic grants but they also demonstrate to potential corporate donors that we have the support of our community. We appreciate EVERY donation. Our goal is for 100% of our families to show their support for the Spirit by making a donation. Please donate if you haven't already and encourage your friends and neighbors to do so if you have. Forms can be downloaded from our website or you can donate online via the website. We are very excited about the upcoming Centerpieces of Education Benefit Luncheon. Invitations have gone out and we hope you will join us. The event is on Friday, October 17th from 10:30 AM to 2:30 PM at Exmoor Country Club. More information is available on our website at spiritof67foundation.org. If anyone is interested in serving on this year's Home Tour Committee they are still looking for a few fabulous volunteers so just let us know and we will pass along your name to the committee co-chairs. The real work of the Spirit of 67 Foundation is funding grants that enhance the educational experience of Every Student in Every Classroom Everyday! Our grants help passionate teachers, administrators, students and parents put their innovative ideas into action in our District 67 schools. We plan to bring you grant information at each APT meeting this year. To learn more about the grants we have funded you can also visit our website anytime. This month we are highlighting a Visiting Artist Grant that was funded at DPM last year. You can view a short video that captures this grant in action at the following link. Grant committee members were somewhat skeptical about what the participation and engagement level for boys would be when this grant was brought to them. As you will see they had nothing to worry about because all the students were highly engaged active participants. Enjoy!

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Link to Visiting Artist Grant Video shared at this month's board meeting.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YAiZNimiCz4&feature=youtube>

Staff Appreciation: Jennifer Goldman, Tara Eggers, Deb Bradley, Vicki Pasquesi

Fall Teachers Luncheon:

Tuesday 26th August, Provided subs from Caputo's, cheese board, fruit and cookies.

Teachers loved it and said it was great to not have to think about lunch on first day back.

Curriculum Night:

Pizza and Salad from Donati's. Teachers are not always able to go home for dinner. All

were very happy with the meal and all was cleaned up before doors opened.

Yearbook: Elena Daniel, Judi Olenick

Yearbook requires many volunteers, committee is working with room parents to recruit helpers.

New Business:

None

The meeting adjourned at 11:05.

Next APT Meeting:

Wednesday October 15, 2014 9:30 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kate Walsh

Cherokee APT VP/Secretary