

**Cherokee APT Meeting Minutes – November 14, 2018**

***Cherokee School***

**Attendees:**

Maria Moore, Carolyn Hutchinson, Krina Lessard, Monica Yaun, Allie Metz, Meredith Norman, Kelly Pasquesi, Lisa Lersch, Ann Kiesling, Jenny Mulliken, Brinda Nair, Erica Iles, Carley Cui, Audrey Margol, Kristin Vallaly, Stephanie Knauff, Cara Ruzila, Isabel Witte-Fahlbusch, Janette Forman, Lacy Fidler,Katie McClelland, Nora Froelich, Cathy Montanari, Gisela Balassa-Orestano, Lisa Florjanic, Anne Axus, Karen Feeney, Tara Eggers, Jeff McHugh

Meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m.

**Welcome: Carolyn Hutchinson**

**Teacher Liaison Report: Krina Lessard**

* Family Fun Night will be January 24 from 5-6pm. Parent volunteers will be needed.
* Scholastic Book Fair will run in conjunction with Spring Conferences over 2 days (March 7-8).
* Third Grade Students - William Cui (Miller/Piergalski), Ella Stock (Arndt), Alba Zarazaga (Gregory) presented on City Simulation: learning components of a city, how it operates, etc.
* Thanks to Krina Lessard for the Veterans Day assembly. Krina asked for any suggestions for the future. APT members suggested that the child walk in with his/her veteran family member and/or introduce him/her.

**President’s Report: Carolyn Hutchinson**

All is going great at Cherokee.

Please update your job descriptions as you go. APT presidents from Cherokee, Sheridan, Everett, and DPM are meeting in January to standardize job titles and job descriptions between the three elementary schools, the middle school, and the Executive APT.

**Executive APT Board nomination forms** are out - they can be found here: <https://lfapt67.weebly.com/>

* Return no later than January 9, 2019
* Nominees must have APT Board experience (room parents are considered to have had APT Board experience)
* Open positions:
  + Executive Board President
  + Executive Board Communications
  + Executive Board Treasurer
  + Everett School Building President
  + Deer Path Middle School Building President

**Community Connections** meeting was held on October 29, 2018. Community leaders were invited to hear what’s going on at the high school. APT presidents were also invited. Superintendent Simeck spoke, as well as Principal Holland and several other LFHS staff members. A few takeaways:

* Lake Forest has a AAA Bond Rating: only 73 school districts nationally have this
* Lake Forest has the lowest school district tax rate in Lake County and the 2nd lowest in Illinois
* Architectural Digest designated LFHS as the most beautiful public high school in Illinois in 2017
* LFHS has 1,600 students -- it’s a boutique high school: big school opportunities in a small, supportive environment
* There is a strong social and emotional learning (SEL) component -- not just focused on academics
* The main academic emphasis is on growth (rather achievement)

**Spirit of 67 Thanks 4 Giving Luncheon** on October 19 featured guest speaker David Flood, author of “The Lost Arts of Dignity, Respect and Compassion.” As the father of an autistic son, Flood has seen first-hand how “toxic” loneliness can be. His son once called him 32 times in one day just because he was lonely. Flood speaks to youth all over the country and challenges them to make sure that no one eats alone at their school. At the Spirit luncheon, he stressed that when there’s been an act of kindness, three people benefit: the person giving, the person receiving, and the person witnessing. Could we model kindness better for our children?

**Cherokee APT News:**

* Busy week this week! Mandarin Fun Night on Wednesday night and Donuts with Dad on Friday morning.
* Don’t forget to have your kids decorate those turkey feathers, cut them out, and bring them back to school.
* You can still sign up to have your family help sort and deliver the food collected from the food drive.
* We don’t meet in December, so our next meeting will be in January.

**District 67 News:**

* We’ll be looking for some new Community Service ideas/partners for next year, so let me know if you have any good suggestions.
* Thanks to a Spirit of 67 grant, BMX champ Watt Wilhelm will be coming to Cherokee to present an anti-bullying assembly to students next week. His goal is to help empower kids to be confident, caring, and kind.
* You can upload the District 67 student directory on your phone through the My School Anywhere app.

**Community News:**

There are two ways to find out about events occurring in and around Lake Forest:

* The Green Backpack: Mr. McHugh puts the link to this in his weekly newsletter (Friday Flyer). You can also find it on the district website under the “Community” tab, and on each school’s landing page.
* Community Happenings: This comes from the Exec APT Board and the link for this is at the bottom of our website ([cherokeeapt.weebly.com](http://cherokeeapt.weebly.com/)) and is posted to our Facebook group once a month.

**Thank you to all the Board members who have been working so hard this past month!!**

**Vice President/Secretary’s Report: Maria Moore**

The minutes from October 2018 were presented and no changes or corrections were made. A motion to approve the October 2018 minutes was made by Kristin Vallaly and seconded by Kelly Pasquesi and passed unanimously.

**Treasurer’s Report: Erica Iles**

Spookfest receipts go to Darci Green. Please turn in in the next 10-15 days.

**Communication Coordinator’s Report: Lacy Fidler**

Working on Facebook posts, website updates and sandwich board.

Brief Summary of Coming Month: Plans to continue to update the Facebook page and website in a timely manner. And make sure the sandwich boards are up.

**Principal’s Report: Jeff McHugh**

Mr. McHugh spoke about the announcement that was made about his new position with the District and a new principal search at Cherokee. With his new position, he gets to support all of the schools. He feels this is the right opportunity for him right now. Not being in a school every day will be the hardest part. Everyone involved is excited about the changes. Will be strong as a district. Search will start soon for a new Cherokee principal. Lots of people involved in providing input. Cherokee is in a really good place. It’s a good time for him to leave.

**Committee Reports/Announcements:**

**Board of Ed: Amy Pasquesi, Cara Ruzila**

November Board of Ed meeting was last night. News was changes in principals. Asst Superintendent was renewed until 2020. Next meeting with Superintendent is in February.

D67 APT/Board of Education Liaison

Meeting Notes

*October 22, 2018*

**1. Have the results from the Center for Talent Development (CTD) survey been received and what changes will be implemented this year, next year, etc.? Have any new procedures been implemented in regards to the new law for advanced learners?**

[**https://www.dailyherald.com/submitted/20180723/new-law-allows-kids-to-unlock-potential**](https://www.dailyherald.com/submitted/20180723/new-law-allows-kids-to-unlock-potential)

The result have been received and analyzed by D67. The Advanced Learning Committee, with additional help from a variety of stakeholders, is taking the results into account to grow our service delivery model to meet the needs of all learners. No changes will be implemented this year (2018-19), as this year is a planning and preparation year. We will be making decisions and communicating them in the winter months and working to plan targeted professional development for teachers to support any changes moving forward. Communication with the community will come in many different ways.

New procedures -- We have developed early entrance criteria to follow the mandate from the state. That information will be on the website soon.

**2. Please tell us what will be different on the new report card and why.**

The revised report cards will offer a more comprehensive snapshot of each individual learner – a personalized learning profile. It will be reflective of the whole child not just test results. In addition to standardized test scores, the new version will offer opportunities for students to list their personal goals, activities, etc. It is currently at the middle school. A version was also introduced to seniors at the high school this year, as well, and will be rolling out to all classes in the future.This is a great way to compile information across the years.

**3.  It seems that there is a focus on advanced curriculum for math courses.  A 6th grader can take Math 6, Math 6/7, Math 7/8 and Algebra 1.  What is the advanced curriculum for language arts or other non-math course work?  If there are no advanced classes, what is the reasoning?  If a child is advanced/gifted in areas besides math, how are their needs met?**

This is linked to the work we have done in our English and Language Arts (ELA) curriculum, as well as work we are doing in the coming months to expand advanced learning opportunities beyond ELA and Math. Due to the fact that ELA can be more easily differentiated through a variety of texts, what is asked of students, as well as how our curriculum provides individualized goals along a continuum, the advanced curriculum doesn’t necessarily need to be in different classes.

**4. We have had children in District 67 schools for the past seven years and have noticed a wide variety of approaches taken by teachers regarding homework. Some teachers give a lot and some not much at all. Does the district offer homework guidelines and pedagogy for its teachers to follow? I am wondering where the district stands on this issue that affects every family's home life in the evenings and weekends.**

The purpose of homework is to extend learning through practice or reinforcement of skills presented in class, preparation for future class work, extension of ideas or concepts, creative or personal expression related to learning, application of knowledge or skills, and completion of class work. The type, frequency, and quantity of independent work will be based on the learning to be accomplished, and the needs of the individual student as determined by the professional judgment of the teacher. Homework will reinforce, or be an application of, the classroom instruction. Homework often takes different students different amounts of time, so sometimes, even if there is a standard, it doesn’t play out that way for every student. If you have a specific concern please talk to your classroom teacher or principal.

**5. My concern is for the volume of homework I'm seeing this year in 4th grade. Every day there is reading for 30 minutes, a math sheet, math fact fluency practice, three spelling assignments per week, music practice for orchestra, and occasionally there is additional reading or writing assignments. Perhaps I was just not prepared for the drastic jump in homework from previous grades, but this seems like a lot. To be clear, I am not anti-homework, but it should be meaningful homework. Some of the work this year may be new - I don't recall any focus on math facts in prior years, even though I agree they are important and should have been included long ago, and we’ve never had spelling tests. But still, this is a lot to cram into one evening for elementary students, especially given that many studies show that, outside of reading, there is little value to elementary school homework. Would love to hear your thoughts. Thank you!**

See #4 above.

**6. Please inquire about the outcome of the Northwestern’s Center for Talent Development review of out Explore and Quest programs last year.  When will the information be made available to parents?  Did it impact our curriculum programing?  If so, how and when will it be implemented?**

See #1 above.

**7. What is the rationale for which classes get co-teachers in elementary school?  Is there a specific profile for what type of child is placed in those classes?  What is the long-term plan for co-taught classes?**

Principals consider many different factors in placing co-teachers together. A couple of the factors are teacher match and student need. Some students are strategically placed in the classroom by needs explained through the Individual Educational Plans (IEP), while others are simply a fit to the student and teacher make up. There isn’t a particular profile. All students in these classrooms benefit from two teachers. The district has made a financial commitment to providing staff for this model so there is a long-term commitment to this.

**8. How were class placements done at DPM for 5th grade this year?  The classes seem to be very poorly balanced in terms of the mix of kids from each elementary school (i.e. there are very Everett-heavy classes next to very Cherokee-heavy classes, etc.).  There are more boys than girls in 5th grade this year, but some kids were the only kids of their gender from their elementary school in their homerooms.  Since homeroom assignments largely dictate the rest of your schedule, many kids lost their social support system.  There is an understanding that more care is put into 5th grade class assignments to ease the transition into middle school, but that didn't seem to happen this year.**

This is always one of the most challenging aspects of student scheduling.  We will always do our best to balance class sizes with students from the three elementary schools, and new students to the district, but this will vary based on the needs academic needs of students as well.  For example, some students who have an IEP or different academic needs, at both ends of the spectrum, need to be placed with certain teachers for academic courses...specifically math and LA.  This has been adjusted a bit over the years, but there are still some pockets that, for the most part, this year, will still be traveling together.  In regards to the gender balance, this was also difficult because there are 38 more boys than girls in 5th grade...creating a great gender discrepancy.  We always try our best to place classmates with peers from their elementary schools, but also welcome and celebrate the idea of fostering new connections and relationships as well.  We strive to continue to meet the social and academic needs of all students.

**9. There were many complaints this year about school pictures.  Examples include: the photos were inconsistent (some were taken up close and some further away), the photos were bad (hair in faces, weird expressions - things the photographer should have sanity checked before moving on), and retake dates were poorly communicated.  Did something change this year?  How can we improve for next year?**

Nothing has changed, we are working with the same photography company as in previous years. We do evaluate every year and obtain feedback from each school. This feedback is helpful as we access for the future.

**10. Drop off procedures at both DPM and Everett (not sure about other schools) can be quite dangerous, as kids are dropped off in places that require them to cross the car line to get into school.  The issues have been raised to at least one of the principals and the conditions haven't improved.  It feels like a dangerous situation to have kids crossing the car line given the hectic drop off scene.**

All principals, across the district, are monitoring and evaluating drop-off and pick-up procedures. Changes have been made at some of the schools and principals have communicated the changes at the building level.

DPM - This should not be happening as the drop off point is at the door.  We ask parents to make sure they are dropping off students in the appropriate locations.  The Admin team will do a better job of monitoring this, especially in front of the 5/6 building.

Everett - We recognized concerns with drop off at the car line and have made changes to our procedures that I believe have enhanced the safety of the arrival and dismissal process for car riders. Everett has also made additional changes to enhance efficiency and safety in the dismissal process at the end of the day. One supervisor will go outside to place cones and then jots down names. Fewer cars are going around other vehicles and the car line is moving more smoothly on a more consistent basis than compared to recent years. In fact, we often complete dismissal of car riders less than 15 minutes.

**11. What has been done in response to last year's issue regarding the child who was given a known allergen in the lunch served in the cafeteria?**

Anne Simons, food service director was informed that the school menu did not specify the type of bread that was used for a particular sandwich and as a result more specific details are now being included on the monthly school menu. Additionally, some products have been eliminated and replaced with other products to avoid certain identified ingredients that students are allergic to**.**

**Has there been any change in nurse-cafeteria communication?** Nurses maintain ongoing communication with Anne Simons related to the lunches that are being served with consideration to the information we have about our students with identified allergies.

**What is the expectation of parents?**  The expectation is for parents to contact the school nurse and then she will make contact with Anne to gather specific information about the ingredients in the foods served at school

**Are they supposed to be communicating with the cafeteria directly or is information provided to the nurse enough?** Parents should communicate with the school nurse and she will relay information to the food service director and the lunch ladies.

**12. What was the rationale for combining Curriculum Night at DPM for grades 5-8?  For parents of multiple middle schoolers, it was difficult to manage.  Even more than getting details of the curriculum, one of the things many parents like best is seeing/hearing/learning about the teachers their children see every day.  Even if you had 2 parents to cover multiple kids, you still only got to see the teachers for one middle schooler.**

The rationale behind this was that we are one school, not two.  This was the first time we tried this, and for the most part it went well.  I guess I would compare it to the same idea of a parent who has a 1st and 4th grader, or a freshman and Junior at the same schools.  Or, a parent who has both a 5th and 6th grader/7th and 8th grader.  I respect that it's difficult to get to everyone, but if we are going to be one school we need to change some practices.  This was one of those opportunities.  We have heard very little negative feedback regarding the evening.

**13. There is concern about the number of times teachers are absent from the classroom for meetings.  It is very difficult for some students, especially so early in the year, to have to adapt to substitute teachers and disrupted routines.  Is there any way to lessen the number of absences?  Is there a cap on the number of times a teacher can be pulled from his or her classroom for meetings/training?**

We do our best to keep our teachers in their classrooms and have lessened the number of planned days that they are out of the classroom. At times, we do need to offer certain professional development opportunities that can’t be offered at other times. We do our best to avoid this.

**14. Many teachers and substitutes seem to punish the entire class for the behavior of 1 or 2 students.  Communal punishment can be confusing to the kids who are not misbehaving.  Can these types of classroom management strategies be replaced with something more effective and fair to all students?**

Yes, absolutely.  I have not heard of this occurring, but we can continue to work with our teachers, as we have been doing so, regarding what our Foundational Expectations are regarding student and staff behaviors/expectations.

**15. With regard to substitute teachers, it seems like the need is great, given that there were advertisements placed at the school and on the website.  How are substitutes selected and evaluated?  How do you know if they are doing a good job with the kids in the classroom?**

There is a teacher and substitute shortage across Illinois. So we do advertise and interview all possible candidates. Principals evaluate substitutes and teachers also provide feedback and requests.

**Bulletin Board: Karen Feeney** -nothing to report

**Celebration Book Club: Katy Manley** -nothing to report

**Community Service: Cathy Montanari, Katie McClelland**

Food drive completed. Stop by and sort.

**Evening Socials:** **Natasha Schnack** - nothing to report

**Fine Arts/Visiting Author: Lindsay Gadbois, Alex Cherry**

Suzanne Slade came last month. She signed 300 books in 1 sitting for our district. She really enjoyed speaking to the kids.

Barrel of Monkeys coaches came and wrote with the kids. 4th graders taking a bus to Everett on November 16 to watch them perform what the kids wrote.

Charlotte’s Web is coming in January.

**Food Service: Lisa Olson, Katie McCarney** -nothing to report

**Kindergarten: Ann Kiesling, Julie Wade** - nothing to report

**LF-LB LDA: Kristin Vallaly**

Brief Summary of Current Month – Activities: Our recent meeting was Wednesday, October 31, 2018 from 9:30-10:45 at the West Campus. The first draft of the “Make a Difference” grant applications were turned in on Monday, November 12. Cherokee has LOTS of great things listed in the grant applications we have received. I am really excited for Cherokee!

As the new acting president for the LDA, I am still looking for someone to help me as a liaison for Cherokee. This liaison will help in the grant process as well as be the communication between the LDA and Cherokee. I will be available to help as well.

Brief Summary of Coming Month - Plans:

“Making a Difference” grant applications will be reviewed and discussed over the next several weeks.

2018/19 Make a Difference Grant Program - Key Dates:

Oct 29 - November 12:  Teachers to work on grant application. Contact liaisons with questions.

Nov 12, by end of day: First draft of grant applications turned in to liaisons for review.

Nov 13-20: Applications vetted and reviewed by liaisons.

Nov 21 - 23: Thanksgiving Break

Nov 26 - 30: Grant applicants make final revisions based on feedback from liaisons.

Nov 30, by end of day: Final grants due. Send final, signed grant applications to liaisons.

Before the end of Jan: Grants awarded to schools

**Mandarin: Nicole Korczak, Lisa Lersch**

Brief Summary of Current Month – Activities: Promoting Mandarin Fun Night through APT website, Facebook page, Cherokee weekly newsletter, etc….flyer sent home with every student week of Nov 1, sandwich board poster updated and to be placed in front of school week of 11/12…encouraging all families to attend!

**Membership/Directory: Shana Ward, Jenna Long** - nothing to report

**New Families: Annie Kavanagh, Kate Hanson -** nothing to report

**Parent Resources: Kim Pfahl, Kim Walters, Lacy Fidler**

Helping Hands: We had two requests since our last report. One from the Kindergarten teachers and one from Mrs. Lessard to update pictures and decorate the entrance with Veteran pictures. We had plenty of volunteers available for both.

Planters: We are looking at different ways to decorate the front planters for the winter holidays. Either spending more money to buy reusable containers and fillers year to year or continuing to buy cheaper perishable plants.

Lost and Found: Items were moved up to the entrance for conferences and it seems to have been a good idea. Many items were taken home.

**Publishing: Erica Iles, Brinda Nair**

November 16 - 2nd grade first drafts will go out to the volunteers. Dec 3 drafts are due.

Volunteers are lined up.

November 30 - 1st grade drafts will come home to volunteers. Due Dec 17.

**Room Parents: Kristen Lee** - nothing to report

**School Supplies: Kristin Vallaly** -nothing to report

**Special Events**:

**Back-to-School Family Picnic/Field Day: Tammi Georgi, Lisa Weber, Kirstin Carruthers -** nothing to report

**Breakfasts: Maria Moore, Emily Malone**

Donuts with Dad is this Friday, November 16 from 7:15-7:45am. Over 325 have signed up! Volunteer opportunities on Sign Up Genius.

**Spookfest:  Jocelyn Liu, Cyncy Schacher, Brianna Meade**

**Haunted Hallway: Anne Axus, Gisela Orestano, Elizabeth Martin**

Brief Summary of Current Month – Activities: Made witches hats & zombie hands, decorated hallway, ran the haunted hallway for Spookfest, took down decorations, completed reimbursements, began drafting report.

Brief Summary of Coming Month - Plans: Finish report and any outstanding reimbursements from team.

Feedback about events/meetings

* General Feedback: Everything went well and the hallway was nicely decorated.
* Lining the hallway in Back Plastic Wrap: We lined the walls with black plastic table cloths lined horizontally. Using table cloths eliminated the need for cutting/using scissors. We lined the ceiling in 2 lines of black roll out plastic. We used 3 people in this process and went straight down the hallway with 1 pass and no cutting. 2 people on ladders were taping and the person on the floor was assisting and rolling tape.
* Lights: We decided NOT to hang lights or decorations from the walls so that the black plastic would not fall. The only decorations we taped to the walls were spider webs and blown up surgical gloves that resembled dead zombie heads. We lined the floor with lights. There were a couple of strands of lights that we threw away and will need to purchase 2/3 new strands next year. Mr. David changed most of the lights on Thursday night to black lights. He kept a few to change on Friday morning just so we could see what we were doing while decorating.
* Large item decorations: We utilized a large blow up Halloween decoration for the entrance, 2 standing scary skeletons in black in the beginning as children entered, the large fortune teller, and the crazy man getting electrocuted. All of these items are on the verge of not working but are still scary if not plugged in. Because they are well worn items and because we had left over budget, I purchased a 70% off life size scary witch that can be plugged in as an investment for future Spookfests.
* Budget: Total spend was $265 out of an allotted $600 budget. We used $165 for black plastic table cloths from Jewel Osco, spiderwebs, witches hats (which can be used in the future), and glow sticks. We spent $100 on the witch investment. There is still a good amount of black plastic roll wrap and tape.
* Volunteers: The secret to success was having 3 scary dads. This is what really scared the children and 3 dads was just the right number. We utilized 2 moms to organize the students as they were about to enter the hallway, 1 mom at the end of the hallway to help children leave the hallway, and 1 overall manager that guided the children through and helped if anyone got scared. This ‘manager’ also worked with the moms in the entrance to understand at a VERY high level, how scary the kids wanted the specific run through. The scare ‘level’ was announced to the rest of the hallway before the group of children entered. For instance, if there were some very scared kindergarteners, we would say NOT scary and no one would jump out or do anything scary. We allowed approximately 5/6 children through at a time so that no one would get hurt.
* Issues: The only issue we had on the night of was the number of middle school children who were dropped off and supposedly signed up to work in the hall. Next year, please specify on volunteer sign up that they are signing up ADULTS only. I had about 15 kids that needed ‘supervising’ because there was no room in the hallway for them. The maximum number of middle schoolers needed are 2 for each session!! Any more becomes a safety risk.

**Winterfest: Lisa FlorJancic, Jessica Federighi, Gisela Orestano**

February 8. Glow in the Dark theme. Inflated obstacle course - thinking about...

**4th Grade Celebration: Julie Helms, Monica Yaun, Cathy Montanari, Kristen Lee -** nothing to report

**Spirit of 67 Board: Tara Eggers, Ann Kiesling**

Thanks 4 Giving Appreciation Luncheon was held on Friday, October 19th at

the Knollwood Club. This year’s luncheon featured special guest speaker David Flood, author of “The Lost Arts of Dignity, Respect and Compassion”. David also visited DPM and spoke with all of the students about kindness and inclusiveness.

Spirit Cross-Town Competition Update: Cherokee: 71.8%

Everett: 61.1%

Sheridan: 77.2%

DPM: 55.6%

This year, the school with the highest percentage of annual family donors will win a school-wide treat party at the end of the school year. In addition, the school(s) that reach 80% donor participation will be granted $1,000 from our Founders Fund. To make your annual donation please visit: [https://spirit67foundation.org](https://spirit67foundation.org/).

Donor Benefits for the 2018/19 school year have changed. A donation of $167 or above will allow you to receive a BLUE Shop with Spirit card, where you can receive special pricing and offers from local retailers. A donation of $300 and above entitles you to a GOLD Shop with Spirit card, where you will receive the BLUE level “deals” plus Restaurants. For more information, visit our Shop with Spirit page on our website.

Heinen’s Tasteful Rewards Program

As a member of Heinen’s Tasteful RewardsTM Program, when you shop at Heinen’s you can help the Spirit just by doing your everyday grocery shopping! Up to 1% of your qualified purchases during the school year will be donated annually directly to the Spirit of 67 Foundation by Heinen’s. The Teaming Up for Education Program is a Heinen’s Tasteful RewardsTM membership benefit. Enrollment with your email address is required.

Thank you to all of our sponsor and donor families. Your support makes a lasting impact on every student, in every school, every day!

Stay in the know about all Spirit of 67 Foundation news & happenings by book-marking our website and liking us on Facebook & Instagram.

**Spiritwear: Julie Sakici, Audrey Margol**

Our supplier, Kiddles, experienced some delivery delays on a few items that were backordered so the clothing was delivered to us in two shifts. All Cherokee spiritwear was distributed via student backpacks with the teachers' help by the third and fourth weeks of October. Kiddles had bagged and labeled everything with student name and classroom so delivery went very smoothly. Overall, Kiddles was great to work with. We thank our Exec APT sportswear rep, Kristen Lee, for all her assistance with the program.

Our committee's work is done for the year. The next spiritwear sale will take place next fall. People wanting to purchase more spiritwear can stop into Kiddles and peruse their stock items.

**Staff Appreciation - Events: Monica Yaun, Gisela Orestano, Stephanie Knauff**

* Getting ready for the December 17th Staff Cookie Walk. Planning now, will send out the signup after the Thanksgiving break.
* Started the Cherokee Thanksgiving turkey - Everyone should have received the email with details from room parents. Remember to have your kids send in their feathers!

**Staff Appreciation- Meals: Annie Kavanagh, Annie Ignoffo, Kristin Carruthers**

Provided lasagna during conferences and breakfast the next morning.

**Student-Parent Awareness: Janette Forman, Dawn Ritacca, Meredith Norman**

* The Exec APT Board decided to change the name of the committee at the elementary level from SPA (Student-Parent Awareness) to EWC (Emotional Wellness Committee) to align with the terminology that the district is using.
* We have our EWC meeting with representatives from each school right after the Cherokee APT meeting. This month we will be auditing each school's EW website, linking information and making them more uniform and consistent.
* We are also finding potential speakers to present on various Emotional Wellness topics of interest.
* Lions Quest: social and emotional wellness curriculum that is being tried in various schools with some teachers.

**Visiting Scientist: Julie Benda Helms, Erica Iles**

November VS Report:

Third grade will experience a hands-on workshop with Steve Schindler of Reptomania. Mr. Schindler will bring a variety of live animals for the children to touch and learn about. This program was well-received last year so we are excited to bring him back.

Fourth graders will experience a hands-on workshop conducted by Mad Science on the topic of photosynthesis, which is a topic selected by D67 elementary science teachers. Students will discuss external and internal plant parts, view & diagram micro-slides using a glucose molecule kit, work together to build a glucose molecule, and will plant and take home a pea plant to observe.

Parent volunteers will be required for 4th grade workshops only. We are waiting to hear from Mad Science on how many helpers he'd like, so stay tuned.

3rd/4th grade classroom workshops will run concurrently on:

**1/16/19**

**Grade 3:** Multi-purpose Room

session 1: 8:10-9:10 - Gregory

session 2: 10:10-11:10 - Arndt

session 3: 1:00-2:00 - Miller/Piergalski

**Grade 4:** Exploration Zone (Room 127)

session 1: 8:30-9:30 - Miles

session 2: 9:45-10:45 - Whalley

session 3: 12:30-1:30 - Jackson

K-2 assembly

Smarty Pants will be bringing his presentation about the five simple machines to Cherokee on January 22nd at 1:15 pm in the Multi-purpose Room.

Program info: With the help of over twenty student volunteers, Smarty Pants will demonstrate the workings of the five simple machines using eye popping oversized balloon sculptures. These simple balloon machines are linked together to create a more complex “Rube-Goldberg style” mousetrap, in order to catch a runaway mouse. By first demonstrating how each simple machine works, then showing how they can work together to form more complex structures, students learn first-hand how machines in their life are engineered to solve problems.

**Yearbook: Kelly Pasquesi, Gillian Goodfriend, Annie Ignoffo**

* Picture retakes were done.
* All portraits have been sent to us from Lifetouch. We just received the name corrections from the teachers and will start the upload process to the yearbook pages.
* Parent Volunteers have started building their montage pages.
* All pages have been built and ready for photos. Some pages have already been completed.
* Looking forward to the upcoming events to take photos at: Veterans Day Celebration, Donuts with Dad, Winter Sing, Winterfest, Winter Playground, etc.
* Cover deadline is beginning of January.

**Guest Speaker:**

Ingrid Wiemer, Executive Director of Student Services spoke to the APT about School Safety. *Note: The minutes from her talk will be brief and general due to the safety of our school/students. It was also not recorded.*

* There is not a lot of public info put out there about school safety for the safety of the school.
* Make sure to let the office know if your child is not at school. The school has an obligation to make sure all students are accounted for in the first 90 minutes.
* The district updated emergency management protocol this year. There are emergency flip charts hanging in every office/classroom of every school.
* Each teacher has a roster of all students and numbers of all parents on a clipboard to grab in the case of an emergency.
* New visitor management protocol at all schools. Ids are presented and kept in main office upon arrival. They need to know who is in the school at all times. Database gets wiped clean after the scan of the drivers license.
* Security vests are new this year. Bright yellow vests being worn by staff who are in charge on playground, drop off/pick up, etc. so everyone knows who is staff.
* New exterior speakers on all buildings.
* Proposal for a new camera system. There are cameras in buildings, but looking at an upgrade.
* Make sure you are signed up for Bright Arrow for emergency updates.
* If you ever have any questions or concerns, please contact Officer Christensen at [schristensen@lfschools.net](mailto:schristensen@lfschools.net) or Ingrid Wiemer at [iwiemer@lfschools.net](mailto:iwiemer@lfschools.net).

Meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

**Next APT Meeting:**

Wednesday, January 16 at 9:30am. Coffee at 9:00am. Room 120.

Guest Speaker: Superintendent Mike Simeck

Respectfully Submitted,

Maria Moore

Cherokee APT VP/Secretary