

The Dove's Nest

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF



Susie King Taylor
COMMUNITY SCHOOL

MARCH 2019

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

This past Wednesday we had a Family Community Meeting. Community Meetings are an opportunity to fellowship with other adults in the community, celebrate successes, and bring questions or concerns.

This past meeting had the largest attendance of the year - a sizable group of about 20 - 25 parents and board members. As a community we discussed: culture/climate, family engagement, success stories, and had time for some questions/concerns.

Although it would be hard to summarize an entire meeting in this space, the resounding concern was **In what ways are parents able to be engaged in the school community?**

As you will recall, **there is no school-sanctioned Parent Teacher Organization (PTO).** As a school we are encouraging folks to feel empowered to engage with the school on their own terms as guided by their own interests. How has this manifested itself in the past two years?:

- Parent Organized snack pantry
- Parent Organized faculty beautification
- Parent Inspired Room Parents
- Parent Led Fundraising Group

- A solitary parent who completes all of our landscaping
- Family volunteers on field trips, school clean-ups, and party supplies
- Family readers
- Parents who have applied to be board members and/or serve on committees
- Parents who fill Wednesday folders

There are, of course, other ways in which you engage with your child's class that go unseen, but we would love to hear about them.

Additionally, we are aware that lack of childcare, evening shifts, lack of transportation, and even finances sometimes prohibit families from being as engaged in the community as they wish.

Not having a PTO is intentional, but not exclusionary. As a small school we value family and faculty engagement, but equally want to harness the power of individual interest and best use of busy families' time. Not having a PTO is a radical push to family engagement in a different form. We welcome families to join us on this journey.

That said, one of the resounding themes of the past community meeting was a need for a parent and faculty group that would plan free events for the community that were not fundraisers. This idea is welcomed and we invite all interested parties to come to a planning meeting on **March 27th from 6 - 8 pm in the Arts Studio to brainstorm this group's organization.** There are already two great ideas on the list to get us started.

Finally, we also understand that sometimes folks do not come to meetings because they feel they have nothing to add to the conversation. However, we want to hear from all stakeholders - even if you are completely satisfied and/or can't make it to meetings. Therefore, if you were unable to make it to the last meeting we still want to hear from you! Please complete the following anonymous three-question [survey](#) so that we can capture your thoughts and identify areas of strengths and challenges for the school to work toward.

As always, we are thankful for each and every way that your family contributes to the school family as a whole



MARCH FAMILY ENGAGEMENT CALENDAR

Here are ways to get involved this month:

Wednesday, March 13th (9:30 - 10:30 am) - *Family Cafe*

In months we don't have Community Meetings we hold Family Cafe. This is an informal opportunity to come have coffee and chat it up with fellow parents and the School Director after drop off. Nothing too serious.

Thursday March 14th (6 - 8 pm) - *Totally Awesome Game Night*

Family game night at school. Look for details below in the flyer! If you would like to sponsor a student by buying a wristband, please email fundraising@sktcs.org.

Wednesday March 27th (.6pm - 8 pm) *Planning for Family Engagement Group*

On this date all adults in the community (parents, board, faculty) are invited to meet in the Arts Studio (please enter from the parking lot) to discuss forming a new committee that will be charged with organizing family engagement events that do not raise funds for the school.

4th Wednesdays (6 pm - 8 pm) *Fundraising Meeting*

The fundraising group is a group of parents who organize and staff fundraising events such as the Fall Festival, Conversation Hearts Dance, Book Fair, etc. This month this group will not meet so that adults interested in discussing family engagement events can meet.



LOTTERY AND ENROLLMENT

It is time for our 2nd lottery!!! Excited families will join us Friday morning to watch the lottery take place as new families hope for a spot for their students for next year.

As of today, we are completely enrolled in second and sixth grade. Meaning, there are no seats available and we will be holding the lottery for the waitlist only for those grades. We have ten seats available for first grade, but the other grades are in the single-digits.

We have approximately 250 students who have applied for next year for about 60 available seats. That said, if your family is moving and/or changing schools please let us know as soon as possible so that we can both make sure your paperwork is in order as well as get new families settled.

If there are any questions, please do not hesitate to call the office at 912.395.4200.



SAVE THE DATE

Friday March 8th

All Day -NO SCHOOL Teacher Professional Development Day

Wednesday March 13th

9:30 - 10:30 am: Family Cafe (cafeteria)

6 - 8 pm: **Board Meeting** (*Arts Studio*)

Thursday March 14th

6 - 8 pm: Totally Awesome Game Night (*gym*)

Friday March 15th

9:30 am - 10 am - All School Meeting - Mr. Simmons' class (*gym*)

Monday March 18th - 22nd

Spring Break: **No School**

Tuesday March 26th

8:30 am: Student Council (Front Office)

Wednesday March 27th

4:30 pm: Finance Committee (Front Office)

Friday March 29th

9:30 am: 94.1 The Beat hosts our GMAS Prep Rally. If you have an SKTCS shirt, please wear it!

ATTENDANCE

Ah, spring! The weather's getting nicer, attention spans are getting shorter, and families are planning their vacations during school days to beat the increased prices and lines when kids

are out of school. Two reasons you may want to rethink planning a vacation when school's in session:

1. Truancy - Any student who has 7 or more unexcused absences triggers a truancy alert by the county. Truancy is a big deal. You can be placed on an attendance plan or even summoned to court. No one wants those problems.

2. CCRPI - Our CCRPI score is impacted by attendance. Right now we are trending higher than most Chatham county schools (there are only three who have higher rate of absenteeism than us) in absences and latenesses. Once we reach an average of 10% absenteeism our CCRPI score will be decreased. A lower score means that SCCPSS could possibly use that to not renew our charter in three years. Let's give them every reason to keep us open!

If you have any questions about whether an absence will be excused or unexcused please contact Ms. Q at 912.395.4200.

BOARD MEMBER RECRUITMENT

We are reaching the end of the second year and as such there are some board members who are rolling off. That means we are in need of board member candidates. If you know someone who is interested in impacting public education (specifically choice programs) and has a specific skillset (i.e. - finance, law, real estate) that could be useful to our school please direct them to complete the board application at www.sktcs.org.

SPIRIT WEAR



The beginnings of the 2018 - 2019 spirit wear/merchandise have been added to our online store. Once on the page be sure to scroll down so that you do not miss a single item. Also, be sure to click on the item to see all of the color options.

Please visit the [site](#) to purchase new spirit wear and come back often as more items will be added as they become available.