

ACOS General Meeting

Meeting was called to order at approximately 10am in the Quest portable at Hidden Creek Elementary.

In Attendance: Maureen, Janet, Leah, Tracy, Jude, Noel, Melanie, Shannon, Kerri

Discussion Topics:

1. Introductions

- Since several new members were in attendance today as ACOS representatives for the elementary schools, introductions were made. The following represents placements for each school: Leah (Sunnyslope), Janet (Manchester), Noel (Sidney Glen), Melanie (Olalla), Shannon (South Colby), Kerri (Bethel-Burley). Those not in attendance today: Ryan (EPO), Yolanda (Orchard Heights), Kylie (Hidden Creek).
- Maureen gave a brief introduction to how ACOS started, what ACOS is, and a demonstration of the ACOS website and ACOS created Brain Power Bins (primary and intermediate enrichment materials).

2. ACOS in the schools

-Brain Power Bins

*Brain Power Bins are available at all elementary schools, but use varies widely. There has not been an organized way to maintain or distribute materials.

*Parent school representatives will provide this for their school.

-Maureen provided an explanation of the liaison's role:

*Liaison's role:

-Will introduce themselves at a future staff meeting and be known and available to the staff.

- Become a connection between teachers/parents and Maureen and a source to teachers for ACOS materials.

-Offer services such as making/maintaining copies from Brain Power Bin, direct to the website resources, become a resource to parents/teachers.

-Stressed that liaisons must be sure to only offer, not push.

*The group discussed ideas for making the liaisons most useful in the school and getting ACOS information/materials into the hands of students.

-Ideas included: informational blurbs sent to teachers to include in their newsletters, word of mouth between parents when the materials come home with students, pdf copies of Brain Bin materials available to all online, possible email links for each liaison on the website, etc.

-Group discussed what might be the best label for the liaisons. A name including 'parent volunteer' was most popular.

2. Future Goals

-The goal is to reach as many students as possible and bring more higher order thinking activities to the schools as soon as possible without creating extra work for teachers.

-Maureen discussed her pilot enrichment program at Sunnyslope.

-Possibility of expanding this to other schools with trained volunteer parent instructors.

4. Actions now:

-Liaisons should do nothing now. Wait until January to start program.

-Liaisons are encouraged to find, update, and become familiar with bins.

-Maureen will contact principals to set up short introductions at January staff meetings. She will develop talking points for this introduction.

-Maureen will create "blurbs" at the teacher and principal levels about Brain Bins for easy use in newsletters, etc.

-Janet will look into the possibility of creating individual email links for each liaison and adding them to the website.

5. Educational Websites

-Information on previously assigned research on education websites was shared by those who had it along.

-It was decided that those posted to the ACOS site must be free and suited to primarily elementary level use/interest.

-A discussion of ways to update the ACOS website in the future.

-This topic will be revisited later.

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:40am.

Next general meeting will be scheduled at a later date for January 2014 perhaps along with an evening liaison meeting to prepare for the staff meeting introductions.