

Munsey Park Elementary School Parent Council Meeting
Tuesday, September 19, 2007
Minutes

1. Welcome and opening of meeting by Ellen Duran, Munsey Park SCA President

Ellen welcomed those in attendance & Introduced Dr. Kendall, Munsey Park Principal.

2. Welcome Back and Report from Dr. Kendall, Munsey Park Principal

Dr. Kendall welcomed all back to the new school year. She shared her new "Powerpoint" presentation used with the staff to highlight that Teachers are the most critical element in the classroom in terms of motivating the students.

Dr. Kendall read out-loud Haim Ginott's famous quote from Between Teacher and Child and related it to home/parent relationships as well:

"I have come to a frightening conclusion.
I am the decisive element in the classroom.
It is my personal approach that creates the climate.
It is my daily mood that makes the weather.
As a teacher, I possess tremendous power to make a child's life miserable or joyous.
I can be a tool of torture or an instrument of inspiration.
I can humiliate or humor, hurt or heal.
In all situations, it is my response that decides whether a crisis will be escalated or de-escalated, and a child humanized or de-humanized."

Dr. Kendall reported that Munsey Park has 884 students this year and during the summer various creative solutions were put in place to accommodate the larger student body; including the repositioning of walls to create new classrooms. Additionally, various planned repairs were completed, most notably to the roof and the parking lot was reorganized to provide more visitors spots and improve traffic flow during drop-off and pick-up. Dr. Kendall highlighted numerous additions to staff. She shared with the audience an inspirational poem for parents:

Something to Think About -

*She started school this morning,
And she seemed so very small.
As I walked there beside her
In the kindergarten hall.*

*And as she took her place beside
The others in the class,
I realized how all too soon
Those first few years can pass.*

*Remembering, I saw her as
She first learned how to walk.
The words that we alone made out
When she began to talk.*

*This little girl so much absorbed
In learning how to write.
It seems as though she must have grown
To girlhood overnight.*

*My eyes were blurred but hastily
I brushed the tears away
Lest by some word or sign of mine
I mar her first big day.*

*O how I longed to stay with her
And keep her by the hand
To lead her through the places
That she couldn't understand.*

*And something closely kin to fear
Was mingled with my pride.
I knew she would no longer be
A baby by my side.*

*But she must have her chance to live,
To work her problems out,
The privilege to grow and learn
What life is all about.*

*And I must share my little girl
With friends and work and play;
She's not a baby anymore --
She's in Kindergarten today.*

-Author Unknown

Dr. Kendall highlighted numerous teams that were being established for writing and reading practices, nutrition and wellness, students that have high scores on standardized tests, special education, shared decision-making, bully prevention and technology. Finally, Dr. Kendall thanked the SCA for the Smart Boards that were donated for the Fifth & Sixth Grade Classrooms.

3. Ellen Duran Introduced Munsey Park Council for 2007-2008

President	Ellen Duran
Vice President	Debbie Papadopoulos
Finance Chair	Victoria Parisi
Recording Secretary	Andrea Costello

Grade Level Chairs

Kindergarten	Tammy Kelly
First	Beth Miller
Second	Suzanne Mills
Third	Trisha Nowicki
Fourth	Eileen Cuneo
Fifth	Lisa Middleton
Sixth	Joann Marcucci
Self Contained	Barbara Kiggins

Committee Chairs

Book Fair	Pam Kenlon, Karmen Dadourian & Christy Wepler
Bus Parent Coordinator	Rosemary Varnas
Character Matters	Mollye Fahey & Lisa Middleton
Children's Theater	Lori Scrobe
Community Education	Sarah Beresheim
Community Service	Christina Whitaker & Lisa Sciarrino
Enrichment	Caroline Kenlon
Fundraising Event	Linda Gurino
Guess Who's Coming to Read?	Kristin Perfetto
Halloween Party	Judy Fleishman, Caryn Cirella & Nadia Graziano
Hospitality	Grace Ready
Ice Cream Social	Kim Haggerty
International Night	Barbara Thermos, Lisa Sciarrino & Claudia Garbus
Lunch/Recess	Mary Bellucci, Liz Tomaselli & Marge Suga
Membership	Kathleen Kosciusko
National Library Week	Christy Wepler

After each Committee briefly discussed their respective goals, Ellen highlighted various accomplishments of the SCA. In particular, the Smart Board installations will allow our children the experience of using this innovative technology. She mentioned that St. Mary's Elementary School and Buckley have the boards in every grade and it is the SCA's goal to do the same. Some fundraising efforts will be hosted with Shelter Rock's SCA to accomplish this goal. Ellen reminded everyone to pay their SCA membership dues of \$25 which goes toward the Smart Boards as well as Educational Grants, recess equipment, etc. Ellen said the SCA would arrange an educational session on the Smart Boards at some point in the future. She highlighted the new SCA Website which was just updated by Sandy Demitroff and Michel Tomlinson. She encouraged all attendees to sign up for various committees. Ellen thanked Mr. Cardillo, Superintendent, as well as Cindy Cardinal, President of the Board of Education, for attending.

Next Meeting: **Munsey Park/Shelter Rock Joint Parent Council Meeting**, Wed., Oct. 24, 9:30 am, Munsey Park Auditorium - *Meet Guest Speaker: Roberta Richin, Author of [Connecting Character To Conduct: Helping Students Do The Right Things.](#)*

Important Dates: **SCA Luncheon 11/14 @ Leonard's in Great Neck; Champions for Charity Shopping at the Americana 11/29-12/1 (Enroll as of October 1st).**