

**Shelter Rock SCA
Parent Council Meeting, 4/10/08
Minutes**

Jen Villano, SR SCA President opened the meeting at 9:35 AM. Minutes from 11/15/07 and 1/10/08 were approved by a show of hands.

Announcements:

- Carol Conner and Cris Ann Frisone noted that the Book Fair was successful.
- National Library Week will be 4/14-4/18 with a change this year: A magic show will kick off the week on Sunday at Barnes & Noble. Vouchers were sent out by email, and a portion of every purchase will be donated back to Shelter Rock. Activities for the week include story reading for grades K-3; a scavenger hunt and book reviews.
- The Community Education Committee needs a SR representative.
- SCA Fair Tickets will be sold on Monday at Raindeew and Manhasset Sporting Goods. These outlets are in addition to the mailing.
- Zari Ginsburg of the Health & Safety Committee:
 - During the morning drop off, please drive all the way through the parking lot; no U turns. Follow the cones!
 - Everyone for band/orchestra seems to be in a rush; please try to carpool.
 - Working on a more active and social indoor recess.
 - We have a list of movement activities and are looking for indoor spaces to use. Please drop a letter to Mrs. Williams if you are able to volunteer to lead indoor recess activities for grades K-4.
 - The aides have a wishlist of games and are looking for donations. Drop things off at the Main Office, attn: Mrs. Williams.
 - To repeat: at morning drop off, be patient! Follow cone lane. No parallel pull ups; no dropping at corner; no U turns.

Robert Geczik, Principal, mentioned that they were looking at opening the second door.

Jen Villano announced that an additional Parent Council meeting was added for Wednesday, May 14, and the SCA General Meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 6, 7:30PM at Munsey Park. At the General Meeting the new Munsey Park President and new Executive Treasurer will be voted in; votes are needed.

Guest Speaker:

Maureen Florio, an expert on bullying behaviors who has been working as a Consultant at Shelter Rock, opened: "No child should be sad at school." She defined bullying as anything that makes a child uncomfortable and said that her program is a proactive one, rather than a reactive one. She advises children to include everybody so no one is left out.

She gave 5 rules for dealing with a bully:

- 1) Stay 3 feet away.
- 2) Never let the bully see you sad or scared.
- 3) Never have a conversation with a bully.
- 4) Use a "power" word: OK, So, Whatever, Thank you.
- 5) Walk away.

She advises the children to tell an adult “after 3 times” they are confronted by a bully.

She helps the children understand the difference between tattling and telling: tattling is something the child can handle themselves; telling is when someone has hurt you and it has happened 3 times.

She strives to teach the children “personal responsibility”, telling them to watch for words like “stupid”, “retard” and “hate.” She asks the children: “How did you feel?” and “What did you do to make someone happy?” She tells them that a good bystander is one who helps the victim and befriends them, but never approaches the bully.

Principal’s Report

Mr. Geczik announced that over the break some bathrooms will be redone, and over the summer, new security systems, windows and doors will be installed. On Diversity Day, the school hosted great parent presentations and workshops for the children. The Pennies for Patients drive is underway. School Supply lists for the fall will be greatly simplified: only basic supplies will be required; there will be no supplementary lists for specific classrooms.

Mr. Geczik noted that he had made a decision to stop the 5th and 6th grade lunch volunteer program. He said that “while this school could not run without parent volunteers,” any volunteer program must fall below the administration’s radar. When it becomes a huge administrative project, it must be reevaluated. It does not mean that parent volunteers are to be wiped out, but 5th and 6th grades were chosen because of the childrens’ age and their growing independence. As there are the least number of parent volunteers involved too, it becomes a natural transition as middle school has no volunteers. There will be a meeting on June 5th with information about retirees and sections for each grade next year.