



# STANLEY

PARENT ASSOCIATION

## Parent Association Meeting

Friday, November 14th, 2014 at 8:30 am

### Welcome and Introductions

#### Tim Barrier, Head of School

- The Role of CHOICE in Academic, Social and Moral Development
  - *Please see attached hand out at the end of this meeting agenda for information about the discussion that took place.*

### Stanley Related Business

- Gina Bernacchi, Stanley Teacher Prep
  - If you or anyone you know might be interested in the teacher prep licensing program, applications are due Feb, 2<sup>nd</sup>. Contact [gina.bernacchi@stanleybps.org](mailto:gina.bernacchi@stanleybps.org).
  - Will be presenting more at a future PA meeting
- Representatives from the Board:
  - Buffy Naake, Natasha Garfield, Lisa McCausland, and Karen Onderko.
  - Sue Sava is working on relationships with other schools and discussing choice
  - Finding mission moments around school
  - Will be presenting more at the January PA meeting

### Committee Updates

- Fundraising
  - Have raised \$5,000 from Safeway. Everyone has the choice in how they want to participate in grocery cards.
- Treasurer
  - Current balance is \$12,800. Raised \$500 at Beer Garden. King Soopers just brought in \$828.00.
- Social
  - Larimer Associates who own the Lowry Beer Garden have proposed a fundraiser. In December at a new restaurant in Lowry called North County. Dinner would be free, and 50% of all purchases at the cash bar would go to Stanley. Would need to fill 70-80 seats on the proposed date of December 11<sup>th</sup>.
  - Grade level community building events starting on November 17<sup>th</sup>. First graders will meet in the morning while and Third graders will meet in the afternoon. Any feedback from the students would be appreciated.
  - January 23<sup>rd</sup> – 345 western themed dance. Angie will lead some dances, and a DJ will provide the music. This will be a free family fun event.
- Stanley Store
  - \$4,800 worth of inventory has sold so far this year.

- Winter gear is in.
- Auction
  - Save the date! April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2015
- Parent Speakers
  - Coordinating with the middle school so we do not duplicate speakers
  - Possibilities include:
    - A movie called Underwater Dreams
    - Marijuana: a non- political discussion about how families can best manage marijuana presence in CO
    - Mindfulness for the whole family
- Building and Grounds
  - 20 parents meet 1 time a month for a fun Saturday morning helping the school.
    - Jobs include: trash pick-up, grinding the sandbox so it is soft, etc.
- Hot Lunch
  - New system this year is up and running! Amazing desserts reported by kids.
- Pizza lunch
  - Veggies and fruit were added this year. Kids seem to like them.
- Inclusiveness
  - Circle conference was successful!
  - Multicultural feast on November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 5-8pm. Come share a dish and great community. There will be a performance of some sort as well (last year was a group of dancers from Cleo Parker Robinson's). A favorite event for many!
  - Inclusiveness committee meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month at 5:30
- Sustainability
  - New containers with clear signage for recycling, compost, and trash have arrived! Please talk with your kids about what the different wastes are.
  - Green school summit at DU held on November 14<sup>th</sup>.
  - Committee has increased participation this year! Come join this committee!
- Room Parents
  - No new news to report at this time
  - Karin Jonas thanked the Room Parents for their meaningful partnership with the Parent Association

### **New Business**

The Parent Association has asked teachers at Stanley to let us know what items they need money from the PA to be able to make a purchase.

Currently a number of fantastic requests have been received and are being reviewed at this time.

### **Questions/ Ideas**

## **“Choices for Children- Why and How to Let Students Decide,” Alfie Kohn**

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### **A.**

“The best predictor of burnout...is powerlessness- a lack of control over what one is doing.”

“They have little to say about what happens to them all day. They are compelled to follow someone else’s rules, study someone else’s curriculum, and submit continually to someone else’s evaluation.”

“Schooling is typically about doing things *to* children, not working *with* them. An array of punishments and rewards is used to enforce compliance with an agenda that students rarely have any opportunity to influence.”

### **B.**

Benefits of Self-Determination:

1. General well-being- more control results in improved health. More persistent in face of adversity.
2. Effects on behavior and values- “The way a child learns how to make decisions is by making decisions, not by following directions.”
3. Effects on academic achievement- “teaching requires the consent of students, and discontent will not be chased away by the exercise of power.”
4. Effects on teachers- One’s job becomes a good deal more interesting when it involves collaborating with students to decide what is going to happen.”
5. Intrinsic- “allowing people to make decisions about what happens to them is inherently preferable to controlling them.”

### **C.**

“Every day ought to include at least one block of time in which children can decide individually what to do.”

“A structured opportunity for members of a class or school to meet and make decisions provides several advantages: it helps children feel respected by making it clear that their opinions matter; it builds a sense of belongingness and community; and it contributes to the development of social and cognitive skills such as perspective taking, conflict resolution, and rational analysis.”

“The critical question is not whether limits and rules are needed, but rather who sets them: the adults alone or the adults and kids- together.”

“It is in classrooms (and families) where participation is valued above adult control that students have the chance to learn self-control- and are more likely to keep working when the teacher or parent isn’t around.”

“School is about more than intellectual development; it is about learning to become a responsible, caring person who can make good choices and solve problems effectively. “