

Communications Committee Minutes
November 23, 2021

Attendees: Sandy Jones, Sandy Parrish, Kim Martin, Donna Smargiassi, Nathan Robinson, John Megginson, Michael Bates and Darren Root

Kim Martin welcomed everyone. We all introduced ourselves and shared that many teachers may not know all the board members and board members may not know all the teachers. We feel this is a good way to share the fun things going on in our buildings and an informal way to get to know each other.

Exciting news in our buildings:

Elementary/SandyP: Dave and Nick have been helping Mrs. Crim record our Christmas Concert. The middle school classes have come over for this as well. Mrs. Donaldson is Mrs. Claus and Mr. Reedy is Santa. Sandy will check with Mrs. Crim about how and when the virtual concert will be shared.

Dave and Nick have been wonderful to work with. They have set up google chat for each building. It has been helpful for us to share in the chat what question/trouble we are having and they can respond immediately.

We have a new reading program that is going well. We also have a new phonics/spelling program that is going really well. Erica Detmers trained us on using the Orton Gillingham program.

2nd grade will have their What Christmas Means To Me published in the newspaper. I believe the date is December 16.

2nd grade will read & watch Polar Express the last week in school.

Middle School/Donna: The Book Fairs at the elementary and middle school were very successful. Sales were over \$5,000 at the elementary and \$4,000 at the middle school. Mrs. Stuhmer is able to use this money to replenish books in our libraries and provide little prizes to the students.

3rd Grade is doing leveled math. They are separating students into ability levels. The lower groups are being taught by a regular education teacher and a resource teacher.. This is allowing them to provide enrichment as well as slowing things down for those that need it.

Our 4th graders are having a Macy's Day Parade "Balloons Over Broadway". They are making balloon floats. This activity is being tied to their reading and writing curriculum.

Mrs. Thompson has gotten in touch with The Farm Bureau and they had a guest speaker this month talk to the students about turkeys. The speaker will come monthly to the classroom.

Jr.High/ Kim: Canned Food Drive - Ms. Martin's class won the pizza party with 1975 cans. Overall the jr high collected 5,310 cans. A special Thank you to Mrs. Hemberger and her husband for bringing a flat trailer to haul all the food to the church in Divernon.

Money Math - each quarter the Money Math kids do a Share Activity. This ties in with budgeting and how a simple way to budget is to Spend, Save and Share. First quarter we had Socktober where we collected 2,183 pairs of socks. Ms. Cullers 6th grade group was the winning class with 437 but Ms. Marques was at 413 so Mr. Dudley awarded them both pizza parties.

Second quarter we are going to do "Hats, Mittens and Toys, Oh My!" where we will collect hats, mittens and toys that will be donated to Auburn Helping Hands, Divernon Hands of Hope and Toys for Tots in Springfield. But shhhh....the 2nd quarter kids won't find this out until tomorrow.

Band: Ms. Eaker and Ms. Philbrick wanted to invite everyone to the Winter Band Concert Wed, Dec. 15th 7pm MS Gym.

PBIS: Some of the 8th grade teachers have started meeting weekly to discuss Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports (PBIS) for the 8th grade students. They are currently discussing using tickets and/or punch cards as a reward system. They are looking to reward students who go above and beyond or exhibit positive behavior that is extraordinary for that individual.

High School/Nate:

Tutoring: High Schoolers have been working with students in the Middle School who are struggling.

Food Drive: NHS Canned Food Drive collected 1,473 cans for the Auburn and Divernon food pantries

Book Drive: Student Council book drive- teaming up with Alum from Illinois College to help Jacksonville Library. They are accepting any type of book. There is a collection box in both lobbies outside the high school gym.

Music:

Dec. 8- Jazz Band & Swing Choir perform at the Springfield Downtown Holiday Walk

Dec. 16- 5th & 6th Grade Choir Concert, 6:30pm at Auburn United Methodist Church

Dec. 16- 7th-12th Grade Choir Concert, 7:30pm at Auburn United Methodist Church

Dec. 17- Holiday Music Tour: AHS Choir, Swing Choir & Jazz Band will perform for AES, AMS & at White Oaks Mall.

Dec. 20-22: Guitar, Choir, and Band Classes providing holiday music in AMS lobby before school

Dec. 22--AHS Swing Choir singing for the 22 "Veterans Dinner" at Trinity Lutheran Church

John Meggison suggested that we provide a list of activities/happenings in our buildings to be added to the board's agenda. We will compile a list monthly and get it to the unit office on the Friday prior to the Wednesday board meeting.

John also mentioned that he would like to have a different board member come in his place next time, so that they could become familiar with the teachers.

Next meeting: Tentative date has been set for Tuesday, January 18 at 3:40 in the High School library. We would like to rotate meeting locations so that the board members can see the students work along the hallways.