

Irvine Community Nursery School
General Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 21, 2017

Meeting called to order at 7:01pm

Guest Speakers: Ms. Donna

How to talk WITH the children

- Your job at the school while you are here is to interact and talk with the children. While we are in school, the thing I want you to do is to make connections with the children. The best way to reach and teach people is to make a connection. The relationship that you create is the most important thing.
- Making connections- start a conversation- difficult with 3 year olds, some don't speak English, their language is developing, but say hello at the least
- Introduce vocabulary and ideas. Talk about what they are doing. "I see you are making a circle shape. How did you make it?"
- Support their thoughts. Be interested in what they are saying.
- Provide feedback, develop listening skills, help children give and receive messages. An example is two children arguing over a toy- ask "Do you have a message for each other?" a lot of talking at first and telling. Instead of saying, "Use your words", give the children the words to say.
- Watch what the children are doing- comment on what they are doing. Ask follow up questions about what they are doing. Whether or not they respond, you are opening the conversation
- Children want to be heard and noticed
- Ask questions that can't be answered with yes or no

GOOD JOB- DON'T SAY IT

- Why do people say it? Just because you say it! You say it for encouragement, because you don't know what else to say, to offer praise, to reinforce something

a child did. There are other, better, things to say to let the child know that you have seen and heard them.

- For encouragement you can say- “Thank you for picking up the toys. Now the room is clean.” This way you show that you notice what they have done, and give some quality information.
- For praise or when you are happy with what they did, you can say, “That’s so helpful.” “You were so kind to your sister.” But don’t give too much praise because they become “praise junkies” and need the outside assurance. Instead ask how the child feels about herself. Make the praise intrinsic, not extrinsic.

Some examples of effective ways to talk to children

- A child shows you his painting. Instead of saying, “That’s beautiful!” (Because it is not, its paint on the paper.), state what they did. “That’s a lot of red paint on the paper. Do you want to use another color too?”
- You see a child pumping on the swing. Instead of saying good job, say, “I see you know how to pump the swing. How did you learn how to do that? You must have practiced a lot!” Emphasize practice and process.
- A child climbs the ladder outside. Instead of saying, “you’re so good at that”, say, “You climbed to the top!”
- A child counts to 20. Instead of saying, “You are so smart”, say, “You can count to 20!” When you say- you’re so smart- the child doesn’t think they need to put forth any effort.
- A child comes in the classroom in a pretty dress. Instead of saying, “You’re so pretty”, say, “Can you twirl your dress?”
- A child is picking up the toys. Say, “Thank you!”
- A child gives another child a turn with a toy. You can say, “I can see you are taking turns.”
- Give the children the information you want them to learn. It doesn’t come easy and it takes practice, but you can start by stopping saying “Good job.”

“I have a message for you”

- The person giving the message has the opportunity to think about the message they will give and it gives the other person a chance to prepare to hear the message. It gives children a way to stand up for themselves.
- Superheroes need to solve problems- we want to be able to solve problems at school.
- It helps children get what they want, and helps them receive messages from others.
- I have a message for you can also use it as a way to notice desirable behavior
- Children want to be noticed, respected, and listened to.

Listening skills

- In order to listen, you need to be listened to. As a parent, you spend a lot of the day barking orders and rarely ask the child what they think. How often do you have a back and forth conversation with your child? When you have this back and forth conversation, you teach your child how to listen and converse. If you create this relationship now, you can foster it into the teenage years.
- Active brain development is up until age 8. After that, you only add to experiences. Its like adding leaves to the branches of a tree.
- “Children don’t know how to listen anymore.” There is too much one-sided talking. We need to give the child an opportunity to speak in order to learn how to listen.
- Technology and screen time is adversely affecting children. Instead of interacting with children, parents give a screen.

Self-soothing and the arc of the emotion

- Let the child go through the entire arc. Acknowledge they are upset, offer support and comfort, but let them get down the other side. Its difficult to hear a child crying, to see them feeling sad, but it’s important to let them work out the emotions.

BREAK

President – Priscilla Cottone

- Introduction of herself and board members
- Notification of flu shot waiver in child folders. Fill out the waiver and put it in Melissa's child's folder- Josie in the 2-day class.

1st Vice President- Selena Marshall

- Introduction of herself and family, explanation of responsibilities
- Upcoming Speakers- Miss Donna will speak, and we will have a round table discussion in October. Future speakers will be a kindergarten teacher, a child psychologist, and a nutritionist. If you have suggestions for a free speaker, let Selena know.

2nd Vice President- Amy Harris

- Introduction of herself and family
- If you have any questions on chairships contact Amy
- Silent auction and raffle lead and assistant for holiday party **MUST** be filled. If there is the slightest interest in filling this position, please let either Amy or Priscilla know. The holiday party is the first weekend in December, there is food, a performance, and a silent auction and raffle. Donations from families or from the community are put up for auction and raffle. We need someone to put together the baskets and items. The position is intensive for a short time, but then it is done.

Membership- Melissa Stoldt

- Out sick
- Status of paperwork/vaccines/membership numbers

Treasurer- Jennifer Hsieh

- Not present- On vacation. Priscilla went over information

- Payment of Tuition/October last month for Tuition Savings

Secretary- Ashley Sarmiento

- Introduction of herself and family
- Overview of fines- look online for schedule of fines

Ways & Means- Wende Hernandez

- Introduction of herself and family
- Upcoming Fundraisers. See attached sheet- ICNS Fundraising Opportunities 2017-2018
- The only mandatory fundraiser is the Trike-a-thon

Newsletter- Kevin Maginnis

- Introduction of himself and his family
- The newsletter will focus on the children this year. Quarterly releases are planned.

OCCPPNS- Katy Johnson

- Not present
- Explanation of OCCPPNS and upcoming meetings

General Meeting Hospitality- Prasad Kuncham

- Explanation of responsibilities and frequency of meetings
- Circulated a sign up sheet for snacks at general meeting – For each child at the school, sign up at least once for snacks at the monthly general meetings.

Cleaning Scheduler- Dan Peterson

- Reminder: Cleaning Day is Saturday, September 23rd 8:00am-12:00pm
- Sign-up sheet will be posted on the cabinet door near the front entrance. A schedule is posted online.

- NO CHILDREN MAY ATTEND
- Fines/Create Paid Substitute List- Anyone willing to be a sub, please let Dan know

3 DAY & 2 DAY Scheduler- Melissa Oakley and Christine Hardy

- If you must make a change for the schedule, please email either Melissa for 2-day, or Christine for 3-day.
- You don't need to notify the scheduler in the case of a substitution, and you pay the \$45 to the sub parent directly.
- The schedules are posted in the classroom on the cabinet door near the front entrance, and online under the members only tab.
- Create a Paid Substitute List

Field Trip Coordinator- Margaret Valle

- Descriptions and any dates of upcoming trips

Family Photos –Jessica La

- Explanation of class photos and family photos
- Family photos- Jeffrey or Tracy West will be the photographer. The cost will be \$150 for 45 minutes, and \$20 goes back to the school
- Class photos- sign up your child. Picture day is October 26 and 27
- Recommendations for photographers

Scholastic Book Orders- Amy Alquaddomi

- Explanation – Order forms will be in child's folder. Place the order online. The books will be mailed to the school and distributed to each child.

Holiday Party Leads- Dianna Saxon, Tanya Lee, Dau Lam

- ICNS holiday party will be held on Saturday, December 2, from 10-12. It includes a potluck brunch provided by ICNS families. The attire is casual and the theme is Hawaiian.

- For the invite, an Evite will be sent out. Please RSVP by November 12 with a full count of adults and children. Grandparents are welcome.
- We need a volunteer Santa and music for the party
- Updated email for Tanya: izzzydeemars@ gmail.com
- Looking for donations for the silent auction and raffle- ask for donations from the community, we have a tax deduction form to give to donators that includes a tax ID number
- Again, we really need someone to lead the silent auction and raffle

Ms. Donna

- Donna will be out to visit family occasionally. October 4-11 Donna will be out of town.
- Accreditation process. NAYEC requires schools to go through a process of self-evaluate to uphold the highest of standards. Donna Kelly will come some time between October 16-November 3. They will call the night before to let us know they will be there the next day.
- Integrated pest management- an hour study online. When you clean the tables, first use a microfiber cloth, then use a disinfectant wipe and let that air-dry. Keep the kitchen as clean as possible, and run the dishwasher before you leave.
- Use the term Working Parent, not Working Mom
- Safety- A confusion between what we feel is safe, and what is safe. There needs to be a little bit of risk-taking, but where do you draw the line? Children who learn faster are willing to take risks. If a child feels like they can do something, they probably can. Stay close and keep an eye on them. Two hard rules are- we don't run in the classroom and we wear shoes when we rode the bikes. There are some rules for safety, but there is also room to take risks. If you are in doubt, just ask.
- Harvest market in October- we set up a little farm stand and ask for donations of pumpkins, gourds, and fake flowers. The children cart the pumpkins around, weigh them, and move them. You can also bring in a decorated pumpkin for the classroom, but don't pierce the skin because it will rot quickly.

- Prepare a family photo for line behind Donna's group time seat. The house template is in your child's folder.

Meeting adjourned at 8:59

*Attachment included

ICNS Fundraising Opportunities 2017-2018

Special Dates

Ms. Tanya's Birthday Celebration at Red Robin – September 26th

A fundraiser to enjoy dinner out with the family at Red Robin at the Irvine Spectrum. 20% of the dinner sales go back to ICNS.

Pumpkin Patch – October 24th

Sell wristbands to the Pumpkin City pumpkin patch, Laguna Hills location, for use of unlimited rides on October 24th, from 3:30 - 8:30 pm. Wristbands are \$17 each and ICNS gets \$5.

See's Candy – October 25th - November 16th

A fundraiser to sell delicious See's candy to family and friends. They also make great holiday gifts! Our school will receive a percentage from each item sold. We get a 5% bonus if we order \$2,000 or more. This has the potential to be a major fundraiser for us.

Family Photos (Fall)

Family Pictures will be taken at a local park, proceeds go to ICNS. Capture this special time for your family with a professional portrait taken by a professional photographer in our ICNS community.

Holiday Party – December 2nd

We will host a brunch where families share their favorite dishes. We hold a raffle and silent auction to benefit ICNS. Family and friends are welcome.

Big Air Trampoline – January 3rd

Let's all jump together over the holiday break. 50% of the jump prices will go to ICNS. Invite all friends and family to this great event.

Ms. Bushra's Birthday Celebration (February) at TBD

A fundraiser dinner to celebrate Ms. Bushra! A percentage of sales will go back to ICNS.

Ms. Donna's Birthday Celebration (March) at TBD

A fundraiser dinner to celebrate Ms. Donna! Come out and mingle with ICNS families in honor of Ms. Donna's birthday. A percentage of sales will go back to ICNS.

Trike-A-Thon March 23rd (MANDATORY)

Each family will raise/donate \$100 or more for ICNS to support their child in a bike ride. Additional funds will be earned through breakfast/lunch sales, and from a raffle for fabulous prizes.

Lampost Pizza Cards

Fundraiser pizza cards will be sold by ICNS families for \$20 and 50% of the proceeds will go back to ICNS.

Thank you so much for your participation in making ICNS a wonderful experience for our children. If you have any suggestions or fundraisers or items you would like to donate for the holiday party raffle or silent auction, please email me, Wende Hernandez, wende.rae@gmail.com.

ICNS Fundraising Opportunities 2017-2018

Ongoing

Ralph's Community Rewards

Ralph's will donate a percentage of your purchases to ICNS. Register your Ralph's card at www.ralphs.com. If you have already registered, you will need to register again as it resets every year.

Amazon Smile

Register at smile.amazon.com and click on Your Account, then choose a charity, you will need to type in Irvine Community Nursery School in the search bar. ICNS will receive 0.5% of your purchases.

iGive.com

Register at www.iGive.com and a percentage of your purchases online will go to ICNS.

United Way (Special Designations)

Some of you or your families may already be giving to United Way through your employer. You may simply special designate to ICNS as the recipient.

Company Matching Programs

Check with your employer as many offer this option and will match the amount you donate to ICNS.