

Mardi Gras Committee Report for royal court parade and ticket sales

(even though I'm done at Lincoln, please feel free to e-mail/text/call me with questions about this next year!) kobrien4@aol.com 412-303-4366

Royal Court Parade: The parade consists of 2 kids from each grade (usually one boy and one girl but it doesn't have to be) who guessed the correct number (or closest) number of candy in the jar. The candy in the jars is getting a little iffy (and sticky looking) so one of these years you may want to replace it but it's not necessary. If you do replace the candy, these numbers won't be accurate but if you keep using the current ones, here are the numbers per jar.

K-48

1-48

2-51

3-54

4-62

5-66

You ideally want the jars to be returned at least a few weeks before MG so you have time to look through all the ballots and then find 2 kids per grade. Not every kid wants to do it and sometimes you can't contact them because they aren't in the directory. If that happens, move onto the next closest guesser. This year MG was on February 22 so this was my timeline:

Friday January 10th - I put the teacher letters and voting ballots (samples below) in teacher mailboxes in the 6X9 manila envelopes. There are extra envelopes in the fan room.

Tuesday January 14th - I distributed the candy jars to one classroom per grade. The jars are in the fan room and you can get the fan room key from Mrs. Popek. You can hand out the jars whenever works for you, but I always did it before school around 8:10 because that worked best with my schedule. My son walked around and helped me. It doesn't take long. Just give one teacher per grade one jar. Most of them are in their classrooms by then. I also left an empty cardboard box labeled "Mardi Gras Jars" in the teacher mailroom for teachers to return the jars once they were done. This is all explained in the teacher letter that you will attach to the

envelope. I reused the envelopes for a few years until they got too ripped up. You can just remove the old letter and tape a new one on.

Friday January 31st – I went to school and picked up the completed ballots from the MG mailbox in the hallway. Most of the teachers have always had them finished by the date I asked but if they don't you'll have to go back.

Next you need to look through all of the ballots and find two kids per grade who chose the correct number of candy in the jar. This has been a little more difficult the last few years with less people being in the directory. But if the winner is not in the directory, just move on to the next closest guesser. Contact the parents of each of the winning children, and make sure they want to participate and will be attending MG. The week of MG (Monday or Tuesday), e-mail the list of winners to Mrs. Popek so she can announce them over the speaker at school. Also have the list saved on your phone or message it to Emily Nalitz so that on the day of MG, she can give it to the DJ so he can announce who is walking in the parade.

Sometime in January, (the earlier the better so they have time to prepare) contact the band teacher (now Mrs. Lauver - rlauver@mtlsd.net) and ask if she can gather up some band kids to play and march in the parade. This year (2020) Mrs. Lauver was unable to attend herself, but she rounded up the kids, helped them practice and told them where to be and when the day of MG. So we needed to secure someone to be in the band room when they arrived. The band kids will put their instruments together and leave their cases in the band room. Make sure someone is able to unlock the band room that day. The parade begins at 12:45 and the kids are to meet on the top floor hallway of the school. The Royal Court kids should be up there by 12:30 (message the parents again once you know the exact time but the parade has begun at 12:45 for many years) so they can get on their costume and get pictures for the yearbook. You'll need to find someone to coordinate them up on the top floor. We always used Carina Perilman since she was in charge of the yearbook and taking pictures anyway. So you'll need to find a new person. Also, e-mail Mr. Kitsko because he traditionally leads the parade so he needs to know when and where. One year he was unable to be there and the PTA president stepped in.

Letter to be taped onto the envelope for the teachers:

Hello teachers!

Lincoln's annual Mardi Gras celebration is coming up on Saturday February 22nd. Thank you all for helping us choose our Mardi Gras Royal Court again this year! Candy jars will be distributed the morning of January 14th. There is one jar per grade so when your class has voted, please pass the jar to the other classrooms in your grade.

Please have your students look over the candy jar, guess the number of candies inside and fill out a ballot. All votes should be put back into your envelope and turned into the Mardi Gras mailbox. There will be a box to return the candy jars in the mailroom. Please submit your class ballots by the end of the day on Friday January 31st. Thank you very much for your help!

Kathy Lederman

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Here is a sample of the ballots for kindergarten: You can just copy and paste and switch out Kindergarten for the other grades.

Kindergarten

Mardi Gras Royal Court Ballot

Name _____

Room # _____

Guess # of candies _____

Kindergarten

Mardi Gras Royal Court Ballot

Name _____

Room # _____

Guess # of candies _____

I just tried to fit as many ballots as I could on each sheet of paper and then printed them out and made enough copies for each class. I always added extra.

WRISTBAND AND TICKET SALES:

The week of Mardi Gras - Thursday and Friday after school – sell wristbands and tickets outside of the cafeteria behind the school. Ask Mr. Kitsko to have a small table brought outside on the playground and you need a cash box (ask the PTA treasurer). I used the same cashbox all three times I sold tickets on Thursday and Friday. Katie (PTA Treasurer) had counted the original money – it was \$200. Then I used that to make change on Thursday after school, Friday at lunch and Friday after school. Friday when I was done, I went to the office to count the money and asked Mrs. Popek or someone else if she's not available, to count it after you do. Then it goes back into the safe.

The weeks leading up to MG, I ripped tickets into strips of 10, 4, 2 and singles. We go through a LOT of raffles tickets so to make life easier and the line move quicker, this really helps.