



Thursday, October 12  
7:00pm – 8:00pm, Avery School Library

## Agenda

### 1. Introduction and welcome

### 2. Round robin introductions

### 3. All about **READING** with Mrs. Ecker

- There are three reading specialists at Avery (Mrs. Ecker, Mrs. Bruno, Dr. Turner)
- In the beginning of the year, they administer a lot of assessments to determine who would best benefit from reading support.
  - This year all students were identified by the first week of October, though some higher-need 1st graders started a bit earlier. Letters were sent home to parents and required a parent's signature before lessons could start. Letters were also sent home to parents of students who don't qualify to work with a Reading Specialist 1:1 but who could benefit from in-class interventions.
- In first and second grade the focus is on building foundational skills and meeting kids where they are.
- A Reading Specialist may work with a child on: word work, phonics work, hands on (e.g. magnetic letters, sand), manipulating sounds and rhyming words
- Reading Specialists use books in a level system (letters). The goal is reading independence and comprehension.
- If you are curious about the expected levels for each grade or where your child is at, please reach out to their teacher.

- You don't need to focus on the exact letter your child is reading at. Read with your kids, make sure they have an exposure to books and encourage environmental reading.

#### 4. Dr. Peterson's update - xxx

- **NWEA Testing** - Tomorrow parents will receive information in Parent Square regarding the results of NWEA Testing. The school gets a lot of data about your child (e.g. through testing) and wants to create more transparency around the data and how students are supported.
- **Water Bottle Refilling Station** - We have a vendor and they will be able to start and complete the project the first week of November!
- **Library Refresh** - We are close to having a finalized plan for the makerspace (Room 11) and plan to share with families soon. Future phases (e.g. new shelving, tables/chairs and flooring) are also in discussion. If we are able to work through an existing contract we can move a bit quicker and hopefully have some of the work done prior to Trivia Night in February.
- **Volunteering** - The district is shifting how school volunteer screening works. If you are volunteering for an afterschool club and there isn't a WGSD staff member present, you will need to go through the district's background check / fingerprinting process. More info to come.
- **No school** next Thursday and Friday.
- **Brainpop** - Thank you to the PTO for helping fund this resource for teachers.
- **Socktober** is ongoing through 10/31. Please send in socks with your student!
- **Gym vestibule** - We're considering ways to refresh this space in the coming years.

#### 5. Event Update (Fall Festival, Progressive Dinner, Trivia Night)

- **Fall Festival** was a HUGE success! Thank you to all who participated and volunteered. We're calculating final totals, but our ticket sales, raffle sales and sponsorship brought in over \$18,000! If you have ANY feedback about the event (no matter how small!) please send to [Amy Whistler](#).

- Please enter the **house decorating contest** even if you aren't competing to win! Kids love walking through the neighborhood looking at decorations!
- **Progressive Dinner** had around 80 people and met their budget of \$2500 raised!
- **Auction & Trivia Night - February 24** - Save the date for this adults-only event which is our largest fundraiser. Tickets sell out \*fast\* but we were able to secure a larger venue than last year. There are 8 people to a table and premium tables will be available. Similar to last year there will be 4 rounds of trivia and 4 rounds of music bingo. The first Auction Committee meeting is Sunday, October 22 at 871 Atalanta. We need all hands on deck to make this event a success! We're also looking for a new chair for next year!
- **Book Fair** - November 13-1. This year parents will be able to drop in and shop during the day. This also means we'll need more volunteers to help run the event!

**6. School T-shirt update** - Students should receive in October

**7. Q&A -**

- Discussed a way to make Kindergarten parents feel more welcome at PTO events / committees. Perhaps we could have someone talk at Kindergarten information night? Maybe we could buddy up current families with new ones? We'll continue the conversation on this topic at a future meeting.

### **Upcoming Events and Activities**

- Oct 14 - Lawn Clean Up (Bring Tools!)
- Nov 9 - PTO Meeting
- Nov 13-16 - Scholastic Book Fair