

## **Peak to Peak Response to 2012 Parent/Guardian Survey Results**

The results of the 2012 Peak to Peak Parent/Guardian Survey were provided to the Peak to Peak Board of Directors and administration in the spring of 2012. At the annual meeting in May 2012, a summary of the results was presented to the Peak to Peak community. The results can be viewed on the Peak to Peak website, [www.peaktopeak.org](http://www.peaktopeak.org). Click on “About Us” and then ‘Committees’ and ‘Accountability’ to access all survey results.

In response to the 2012 Survey, the Accountability committee has gathered information from Principals, the Executive Director of Education and the Executive Director of Operations regarding what has been and is currently being done at the school to address concerns that were reflected in the survey and written comments. In general, the responses to the survey statements were very positive. The committee chose to address questions that scored lower than a 90% positive response (Strongly Agree and Agree combined), issues that might benefit from better communication as indicated by a high “I am unsure” count, and some concerns raised in survey comments.

### **Volunteering – I am involved in meaningful ways volunteering for the school.**

The data once again showed volunteer participation drops off at the middle and high school levels. The Board recently approved the formation of a Volunteer Committee to help with the coordination of volunteer needs and reinforce the importance of volunteering. In-class volunteering does not work as well at the secondary level but there are many other ways for parents to help. There are volunteer coordinators for each grade level in middle school to assist teachers in finding the specific type of help they need. There is always a need for volunteers at targeted events such as Run for the Peak, College Day, school dances, and the auction. Volunteer opportunities were addressed by Ms. Ovelman in Friday announcements and in her February 2012 Speak to Peak middle school news article. Mr. Mathews’ message in the December 2012 Speak to Peak discusses volunteer opportunities specific to high school parents as well as opportunities that help Peak to Peak at all levels.

### **Use of Communication Pathways – When I have used the school’s communication pathways, the process has been effective in handling problems and addressing concerns.**

The positive response to this statement dropped below ninety percent for all school levels. There may be times when a problem is resolved although it may not be to the liking of the person seeking resolution. One of the reasons for having the Communication Pathways is so the person closest to the problem is the first person to

address the problem. The principals respond to every issue brought to them via the Communication Pathways, and they appreciate those who follow this procedure.

**Technology – The school’s available technology is adequate for learning.**

This statement had a positive response of 88 percent at the elementary level and there were a number of comments about inadequate technology from elementary parents. Ms. Roni agrees that Peak to Peak computers and software are less than adequate. There is a limited budget and Peak to Peak continuously assesses how to maximize the use of that money, including money available for technology improvements. The school is also talking with the district about the technology and support available from BVSD.

**Extracurricular Involvement – My student has adequate opportunities for positive extracurricular involvement through the school.**

Fifteen percent of middle school parents and eleven percent of high school parents thought there were not adequate extracurricular opportunities. The administration keeps track of extracurricular involvement since it is an important way of getting kids connected at school. There are a number of activities and athletics available for students. These can be found on the website and students hear about them from teachers, counselors and peers at school. More information about extracurricular activities can be found on the high school news page of the December 2012 Speak to Peak.

**Finances – The school effectively and efficiently uses its limited finances.**

While this question had a 91 percent positive response, 30 percent of the elementary and middle school parents and 20 percent of the high school parents said they were unsure. All financial records are available on the website under the ‘Financial Transparency’ option under ‘About Us’. These documents include the annual budget, financial statements, salary guidelines, and more. Last year Mr. Todd wrote several ‘white papers’ to further explain the school’s finances and the reasoning behind many financial decisions. These papers were emailed to Peak to Peak families and are available on the website. Mr. Todd is happy to answer any financial questions that parents have.

**Comments about balancing the joy of learning with the stress of academics**

Peak to Peak is a school of rigor and the principals, teachers and counselors understand that this can create a stressful environment. Principals are working to communicate to parents and students that balance is what the school wants for students, and strategies continue to be implemented at each school level to help students achieve that balance. The elementary staff stresses developing the whole child and teaching how we are citizens within a global and diverse world. This is evident in the Character Education,

the liberal arts curriculum and the community outreach projects. The focus of middle school Access classes was shifted to encourage students to disengage from academics and take a mind break. There are still days with academic focus but also more activities that are engaging and fun and build relationships. At the high school level counselors are asking students how they are balancing classwork with things they love and additional fun activities have been added to the school year. Mr. Mathews' December letter on course selection also discusses the need for balance and enjoyment when students select their courses for the following year.

### **Comments on fundraising costs and developing new fundraising ideas**

Mr. Todd wrote a 'white paper' on Fund Development in May 2012. The paper is available on the website under 'Financial Transparency' and explains how fundraising is structured at Peak to Peak and the costs and revenues associated with the different fundraising activities. The Board has created a sub-committee to look at long-term advancement strategies. This fall a committee of volunteers was created to bring in new ideas for the auction and other fundraising events.

### **Comments about the Mandarin program**

The goal is to build a solid Mandarin program and Ms. Ovelman and Mr. Mathews believe we are on a better trajectory now with significant improvement since last year. The search for a quality teacher who fit with Peak to Peak expectations was challenging since the pool of candidates was very limited. The plan is to get a consistent program in place so students gain solid footing and mastery. Additionally, the Mandarin teacher has been given more resources to help the program succeed. AP Mandarin is not offered at this time but will be considered in the future based on student demand, preparedness and staffing coverage.

### **Comments about Middle School grade from ColoradoSchoolGrades.com**

Ms. Ovelman responded to questions about the grade assigned to the middle school from ColoradoSchoolGrades.com in a Friday email last spring and in her End of the Year data report community parent letter. This grade was based solely on TCAP scores and heavily weighted on growth rather than academic achievement. The principal's article in the February 2012 Speak to Peak talks about the many assessments and measurements Peak to Peak uses to assess student performance and how that data is used to determine the instructional strategies needed in order to achieve the school's goals.

### **Comments from parents of Elementary students about space in the cafeteria and space for BAASC**

BAASC moved to the staff lounge during the 2012 spring break and an additional bathroom was installed. This allowed the program to grow and at this point it no longer has a waiting list. The cafeteria cannot be physically expanded at this time but the lunch schedule was adjusted so the number of students in each lunch period is more balanced. Work was done on the PA system so that Ms. Roni can address all elementary school children in lunch at the same time. This had been a problem because the tables wrap around into the hallways.

### **Comments about what is taught in Elementary PE**

There are certain standards for PE that need to be met and the school is working to communicate what the curriculum is for PE. The PE teacher and Ms. Roni are aware of the varied interests at different grade levels and changes have been made in PE classes to make activities more fun and varied.

There are always areas where Peak to Peak can improve, even given the very positive results of the survey. The Accountability committee appreciates that the board and administration are open and responsive to the survey results and the comments made by parents.

The Accountability Committee

December 18, 2012