

## January Hearst PTA Meeting Minutes

January 12, 2022

- **Principal's update (Jen)**

Return to school went smoothly because everyone uploaded test results – thank you!

More cases are coming up at school, so appreciate people keeping up with testing and taking care when having symptoms.

They are reporting cases on students who have been at school during their infectious period. Not necessarily all students who have had COVID (i.e. kids who were not at school while infectious).

New DCPS policy to begin this coming Friday: Each student in Pre-K and CES classes will get rapid tests each week and parents have to upload results to the portal prior to the start of the school week. If students do not upload their results, they will not be able to return to school. Tests will be distributed starting this Friday. They will not be allowed to test kids at school anymore, so families must test their own children before they return to school. Also, parents must upload the picture of the test going forward. Attestations will no longer be accepted.

When we have breaks from school each family will be getting rapid tests to return to school. More information will be coming on this.

Kids who have recently had COVID will be able to be exempt from asymptomatic testing for 90 days, since the PCRs can show positive results for 90 days.

It may be harder for Hearst to meet their testing goals, as more kids get COVID and are exempt from testing.

There are some gaps in DCPS communications on some scenarios related to quarantining. Ask Jen if you have questions on this.

They are averaging 8 to 14 staff out a day due to staff getting sick or taking care of family members.

- **Read-a-Thon: Coming soon to support Hearst families in need; volunteer communicator needed! (Eulynn)**

This will happen in late winter or early spring

Schoolwide activity to get kids excited to read, while raising money for Hearst families in need. This will be separately funded from other fundraising activities. The funds raised will go to purchase grocery store gift cards for those families.

Last year, the Read-a-Thon raised \$8,000.

We could use a parent volunteer to help with developing publicity for the Read-a-Thon. Contact Eulynn at eulynnshiu@gmail.com if you are interested in helping.

- **Auction update; volunteers needed! (Mia)**

The auction will be at Hearst this year. Looking to have it at the end of April or the beginning to mid-May.

They are all set on wine parties. More information will be distributed to everyone about those shortly.

Right now, they are really in need of volunteers to help with the auction – to solicit donations, help day of, and provide additional support. Contact Mia at [mia.f.olsen@gmail.com](mailto:mia.f.olsen@gmail.com) if you can help out.

- **Public health subcommittee update: Masks! (Tulin)**

Public Health Committee has been providing children's KF94 and KN95 masks to families who need them. PTA will be providing funds to purchase additional high quality masks. Order will be placed soon for masks that will be distributed each class by the school.

If your student needs masks or you want to donate masks, email [health@hearstes.org](mailto:health@hearstes.org)

- **FLEX update (Claire)**

Enrichment starts next week. There were a few classes that may have had low enrollment, but the rest of the classes seem to be going forward. There is another person who will be the enrichment coordinator to coordinate after school. Mr. Hill is still the contact, though.

Hoping for there to be more teacher classes in the spring.

- **Spring planning: International Day, Screen on the Green (Julia, Eulynn, others)**

Looking to do an International Day and Screen on the Green when the weather is warmer. Stay tuned for more information on that.