



Cornelius Elementary School

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Karen Jackson
Principal

Laura Gonzalez
Assistant Principal

Jo Anna Harrison
Magnet Coordinator

Coffee with the Principal February 12, 2015

Minutes

Coffee with the Principal began at 8:35 a.m. with student presentations from Jaimes Urbano, Jocelyn Ramos, Chase Roberts and Gisela Lopez. Mrs. Jackson and Mrs. Gonzalez welcomed the parents for coming and distributed "Concern" slips to write down any concerns they may have and provided folders with important information related to Cornelius student results. Mrs. Gonzalez translated for the non-English speaking attendees. Mrs. Jackson explained that our campus met the district standards with regards to the TEA Accountability Rating. She pointed out that our campus also earned Distinction Designations in Reading/ESL, Science, Closing Performance Gaps and Postsecondary Readiness. She further explained that "Closing Performance Gaps" meant that all groups of students were performing equally and that "Postsecondary Readiness" meant that our students were on target for college.

Mrs. Jackson shared last year's Stanford/Aprenda results by teacher as well as the exceptional Iowa/Logramos results of our Kindergarten students. A parent asked if she would get a copy of the individual student's results and Mrs. Jackson replied, "Yes". She pointed out that although the STAAR results were low last year, Cornelius still performed well overall as compared to other schools in the district. Another parent asked about getting sample questions sent home in order for students to practice. Mrs. Jackson responded that although we don't have access to samples of test questions, the TEA website does provide practice tests for STAAR. Other resources were shared with parents if they should need help.

Mrs. Jackson boasted about our UIL status and the trophies and awards that our students have won and encouraged parents to allow their students to participate. A parent expressed a concern about disorganization and lack of supervision during tournaments. She wanted to know if there will be any improvement. Mrs. Jackson explained that sometimes there may be more students than coaches when attending the events and that sometimes students may be left unattended due to waiting for their particular event to begin while the coaches were assisting other students. However, she did state that she would look into sending someone to chaperone. One parent encouraged the other parents to allow their child to participate and pointed out the benefits and another parent also shared the importance of attending the tournaments and being of help. One parent asked how students were selected and Mrs. Jackson

explained that recommendations come from various sources and also stated that they could express an interest to the teacher as well. She also explained that although students are recommended, ultimately the coaches determine the best candidates with the best chance of winning. Mrs. Jackson also indicated that sometimes students excel in multiple areas and although they may attend a tournament in one category, the student may be called upon to compete in another.

Mrs. Hinojos, VP of the PTO gave an update. She informed the parents that she would share information via email and expressed the need for more officers. She explained that volunteers are needed for the 5th grade picnic and other activities.

Mrs. Jackson closed the meeting at 9:30 a.m. by informing parents that a GED class would soon start as well as Spanish and Technology and encouraged parents to sign up.

Kathryn Riggins