



## Executive Director Board Report- February

### Staff News

- Staff gathered on Friday, Feb. 3rd for their first school wide Peaceful Schools training
- Feedback on this shared work of occupying brave spaces and being honest and transparent with adult peers was positive. Staff are excited to continue this work.
- Peaceful Schools will work with MS and UE teams on Monday, March 6th.
- Whole staff training will continue in August and throughout the 2023-2024 school year.
- Peaceful Schools continues to meet monthly with the Directors
- The i-Ready and EasyCBM winter testing window is almost closed and complete
- Teachers are meeting with their grade level teams and one-on-one with their Directors to review the data, progress, and identify next steps based on student performance – both in communication of progress during the upcoming parent teacher conference window and also in their day to day instructional practice.
- Children’s House just completed 10 weeks studying the book Positive Discipline in the Montessori Classroom by Jane Nelson and Chip DeLorenzo
- Children’s House will start the book Powerful Literacy in the Montessori Classroom by Susan Zoll soon – this work will be a deep dive into the science of reading, the NC state standards, and their day to day instructional practice as it pertains to literacy
- Lower and Upper Elementary assistants continue to meet monthly to receive support and training around a variety of Positive Discipline strategies to effectively use with children 1st through 6th grades. This training and work will overlap with Peaceful Schools next year when we move into guiding restorative justice and conflict mediation between children at the Elementary age.
- Maureen has marked her calendar and will continue to support Cathy and the Lower elementary team around high fidelity Literacy instruction and Montessori best practices when it comes to reading and writing instruction. Topics over the coming months will include Writing/Non-Fiction Research in the Elementary Classroom, Spelling/Strong, Explicit Phonics Instruction, Guided Reading to Novel Study and Teaching Reading Response the Montessori Way, Vocabulary Instruction, and Tier II and Tier III Literacy Intervention, a Montessori Approach – this work will continue into the fall as we continue our cross grade level planning and our work to backward map Literacy instruction 3 years old to 3rd grade

- UE staff meet and collaboratively identified Math and Cosmic Edu as instructional practice goals for the year. They met in January to reviewing the cubing lesson and loop back around in monthly conversations about how modeled lessons went with students
- Staff continue to work on planning and promoting our UE and MS overnight trips later this spring – we are striving for 100% participation in the spring of 2024
- EC will implement their new teaching and service capture schedules starting Tuesday, February 21st. This work is also connected to decisions related to the allocation of staffing based on numbers and program needs for the 2023-2024 school year.
- MS continues to explore a more efficient and robust staffing structure to meet the needs of our student population (an additional EC Resource teacher, an additional Math teacher, potentially a third Teacher Associate)
- The Specialist team pulled a masterful event off last week – our Winter Choir and Band Concert – Thanks to all the parents that came out to support our students. Thanks to the specialist team, who came out in full support of SueAnn and Liseth to help manage groups of students in practice rooms ahead of their performances. A special thanks to David, who drove the Uhaul and of course to SueAnn for her brilliance and mentorship of our young musicians.
- **ILT** has met and is starting to dig into a couple important topics – **Parent Education/Engagement Calendar** – aligned across grade levels for the 2023/2024 school year, **Evaluation and Professional Development** – collaborative creation of this work which goes hand in hand – how do we want this work to push us out to the next level of our instructional practice. What is great about what we are doing now? What can be done better? What systems do we want to put in place to build transparency and deepen practice? Finally, **Development and Visioning** for Sterling’s next three, five, ten years
- Directors will continue coaching (observations, individual meetings, goal review, and evaluations) and formally evaluating staff (weekly and bi-monthly) through the end of March – ahead of contract renewals in April.

### School News

- Monthly Academy tours continue co-lead by Fay Masterson and JoAnne Amazan
- We currently have close to 90 of our 128 Academy seats filled for the fall. JoAnne will continue to do this work through the end of March.
- The Lottery Application Window ended. Below are our numbers by grade. Wyleen continues to review all applications for duplicates and mistakes ahead of the lottery pull in early March.

Current Total 1080 – 1,200 - 1,700 on our wait list in previous years.

K - 402 – 65 will be admitted via the Lottery pull in early March

1st - 147

2nd - 125

3rd - 100

4th - 95

5th - 75

6th - 86

7th - 30

8th - 15

We may let 15 MS in off the waitlist in early June to balance our budget and potential request for three additional staff at the MS level.

- We had 90% of our staff complete the Annual Staff Survey last week. Leslie will have a visual for the Board at the March Board retreat next month. We are proud of this high turn out and deep commitment to offering high quality feedback to the administration team.
- We also had 90% of our kinder through 7th grade families turn in their intent to return forms last week. We are so grateful for this work. Deborah will begin working down the list of roughly 75 families who did not return this form to us last week. We are hopeful that Deborah's email and phone banking will pull in the remaining forms ahead of our lottery pull in early March
- We opened our Before and Aftercare registration window for all families kinder through 7th grade this week. The Operation team will connect with these families, finalizing program numbers ahead of spring break.
- We are considering Surplus spending options for May and June at the Director's table – things we are considering are solar panels, fixing the fence behind the pollinator garden, lining the parking lot/carline heading towards the sport court, lower and upper elementary Montessori materials, additional furniture for MS
- 2023-2024 budget preparations have started – with a particular focus on both the EC, MS, MTSS and Intervention Programs as well as the Operations team structure are all being discussed and considered – re-allocation of resources is possible based on need.

### **Facilities and Maintenance**

- Roof work continues on both buildings D and C
- Solar Panel - installation costs and time frame are being explored for the summer of 2023

