Pamela Jasso <pjasso@scsdk8.org>

Heather Headlines June 1, 2017

Heather School <hecommscoord@scsdk8.org>
Reply-To: Heather School <hecommscoord@scsdk8.org>
To: heather_staff@scsdk8.org

Thu, Jun 1, 2017

HEATHER

Upcoming Events

Subscribe to the Heather calendar

View the District calendar

Honorary Service Awards (8:30am)
June 5

Spirit Day-Crazy Hair Day
June 7

Movie Night (6:30pm)
June 9

Chess Awards (5pm)
June 10

Special Assembly (8:30am)
June 12

Last Day of School-Minimum Day
June 14

Help Wanted

Movie Night Chairperson(s)

Contact Meredith

Chickens Ball Steering Reps

Contact Meredith

PTA Historian

Contact Meredith

Multicultural Day Chair

Contact Meredith

Original Works Coordinator

Contact Meredith

Spirit Wear Coordinator

Contact Haley

Wild Zone Help

Contact Meredith

Directory Help

Contact Sarah

Hot Lunch Servers

Contact Info

Safety Volunteers

Contact Fred

Wednesday, June 1, 2017

Principal's Message

Heather's Getting a PlayPod !!

"Let's pretend play" . . . yet increasingly we are finding many children no longer know how to just play. We've been observing this on our own playgrounds the years, especially with our younger children and our children with special needs. Heather has a wonderful campus. It's spacious, sporting two playgrounc two play structures and a huge green field to run and play in. But our playgrounds are not very conducive to our younger learners' needs. Our playgrounds h lot of blacktop with four square, basketball, handball, and tetherball courts, and while many children play sports or use the play structures, many children loc other options during recess. We have a ton of space, but are in need to provide space and materials to support and foster "just play"-- especially imaginative and play that will support children at all levels of social skills. Then we learned about PlayPods!

21st Century Learning
We first learned about PlayPods at the district's Celebration of Innovation last spring, an annual staff event of sharing innovative ideas and practices in scho classrooms across the district. White Oaks School shared their PlayPod project and we thought, "This would be perfect for Heather!"

The playpod concept fits well within our school district's Strategic Plan, which focuses on the skills and conceptual tools that are critical for 21st Century lea We see it as an important vehicle for providing children opportunities to enhance the 5Cs: Critical Thinking, Communication, Collaboration, Citizenship, and Creativity. The PlayPod will provide an environment for students to think more creatively, working and playing both cooperatively or independently. As they encounter problems, the PlayPod environment will help them learn how to solve problems using critical thinking as well as social-emotional skills. The PlayP area will provide students with a unique/open ended area for play.

The best way to describe a PlayPod is to see one in action.

- First, prime your thinking by watching this one minute video, **"Not a Box".**
- Next, find 5 minutes to watch at least half of this 10-minute video from the U.K., or maybe all of it: **ScrapStore PlayPod in Action.**
- For photos of PlayPods in action, check out this **collection.**

Heather's PlayPod Planning
We presented the PlayPod concept to both PTA and SSC and there was a lot of enthusiasm to go forward. Our Heather PTA has started by funding a large 10 Tuff Shed **(something like this)**, which will be installed up alongside the Room 22 portable on the upper playground. Thank you Nikki Rooker for coordir this order. We expect delivery on May 24. Teachers and I applied for a SCEF Innovator's Education Fund grant and received funds to seed the project with shopping spree to Home Depot to buy materials to get us started, as well as funds to release teachers to take a couple of "teacher field trips" to see PlayPo action. We visited Paragon Preschool during their discovery zone time and then White Oaks Elementary during their lunch recess when their PlayPod was c action.

What's Next?
Please consider getting involved by working with us in finding and equipping our PlayPod with materials to stimulate creative play- the sky's the limit (almost will have a vetting process in place for parents who have items from home to donate. So we don't end up storing rummage that we can't use we will set up a process of emailing a photo of items to donate.

Needed: PlayPod Patrol
Please consider volunteering next year during lunch recess as part of our PlayPad Patrol to help supervise safe and fun play.

Have ideas? Want to get involved? Contact **Nikki Rooker, Meredith Park, Corbie Kiernan.** or **Pam Jasso.**

We are all very excited to get it going!
Pam Jasso
Principal

Heather Facebook and Twitter Pages

Have you "liked" Heather School on Facebook? Are you following Heather's Twitter feed?

Heather's Facebook and Twitter pages are a great way to follow the "happenings" at Heather and get peeks into the fun of learning, exploring, and playing on at Heather School! Some recents posts include the Heather Hop, Heather's Garden Club, a kindergarten collaboration challenge, the PlayPod arrival, A Action Gallery, Hometown Days Parade, PBLs, an article about raising brilliant children, an engineering challenge, exploring Byzantine Mosaic in Art in Act Reader's Workshop, May Day neighborhood flower deliveries, a buddy classroom video conferencing project, Poetry Tea, Coding with BeeBots . . . . and t goes on!

Principal Jasso uses Facebook and Twitter to tell the Heather story. Students are never identified, either by name or room number, and only children who h "Facebook" permissions are posted if faces are easily identified. Consider giving permission next year as our story continues!