

Deer Path Middle School APT Meeting Minutes for April 21, 2015

Meeting Commenced at 9:04 a.m.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:43 a.m.

Attendees

Barry Rodgers, Jim Sullivan, Susan Lewin, Christie Theis, Lindsay Seaman, Diana Webb, Julie Benda Helms, Heather Richmond, Stephanie Klein, Maria Allen, Mary Beth Schmidt, Jill D'Alessandro, Sushama Krishnaswamy, Jennifer Karras, Emilie Correa, Amy Lamberti, Michael Kroll, Mary Manzer, Marra Lochiatto, Rebecca Oline, Melanie Thornberry, Melinda Hill, Eileen Swartout, Kathy Ivinjack, Lynne Kennedy, Paul Suminski, Tiffany Wiesner

President – Call to Order

Guest Speaker - Barry Rodgers, LFHS Principal

- Mr. Rodgers welcomed the group to the Innovation Incubator, a new classroom in LFHS that boasts state of the art technology. The space used to be institutional-looking and housed the math resource center, which has now been moved.
- The high school offers a new entrepreneur business class that takes place in the Innovation Incubator. It is an inquiry-based class and uses a college-level business model curriculum. Community mentors are brought in to coach student groups. The winner receives \$10k to fund their business idea. Other classes can use the Innovation Incubator space too.
- Leading Edge Learning is preparing LFHS students for their futures. The 2014 freshman class piloted a one-to-one device program - each student received a Yoga Chromebook. There is a “Yoga Studio” and a “Chrome Depot” for Chromebook questions and repairs. Next year, all LFHS students will have a Chromebook.
- The real goal is to help our students develop the skills they need to be successful, not to develop students for industry-specific jobs.
- Another important initiative is making sure that all LFHS students are successful. The administration, including Mr. Simeck, Ms. Wilcox, and Ms. Fagel, has talked with veteran LFHS teachers and determined areas of

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- potential growth. We found that there was a whole group of kids that could have been doing better. 53% of kids weren't taking any AP course and our peer schools had 70% of kids taking them. 99% of our students go to university, but only 47% had taken an AP course. We asked ourselves if there were arbitrary obstacles preventing students from taking these courses.
- Mr. Rodgers introduced Jim Sullivan, Assistant Principal and Science Dept Chair, to discuss findings:
 - Mr. Sullivan said they found that there were barriers to AP courses for some students, based on past performance. This is like saying to a kid "that's all you can do." We've removed barriers and added support systems for students, including training 100 students to be peer tutors. The support systems mean that kids don't have to choose to drop to an easier level when they start to do poorly. This year we've had a 32% increase in AP class enrollment and fewer drops than ever.
 - Mr. Rodgers indicated that they also found gaps in the math curriculum, so they are redesigning it and creating summer "ladders" for students. Before, a student would sometimes find themselves choosing between a class that was too challenging (where they might know 90% of what they need to succeed) and a class that was too easy. Now, that student will have a "ladder" that will help him or her gain that 10% knowledge so they can succeed in the higher level math course.
 - It's important for kids to have a great high school experience. Students are encouraged to get involved and there are some exciting new opportunities offered, including a robotics team, fishing team, guitar making class, and AP public policy and environmental study. LFHS Theater, Model UN, and athletics are other ways students can get involved. There are 60 clubs that students can join, so there is something for everyone. An area in the basement is being converted into a robotics space.

Question and Answer Session:

Q - When is Pitch Night?

A - One the evening of May 28, the final 5 groups in the entrepreneur class will give their pitches. Anyone may come.

Q - What's going on with the LFHS Math program?

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A - LFHS hired Joe Obrycki, the LFHS Math Instructional Director, and he discovered problems in 6,7,8 grade transitions. Joe has helped develop a new curriculum. All parents are invited to a meeting on May 27 at 7pm.

*Q - At what point in the DPM progression does a student choose a math track?
A - Teachers will help determine, but "ladders" will also be available.*

*Q - What's happening with the block schedule? Will it be revisited?
A - There is a lot of value in moving to this type of schedule. The District leadership team, BOE and parents were ready. But we were out of a contract cycle, so it didn't go anywhere with the collective bargaining group. Contract renewal is coming up and we are hoping for a new schedule to part of that agreement. Schools we would like to emulate use a block schedule. It's less about academic achievement and more about opportunity.
A (Jim Sullivan) - We began a relationship with Northwestern a few weeks ago. We are testing out some curriculum. It's the beginning of good relationship.*

Administrator Reports

Tom Cardamone, Principal 5/6 and Michael Kroll, Assistant Principal 5/6

- PARCC testing for 5th and 6th will be the week of 5/11. This round of tests is supposed to be easiest type of test - less open response and more multiple choice.
- Incoming 5th graders (current 4th graders) are beginning their orientation. They will be at DPM today to see a performance of the DPM spring musical. "Buddy Day" will be on May 5th - this is when each 4th grade classroom is paired with a 5th grade classroom and is part of the incoming 5th grade orientation.
- There is a 5th grade Culture Fair this Thursday.
- Parents of incoming 4th graders are invited to an orientation with DPM admin/faculty on May 4. The APT is hosting "Jump Start into 5th Grade" on May 12th and Mr. Cardamone and Mr. Kroll will attend.
- The Growth and Development unit for current 6th graders is coming up at the beginning of May. Parents will receive information about this unit.
- NWEA testing is taking place now. Now that students can take the test on their Chromebooks instead of going to a separate testing area, there is less

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disruption in their day.

Renee DeVore, Principal 7/8 and Paul Suminski, Assistant Principal 7/8

- Joe Obrycki is the LFHS Math Instructional Director and he has been working on streamlining the math curriculum, paying special attention to gaps and problems that have been noted in the freshman transition. In particular, it seemed that students were often faced with choosing a course that was either too challenging or too easy for them. There will be shifts in the math curriculum in middle school and high school. There will be “ladders” so that students can make an easier transition from one “track” to another. High school AP courses will be open to more students. However, just because the doors are open doesn’t mean we are shoving kids through. DPM has been working closely with Mr. Obrycki, providing him with data needed to analyze the math needs of students.

Question/Answer Session during the meeting:

Q - Will there be summer laddering for middle school students too?

A - We are trying to figure it out. We would like to do it for middle school students soon.

Q - So will there be laddering for student moving from 7th to 8th?

A - It’s more of a realignment of the courses for the current 7th grade. There may be more laddering for students moving from 6th to 7th.

Q - So the current 7th grade won’t see the benefits of these changes to the math curriculum?

A - Yes they will. Realignment means that if the student has the math knowledge, then he or she can enter a class no matter the “track” they may have been on before.

Q - Are the levels (core, explore, quest) going away?

A - Not really, but we are going to call math courses by their name and not just a level (e.g. Algebra).

Q - For math students in a flipped classroom, how will you transition them from 8th to 9th grade?

A - Good question. We are not sure of the specifics, but Joe (Obrycki) is progressive and there are some flipped classrooms in LFHS.

Q - I’m concerned about “laddering” happening in the summer because kids’ camp schedules and family time may prevent them from taking a class. It’s important for

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kids to have summer “relax” and “family” time.

A - We don't know exactly what ideas the committee is going to come up with, but we know that they will create opportunities for kids to move up.

Q - Will there still be a focus on NWEA scores? It seems like that has precluded some kids from shifting “tracks.”

A - We are using a variety of data points to determine the appropriate math course for students and this includes the NWEA. The matrix that D67 has used in the past will be adjusted, but NWEA scores will still be used. It doesn't seem like there has been a closed door policy because not only NWEA is looked at. Additional testing and data points come into play for an informed decision. For younger student, their CogAt scores and classroom performance are important considerations.

- On 4/27 at 7pm there will be a meeting to discuss changes to the math curriculum.
- On 4/29 there will be an orientation with Renee and Paul for incoming 7th graders.
- On 5/5 at 9:30am and 6:30pm there will be a parent orientation with Renee and Paul for parents of incoming 7th graders.
- On 5/12 the 8th grade will take its class photo.
- We have been having “Behavioral Expectations” talks with 7th and 8th grade students. The message is for students to end their year on a positive note. There are privileges/activities coming up - we don't want to take these away, but we will if behavioral expectations are not met.
- We have been working on the new DPM master schedule. We've decided to keep the 4 person team structure. There will be more changes for current 7th graders than any other grade level. We will bring 2 teachers on to the Maroon 7 team and some students will be moved from Blue and Gold to Maroon, although there may be some cross-teaming for math.

Q - Will you take into account parent/student preferences (e.g. if they don't like current team or teacher)?

A - We tried getting feedback before, but it was almost harder to explain decisions. Renee and I are starting to discuss this, but nothing has been decided yet. We don't want to open the door and then not offer it.

Q - Will BOC impact where they end up?

A - No because those classes are during non-core time. Double BOC students can retain

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those classes.

Q - When will you let parents and students know about these changes?

A - We are solidifying teaming this week and then we can start looking at where students will be moved. Ideally, parents and students will know before summer break.

Q - What are the options for math for incoming 8th? Is the high school course still an option?

A - Yes it will still be an option to take the high school course. We are also looking at the Quest class that stays back and where those students will end up freshman year. The Math department is ironing this out.

- Montgomery and Weber will join the 7th/8th side next year.
- The day of the Graduation Dance (a Friday) is a full mandatory day for student attendance. Please schedule hair/nail appointments accordingly. There is a mandatory practice on Graduation day, but it is only a half day. At 4:30pm, student will come back to West Campus for graduation. Girls wear pastels, boys wear tie and blazer, no tennis shoes.
- There are no tickets for graduation - doors open at 4pm and the ceremony is at 5pm. Seating is first come, first served.
- PARCC testing the week of 5/4 for 7th and 8th. Shorter testing periods and more multiple choice - morning testing and regular shortened periods in afternoon. There will be 4 days of testing for grades 6-8 and 3 days of testing for grade 5.

Q - C2015 has something scheduled for 8th graders during the week of PARCC. Will students be available to do this during homeroom?

A - No. Eliminated HR for that week.

Q - Will there be an 8th grade Field trip?

A - Friday May 8, we think

Q - We really do need more cultural experiences for grades 7 and 8.

A - We do want meaningful experiences for our students. We are looking at more choice based trips. For example, the 5th graders were given the option of going to the Field Museum OR the Science and Industry Museum for a field trip.

Teacher Liaison - Amy Lamberti

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Summary of Coming Month (April-May 2015) - Plans:

WEB Information:

CURRENT 7th graders will be due 5/1.

Please encourage your 7th grader to apply.

This counts for their community service hours and it is fun!

WEB orientation for incoming 5th graders will be Thursday, August 20th in the AM.
More info to follow.

7th grade looking for parents or friends with a STEM connection - contact a science teacher

Comment from Melanie Thornberry - I recently read an article about a teacher who had her students write and ending to the phrase "I wish my teacher knew...." Responses really helped this teacher understand her students and their challenges, which the teacher may otherwise not have known about. Maybe this is something that our teachers could do at the beginning of the school year?

Emotional Wellness Committee - Emilie Correa

- Emilie asked everyone to participate in a "random act of kindness" by taking a couple of minutes to send a text to someone.
- The Emotional Wellness Committee welcomes parent involvement. Usually, there are two parents from each building APT board, but we are open to expanding that number if there is interest. Parents would attend monthly committee meetings and half-day workshops twice a year. For more information, see the "role and responsibilities" document and contact Emilie.
- Next year, the new DPM schedule will include Extended Learning Opportunities (ELO). We are asking both teachers and students to come up with ideas for this time of exploration.

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Officer Reports

President – Christie Theis

Vice President / Communications – Susan Lewin

If your committee makes use of the sandwich boards, please be sure to reclaim or dispose of your posters after your event.

Secretary – Tiffany Wiesner

February Minutes were unanimously approved, following a motion by Christie Theis and a second motion by Rebecca Oline.

Treasurer – Lindsay Seaman

Please turn in your receipts, preferably before June. Please turn in DPM APT-specific receipts to Lindsay, not Cathy Ramsay (Exec Treasurer).

Committee Reports

Art Fair – Holly Sheridan, Connie Hollingsworth, Dez Witte, Tiffany Wiesner

No report this month.

Board of Education Liaison – Jennifer Karras, Maria Allen

March 2015:

Attended BOE meeting on March 24, 2015 (See Attached Notes)

Summary of Coming Month (April 2015) - Plans:

Plan to attend BOE meeting on April 28, 2014.

Will attend the Quarterly Liaison meeting with Mr. Simeck in May

BOE Report – March 2015

Submitted by Kathy Ivinjack

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In addition to the usual BOE report, please read the following information from the District regarding two of the main topics at the BOE meeting that night. This was sent to all District 67 families and is a summary of the topics.

https://blu176.mail.live.com/?tid=cmFotm1zrT5BGSPxBgS7KTLg2&fid=f1BxlKJVNOkE2I8eDLUTKb_w2

BOE Committee Reports:

Compensation Committee did not meet.

Education Committee did not meet.

Policy Compensation Committee did not meet.

Finance Committee, Rick Schuler:

The Board approved two student fee increases for 2015-16. Student lunches will be increased by 5% to cover inflationary expenses. Bus enrollment late fees will be increased from \$25 to \$50. It is critical for the bus company to receive information in a timely manner so by raising the late fee to \$50, the Board hopes to encourage more users to submit on time.

The 5-year capital project budget was updated to include all life safety requirements as well as to catch up on maintenance at all buildings.

The Citadel Theater currently rents space from the District. It requested a slight rent reduction, which was approved. This is still a profit for the District even with the reduction.

There is no change to the 20-year end projection budget.

Executive Director of Growth and Talent Development, Lori Wilcox:

There will be a reduction of force for the 2015-16 school year due to enrollment.

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This includes one Art position, one Music position, and four World Language positions. While it is a slight reduction in staff, there will be no change in the offerings for Art and Music. The World Language offerings have been modified – please see link above for more information.

Care and Concern - Stephanie Klein

No report this month.

Class of 2014 Activities – Jill D’Alessandro, Melinda Hill, Lynne Kennedy, Mary Beth Schmidt

Summary of Coming Month (April-May 2015) - Plans: Since the students have been back from Spring Break, they have helped us to finalize the invitation layout and design, as well as voice their opinions about decorations. We will be assisting them in decorating blank masks during the month of May that will serve as decorations in the gym during the dance. The DJ will also come to DPM’s cafeteria on May 1st to play music and help to get the students fired up for the upcoming events. We have secured a photo booth for the students to enjoy on the evening of their dance, as well as a video (lovingly created by amazing Christie Theis!) that will stream all evening in the cafeteria. They have been very hands on! In addition, we have begun final preparations in regard to the food that will be served at their graduation dance in May. Jolly Good Fellows and Garretts popcorn (both owners having students at DPM) have graciously donated their treats for the dance. Please show both of these generous businesses your support to thank them! Finally, immediately following this APT meeting, the co-chairs will gather all the parent volunteers over at Croya to discuss and divide up opportunities for those that can help chaperone the dance, set-up and clean-up, and various other jobs that will require parental input.

Community Service - Heather Richmond, Beth Laufenberg

There will be a School Supply drive at the end of the school year.

Culture Fair Grade 5 – Sushama Krishnaswamy, Stella Kapsalis

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March 2015

Greek Culture Fair took place on March 6th. It was a full day event with a presentation in the auditorium in the AM and then mask-making and food-tasting later in the day. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped with the masks and also provided food. We had a successful allergen-free table to accommodate all students. Thanks also to Mr. Smith who helped us coordinate use of the Satellite Center for the food tasting.

Summary of Coming Month (April/May) - Plans:

Final Culture Fair is in May and will be Rome. We will manage volunteers etc. when we hear from Martha Avery.

Comment from Christie Theis during meeting - Martha Avery, who currently organizes the culture fairs for DPM, is retiring. There is a small stipend for this position if anyone is interested. Changes are being made to the culture fairs, based on parent feedback.

Culture Fair Grade 6 – Meredith Hayes, Diana Webb

No report this month.

Directory / Membership – Kate Bryant, Anna McEvoy

No report this month.

Effort – Micaiah Robinson

Summary of Activities Since Last DPM APT Board Meeting:

Spring Festival was supposed to be scheduled for 4/17. Was moved because the schedule was too full.

Students will be staying after school on 4/22 to plant flowers in the planters and designated ground locations to celebrate Earth Day. This is open to any and all that wish to participate.

Summary of Coming Month (May 2015) - Plans:

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Spring Festival will be on 5/8. It will be a nice way to close the One Life Live Well Week. There will be a student/teacher volleyball game.

8th Graders beach day is 5/28

7th Graders beach day is 6/8

5/6 Field Day is 6/8 **will need 5/6 parent volunteers

Emotional Wellness – Micaiah Robinson

Summary of Activities Since Last DPM APT Board Meeting:

The early stages of planning for the 2nd Annual Deer Path Dash has begun.

Summary of Coming Month (May 2015) - Plans:

Deer Path Dash will be 6/8 from 2:30-3:30. We will need parent, 8th grade graduates and high school students to help set up/take down the racecourse and manage the obstacles. More details will follow after the next planning meeting.

We are looking for more parent reps for the 2015-2016 school year. Please take a moment to review the google doc that is attached.

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ZzY9JlKCsQVa_OYoPKY16pnUiTD4e3e_ayZnVeNfLfQ/edit?usp=sharing

Fifth Grade Welcome – Kimberly Carris, Kristin O’Neil, Laura Gordon

No report this month.

Fine Arts – Amy Kelly, Kristin Fitzgerald

No report this month.

Food Service – Laurie Whisler

No report this month.

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LFHS Liaison - Melanie Thornberry, Kate Bryant Current Month - Activities: April 2015

- LFHS Alumni Wall of Fame Induction Ceremony to be held **Wednesday, April 22**

Three new inductees will be added to the Alumni Wall of Fame and will be announced to the public on April 22. The Alumni Wall of Fame is designed to recognize the outstanding contributions of former students of Lake Forest High School and to inspire and offer role models for its current students. Lake Forest High School has graduated thousands of students who have entered professions and careers in a wide variety of fields including the areas of business, medicine, science, education, public service, the arts, entertainment, and sports. This award is funded by the Lake Forest High School, the Association of Parents and Teachers (APT), and the Senior Class.

- Buy your LFHS Foundation Spring Luncheon Tickets Now!
Save the date! Join us for the Lake Forest High School Foundation's annual spring luncheon on **April 22 from 11 am - 2 pm**. Luncheon reservations can be made online at lfhsfoundation.org beginning March 10th. All proceeds are used to fund academic grants for the 2015-2016 school year

- PARENTS AND RISING FRESHMEN (CURRENT 8TH GRADERS) INVITED!
Thursday, April 23, 2015 TIME: 9:00AM - 10:00AM LOCATION: RAYMOND MOORE AUDITORIUM AT LFHS EAST CAMPUS

Unofficial Parent Guide to Freshman Year at LFHS A panel of seasoned LFHS parents will answer questions about their experiences with the social transition to 9th grade. Topics range from the car line, to the inside scoop on dances, athletics, and the Fine Arts, to Prom Parade (yes...your 8th graders are invited to be there this May!), to the many opportunities for parents to get involved. You will walk out feeling empowered to prepare your student for the exciting years ahead at LFHS.

- Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street to be Performed April 30, May 1, 2!

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A bloody tale of vengeance comes to the stage during this year's musical production of Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street. Join a cast, crew and orchestra of close to 100 students as we present this Sondheim classic April 30, May 1 and 2 at 7pm in the RMA. Tickets available online.

Coming Months - Plans: May/June 2015

- PARCC Testing Schedule in May has been CHANGED!

We have consolidated PARCC testing days from four (4) to two (2) days in May. May 12 is the Math (Algebra I) test. May 13 is the ELA assessment. Both days will be 9:50 am late start days. May 14 and May 15 will be restored as regular school days.

- New Final Exam Format Announced!

The second semester final exam schedule will follow a different format this June. The schedule will be based on the periods of the day. Finals will be given by the regular classroom teacher in the same classroom where the class is held. The exam period will be 100 minutes long. There will be 50 minute breaks between finals.

- END OF THE YEAR EVENTS FOR SENIORS, GRADUATION DETAILS!

End of the Year Events for Seniors

Changes have been made in the Senior End of the Year Events because of our snow days and changes in the Finals Schedule. The Senior Breakfast, traditionally on the Friday before Graduation, is now a Senior Lunch and will be held during lunch periods on Wednesday, May 27, Senior's last day. Graduation Rehearsal will be on Thursday, June 4 and will be followed by the Senior Party on the front lawn at 5:00 pm.

- **Wednesday, April 22** Alumni Wall of Fame Senior Assembly, RMA
- **Saturday, May 9** Prom Chicago Marriott Downtown
- **Tuesday, May 26 Wednesday, May 27** Senior Finals
- **Wednesday, May 27** Seniors and Staff Lunch - NEW THIS YEAR! Lunch periods 4th, 5th and 6th
- **Wednesday, May 27** Last Day of School for Seniors
- **Wednesday, May 27** Honors Night
- **Thursday, June 4** Graduation Rehearsal 3:30 – 5:00 pm Graduation rehearsal is mandatory for students who wish to participate in graduation.

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- Students will receive their cap & gown at graduation rehearsal. Field House
- **Thursday, June 4** Senior Party Following Rehearsal until 7:00 pm – Front Lawn
 - **Saturday, June 6** Graduation Lake Forest High School Front Lawn
- 1:30 p.m. Seniors should arrive at LFHS.
2:00 p.m. Guests Arrive. Unlimited seating on the front lawn. 2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Class of 2015 Graduation Ceremony

New Families – LeaAnne LaVanway, Carol Shearstone

No report this month.

Parent Awareness – Jorie Alutto, Theresa Speed

No report this month.

Room Parent Coordinators – Camille Mayer (5), Dawn Wheldon (6), Sushama Krishnaswamy (7), Kate Bryant (8)

No report this month.

School Supplies – Kathy Ivinjack 5/6, Tiffany Wiesner 7/8

March 2015: Exec Chair, Susan Lewin, reviewed updated lists from teachers and got clarification/made recommendations on some items. Submitted to School-Pak for review and pricing.

April 2015: Exec Chair, Susan Lewin, received elementary lists and awaiting DPM lists, expect to have by mid-month. Will review and sign-off, then release to District for posting. Ask Jump Start on 5th Grade panel to remind parents of incoming 5th graders to order any additional packs their student may need (BOC, World Language, Art, etc.).

Summary of Coming Months (April - August 2015) - Plans:

Late April - Exec Chair will publicize School-Pak ordering (through Friday Flyers and school websites) as soon as links are active on School-Pak website. This will

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run in FF until end of year.

Late May - Exec Chair and Building Reps will use sandwich boards at all schools as final reminder to order by mid-June free school delivery deadline.

July - Exec Chair will contact School-Pak to discuss tentative timing for delivery and confirm they have everything they need (school addresses, receiving clerk contact names, etc.)

August - Exec Chair will finalize delivery date and work with building reps to make sure they set their date with building principals to distribute packs. Forward packing lists to reps before distribution day.

Spiritwear - Kristina Frede

No report this month.

Spirit of 67 Specialist - Amy Kelly, Natalie Torcolese

No report this month.

Staff Appreciation - Marra Lochiatto, Rebecca Oline, Lynne Kennedy, Mary Manzer, Kim Gambit, Janet Burt

Summary of Coming Month (May 2015) - Plans:

The Staff Appreciation Committee has two events coming up in May. The first one is a new event for the staff, a Cinco de Mayo themed event. We are planning on having Cinco de Mayo themed snacks available in both the 5/6 and 7/8 lounges on Tuesday, May 5th, beginning at 10:30am. This is not meant to be a full lunch for the staff. Quesadillas, chips, salsa, guacamole and churros will be served. We're still working on the details.

Our second event is the annual Old Board/New Board Brunch on Tuesday, May 19th, at the home of Beth Laufenberg. The tentative start time for the event is 10:00am. We will serve assorted quiches, fruit, bagels, coffee and orange juice. An electronic invitation is sent by the DPM APT Secretary.

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Visiting Author - Anna McEvoy, Kate Bryant

No report this month.

Volunteer Coordinator - Dawn Wheldon

No report this month.

Respectfully submitted,
Tiffany Wiesner