

Spiritual Exploration for Children and Families Committee Meeting

April 24 2016

Present: Geraldine Fowler, Jessica Stout, Angel Rubino and Gina Auriema

Attendance:

We discussed that attendance has been lower over the last few weeks and wondered why this could be. We thought perhaps just a busy time but we would keep an eye out on this. GSF to try to better communicate with parents what is happening each week.

Step Up Day:

Discussed the upcoming Step Up Day. Various teachers will be away end of May early June. School finishes early this year so should consider moving Step Up Day - June 5th is New Members Day. Maybe May 29th? Canvas parents and teachers to see which day is best.

Building and Grounds:

Gina came to discuss the shared use of space and to get a better understanding of what spaces SE used and how we used the spaces and how to better organize ourselves.

- We discussed our spaces being a shared space and areas needs to be organized.
- Should items be out of reach of children? Problem is that a lot of times children are left unattended and can get into things.
- At the start of the school year we should bring particular emphasis to the notion that this is a shared space, and we should keep things organized.
- We discussed the difficulty of end time as this seems to vary. We agreed that between the teachers we would agree on a time that SE would end and the children would clean up. We will have a back up activity planned should the service go longer.
- Perhaps post a question in the room "How do we leave a room?" "How do we leave this room and enter another?" reminding children of thoughtfulness and respect.
- Signal for the start and end - chalice lighting to start and closing words for ending.
- Possibly create a chore chart so all get a turn?
- We discussed the protocol around children either getting picked up by a parent or just being released. We discussed how this is currently determined by child. We agreed that we should discuss pick up/release procedure with parents and get their input.
- We would like a space for our Principles, Opening and Closing Words etc. We thought that maybe it would be nice to take down the shelves as you walk into the K-3 SE room (on the left as you walk in) and use that area for maybe a pushpin board.

Toward the end of the meeting we did a tour of the various rooms SE use. Downstairs next to the Chapel is for the K-3 group. The babies through pre-k use the carpeted parlors and the 4-6 group use the back parlors.

- The 4-6th group would really like a media station - computer table, printer, maybe a screen for watching documentaries etc.
- They like to have the couch and a comfy place to sit and relax when possible.
- They like the table for projects.

General

- We need to promote what we are doing with the children more - raise the level of awareness around what we do with the children, spaces used, why they use those spaces etc.
- We would like to work on a better Vision and Mission for the older children. What are their needs?