October 2020

DRE Board Report

Dear Board members,

Wow, I can’t believe a month has gone by already! It has felt very full and fun on my end. I’ve been reaching out to families to check in, making the weekly newsletter with its video, stories and other resources, and doing the Sunday Zoom calls with families. I want to say that I absolutely love this job. I’m hoping for more ways to connect with the kids and I’m excited to be thinking about some multi-gen ideas for the future.

We have been doing our Sunday Zoom meetings with a small group of four families in total, with two or three coming at a time. These families are consistent and seem to really appreciate the Sunday Zoom space. I’ve heard from two or three more families who say they might try to join at some point, when the weather isn’t quite so glorious on a Sunday morning. Several others have said that a live Zoom meeting will not work for them.

I’m curious what the board decision will be regarding hosting something in-person on the UUCSC grounds. I would love to invite families to bring something to beautify the backyard space, coming at different times to all be engaged in something fun together. I am also interested in eventually having outside, masked, distanced circle gatherings on Sunday mornings, even if just once a month. I think the kids would greatly benefit from seeing each other in person, and we would be able to include families who are not participating at this time.

In my check-ins with families, I’ve heard some positive feedback about the newsletter and some concerns that families are still feeling overwhelmed with too much screen time. Mostly it’s been appreciation for the videos, or the stories, or the games that I’m sending out. I’ve heard from two middle school parents that they’d love for their kids to be engaged, but don’t know how to get them interested. We are brainstorming some ways to engage them and I will be starting to create content in the newsletter that is aimed at 5-8th graders. I’ve heard from three high school parents, two of whom say their kids are not interested in participating, and one (Rosemary’s Elise) who might be interested in making a video to share with the younger kids.

I am so excited about our first multi-gen activity this month: love notes! I hope that people participate and it opens the door to a monthly connection of some sort. And DL and I are planning a multi-gen service before Thanksgiving.

In communication news, we’re discussing changing the newsletter format to either a Constant Contact newsletter or a blog newsletter on the website. Either way, we will continue to link it to the Friday UUCSC weekly update. I will also be asking families to re-register this month.

Thank you for all that you do,

Much love,

Lee Cowan