

Coffee with the Principal – Notes – 3/30/09

School Uniforms

Superintendent Cortines is in favor of uniforms, and may change the non-enforcement policy currently on the books in public schools.

Mrs Melvin “can see both sides” of the uniforms issue.

At the end of the school year, she will put out a notice to Lanai parents to gauge parent support for uniforms. There will be an official vote – a majority vote is needed to pass.

Parents hold passionate opinions on both sides:

Would Uniform enforcement put an undue burden on the teachers? If we do not have a problem, why create one?

Shouldn't elementary kids be allowed a little freedom of expression? (They are bound to be wearing uniforms in middle school)

Uniforms take all the hassle out of getting dressed in the morning.

Uniforms cut down on teasing at school (levels the playing field)

Whatever the outcome, Lanai has had much success with “Spirit Days,” (Lanai’s recent “Red White and Blue” day was a fine example) and can increase those days, which encourage wearing school outfits and help boost school pride. Positive incentives can be offered for wearing school outfits.

The school needs to enforce the dress code it already has. (No sandals, no spaghetti straps, etc.)

What Every Kinder Parent Needs to Know

Robbie Solomon suggests designing a brochure for incoming Kindergarten parents so they will now what to expect upon enrolling their child at Lanai.

Class Sizes

Still unknown what they will set class sizes at in the fall. The proposal is to bump K-3 up to 24. Mrs Melvin’s goal is to avoid split grade classes.

Curriculum

2nd Grade - Writing standards have increased this year, because last year’s writing scores were not as good as the district was expecting. They have been talking about reining things in a little. Perhaps scores were not as good because our teachers are tougher graders, compared to other

schools in the district – “our idea of a 3 was their 4. “ Now the teachers are scoring as an entire grade level.

Morning Drop Off

Some kids are being dropped off at school as early as 7:30am. Technically, the school could send notices home, but an option being considered is changing one of the aides’ hours to get her in fifteen minutes earlier to supervise the kids.

Note: when the office remodel is finished, this space will not be available.

Cafeteria

Due to budget cuts, Lanai will keep its weekly salad bar, but will otherwise become a Satellite Cafeteria, which means all food will be prepared offsite and delivered to Lanai for heating. One of our three cafeteria staff will be cut. Of those that remain, the 8 hour position will become a 6 hour position, and the 6 hour position will change to 4.

Our cafeteria staff has always taken special care of our kids, making an occasional special dish for a finicky eater, etc., and it is a disappointment to the parents and administration that they will no longer have that flexibility.

Geri Miller is planning a Farmers Market from the Lanai Garden harvest, and next year we hope to have eggs available from our new chickens!

Non Title 1 Funding

Like Lanai Pomelo Elementary is a non-title 1 public school. Their active PTA is fighting the proposed budget cuts to schools in this category – from \$110 per student to \$40. Their PTA president has proposed a “blue out” to protest (keep kids out of school for one day)

There will be a letter sent out to Lanai families about this.

Other supporters: Tamar Galatzan, Wilbur Elementary, Taft, Birmingham.

Traffic Safety

After spring break, an officer will start videotaping traffic violators after school. Mrs Melvin’s letter of request to the head detective has been for “intermittent support.”

Notes by Eve Hill