

## Coffee with the Principal – notes – 4/27/09

### Budget

Class size should be determined by the district shortly. If it goes up, Lanai will likely lose 1 or 2 teachers. Inclusion students do not “count” toward class size.

Mrs Melvin wants to take in more permits, but not in the upper grades.

It is all being determined by seniority with the district. Teachers with lower seniority may not get to choose which grade to teach.

The District will give money to help with the numbers, but non-Title 1 schools will receive MUCH less. (Title 1 schools = \$400,000 & non-Title 1 schools = \$27,000.) Prop 1A will probably not effect class size. The big problem is Title 1 vs. non-Title 1. Constraint: the \$27,000 can only be used for Teacher and Staff Development

Lanai is trying to spend all the District money this year, because it is not known how much will be available next year. Library Improvement money (\$8000) will probably disappear. Lanai usually uses this money to buy updated vocabulary books.

Lanai is working on grants to get more money, and looking at priorities. “What could we lose?”

One plan is to employ an “off norm” teacher to pull out students with similar math skills from classes to teach in smaller groups.

Some parents who have been trained may also be able to come in and teach small groups.

News about Assistant Principals will not be in for a few weeks. We could be asked to cut the Assistant Principal to a ½ time position, even though Lanai’s Special Education population is 50 students, or 10% of the entire student body.

We may be asked to share our AP with Hesby Oaks, which only has 1 special education class.

### FOLB

Love Fund will do one more push. It will be about what we need NOW.

Next year, FOLB will be more transparent and show Lanai families exactly where the money goes.

### Science

Having a Science teacher is really having a positive effect at all grade levels. Vocabulary is being built as early as Kindergarten.

### Spelling

1<sup>st</sup> Grade spelling words are “tremendous.” So, Lanai will be going back to “pattern words” and “word families” for 1<sup>st</sup> graders. Next year, they will only have 10 spelling words at a time. 2nd graders will be next. 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders are planning to use “wordly wise,” which is NOT busy work.

### Permits

Administration will review all permits to make sure everyone who says they live or work in the neighborhood actually DOES. Lanai may partner with Hesby Oaks to fund a “PSA,” a district employee who would physically check out all addresses that are submitted. It would be a \$5000 expense.

### Principals Page

Next year, Mrs Melvin may change her communications to once/month as a separate email, writing directly to parents about what is really important at the school.

### MISC

Mrs Alterman is doing well and getting very positive feedback regarding her work with Special Education kids. She has been pulling them out in different grade levels.