

TECS Science Committee Meeting – Oct 18, 2019 – SUMMARY FOR LEADERSHIP AND TEP BOARD

Attending: Alisa Land Hill, Kent Land Hill, Stephen Powers, Grant Barbeito, Elissa Clay, Chris Whalley, Marissa Kuizenga

SUMMARY:

- **Introductions and welcome new members of the committee**
- **Plans for the upcoming Year:**
 - Planned Events. Committee agreed to continue with the same main enrichment events as last year (Raptor Day (~~Oct 25~~ → Dec 6), 5th Grade Science Day (March 18), Science Fair (March 31, April 1), Butterfly Day (May 31), Science Supplies (throughout the year), PLUS NEW ITEMS:
 - Xerces Project (Oct/Nov)
 - Stargazing Event (Jan 17 with April 17 as alternate)
 - Support for Rena professional Development (2-day NGSS workshop)
 - Funding 50% of “Mystery Science” program for all classes
 - Tile Wall – not planned this year unless someone wants to take it on. It’s a good event but takes a lot of effort. We’ve done it two years in a row and there’s room to add more in future years.
- **Upcoming events:**
 - **“Blood and Bones” booth** for TECS Halloween Carnival – Oct 18.
 - → Elissa Clay is lead. (Elissa and Dave have a great booth planned! Please stop by.)
 - Elissa will have a booth with activities for kids to illustrate the importance of bone for making blood cells and of blood cells for combating infection.
 - *Postscript: was a very popular and successful booth – kids played game with blood cells chasing down microbes.*
 - **Raptor Day** – Dec 6, 2019 (Fri) → See Flyer
 - Some Sci Committee members to be present if possible to help with transition between sessions. Parent volunteers welcomed
 - Photographs → Lead = Kent has secured at least one photographer (Paul Schefz); and one more likely
 - **Thank you** to teachers for rearranging their schedules and special thanks to **Ms. Chatham and Ms. De La O** for organizing the schedule.
 - **“Topanga Nights: Our Place in Space” = TECS Astronomy night with Los Angeles Astronomical Society** – Jan 17, 6pm at TCCC (April 17 weather back-up). → See Flyer
 - → Zak Zaidman lead.
 - Zak has OK’d the dates in TECS calendar and TCC calendar
 - LA Astronomical Society will provide volunteers and telescopes
 - Star Gazing; Telescope Viewing; Astronomy Teachings; Veggie Stue, Hot Chocolate; Hot Apple Cider, and more...
 - UCLA Meteorite Gallery has offered to provide meteorites for children to see and inspect – ‘pass around space rocks’.
 - Zak is in communication with a NASA connection to see if we can have some projection options for things not visible that night.
 - **Xerces Project** – A majority of the Oct 18 meeting focused on plans for Xerces native plants project. **THERE IS A LOT to do! Still a work in progress... → See FLYer**
 - Summary: recall that TECS Sci Committee in collaboration with the Greener Empowerment Foundation (Hannah Wear – former TECS parent is director) received an award from the Xerces Society for

Conservation of Invertebrates = four species of native plants (1600 plants) to support Monarch Butterflies.
To be Planted:

- On TECS campus
- In town: Library; Pine Tree Circle; Flower Power Cart; Manzanita School; Others... will go with a plaque indicating provided by Topanga Elementary Charter School.
- **Lead:** Alisa Land Hill & Elisa Clay
- **Direction/Guidance:** Greener Empowerment Foundation (GEF)
 - → Leads = Hanna Wear (GEF), Alisa Land Hill & Elissa Clay (TECS Sci Comm)
- **Draft Schedule:**
 - - *postscript: plans changed due to evac and is a work in progress*
 - **Oct 27:** "Launch Party" at Topanga Town Center, 4pm-. Well attended
 - **Oct 28: Plants arrived**
 - **Nov/Dec:**
 - Team of volunteers working to get in the ground on campus
 - Classroom Gardening Groups – we've reached out to garden parents and have two classes that will participate as part of their gardening plans. If you would like to do with your class, have your class parents contact Alisa or Elisa.
 - **Oct 21 – Oct 28:** Ground Prep and Irrigation Prep – phase I (Hannah out of town Oct 29 – Nov 12)
 - **Oct 29 – Nov 12:** Ground Prep and Irrigation Prep – phase II (Manage what we can with Hannah out of town)
 - **Nov 12 – Nov 16:** Planting
 - Nov 12-16:
 - During School Hours: as possible garden parents to work with classes to do planting.
 - After School: volunteers
 - Nov 16 – onward: community planting in collaboration with community partners, e.g. Topanga Library, Manzanita School, others.
 - Community plantings will include a plaque recognizing the donation of plants by Greener Empowerment Foundation and Topanga Elementary.