

TECS Science Committee update for Leadership Council meeting – Jan 29, 2019

Science Committee met on Jan 25, 2019 at school, after classes let out.

Summary:

1. Updates on Existing Items

a. Butterfly Garden.

- i. Science reps spruced up the garden and checked on watering. Plants doing well.
- ii. Girl scout group is working to update a prior girl scout native plant plot on the hillside going down to K-1st classroom.

b. Hiking Trails

- i. Oaks: The oaks that survived last year's tough summer are doing OK, but still need to establish themselves. Hana Wear and Chris Walley are working to establish a system for easing the burden on Rena and parent volunteers for watering and shading while these trees finish establishing themselves.
- ii. Rena will work with children on hikes to survey the current oaks and we'll decide from there whether some should be replaced.
- iii. The committee is in discussion on ideas for addition to trails experience, e.g. Owl Boxes, Worm Boxes, Composting Systems. Just brainstorming at present and the committee welcomes any and all suggestions from teachers and school staff regarding topics that resonate with the school's science program for which the committee could be of assistance.

2. Upcoming Events:

a. Stargazing night:

- i. Had planned for Dec – schedule conflict with Nutcracker; Planned for Jan – strike and weather issues = cancel.
- ii. Aiming for a date in the Fall, To Be Determined after consultation with Rena, and the Ventura astronomy society. If anyone has classroom activities that would make good or bad correlates for scheduling, please let us know. (We are partnering with the Ventura Astronomical Society to bring an amateur astronomer out, with high end telescopes for viewing the night sky.)

b. JPL Presentation:

- i. On hold due to scheduling conflicts with our presenter from JPL.
- ii. Chris Pernin (parent member of the science committee) has a colleague who is heading the JPL "SHERLOC" project, is an effort to search for evidence of life in the universe. The plan is to present to the students topics about space and SHERLOC efforts. (For those interested, check out the SHERLOC link at JPL site.)

c. April 3 (Wed) = Science Day (5th grade + hart street) – save the date!

- i. Same basic format and partners as last year. We have one slot to fill for partner and are working on ideas for this. Any suggestions from teachers is very welcomed. Current ideas: tide pools; green energy & composting; Surf Rider Foundation.
- ii. *Need to set organization mtg with key organizers: Ms. Tapper, Ms. Santora, Rena, Mr. Gediman, Sci Committee. (Kent and Alisa taking point from the sci committee)*

d. April 9, 10 (Tues, Wed) = Science Fair (Tues, Wed) – save the date!

- i. Reminder of the date.
 1. Tues (4/9) = poster drop off in morning, family viewing in evening with snacks and drinks (time TBD).

- 2. Wed (4/10) = classroom viewing and poster judging → Need to be sure to establish judging and classroom viewing times with teachers. LET'S DO THIS WELL IN ADVANCE of the date.
 - ii. More info to come as we work up the website and event info
- e. **June 2 (Sun) = Butterfly Day at the Mermaid – Save the date.**
 - i. Similar to last year – it's a great chance for the school to interface with the Topanga community – consider attending and telling the community about our school.
- f. **School Safety.**
 - i. Although this isn't part of the sci committee's mission, sci committee members have been interfacing with Town Council and other Groups that contribute to safety/emergency planning in the canyon and the committee would like to offer some info in this regard.
 - 1. A number of local groups have expressed interested in visiting the school to discuss with PARENTS and School Staff the safety plan of TECS, how this fits with community safety plans, and how people can improve fire safety of their own homes. We've connected the relevant individuals to Mr. Gediman and planning is in the works to have a presentation at the school – at present the plan is for presentation/discussion with interested parents and staff.
 - a. North Topanga Canyon Fire Safety Council
 - b. Station 69
 - c. Topanga Emergency Management Task Force. Meeting is tomorrow at 10am (Alisa and Kent will attend). TECS is a member of this task force. Members of the task force are interested in presenting at the school to improve awareness of all.
 - 2. These are topics that relate to the leadership safety committee - Are there any safety items that teachers or staff see as needed or desirable to address? Back up battery?