

Science Committee met on Aug 24, 2018

Summary:

1. **Welcomed three new parent members of the committee**
 - a. Representatives from 1st grade, Kindergarten and ?2nd.

2. **Dates set for main events:**
 - a. Science Day (w Hart St) - April 3 (Wed) (~15-20th?? Annual).
 - i. → confirmed
 - b. Science Fair - April 9-10 (Tues, Wed) (It's our 5th annual!)
 - i. Same format as last year: **Tues** = set up, parent viewing eve; **Wed** = students present to judges and classrooms)
 - ii. → Confirmed
 - c. Butterfly Day- June 2 (Sun) (2nd Annual)
 - i. Great news that **Bill Buerge** has agreed to partner with the school again and to offered to have us use the **Mermaid venue** again. (Mermaid is a beautiful venue, normally an \$8000 fee to host an event, so this is a great development!)

3. **Discussed Other activities (Dates and Specifics Still To Be Determined).**
 - a. Butterfly Garden.
 - i. Lost some plants in the hot summer, but overall doing well. We hope to work on expanding to other appropriate areas this year.
 - b. Oaks:
 - i. Oaks took a beating this summer with the intense heat and continued drought. We've established a volunteer watering system and Rena + students will continue this year. We'll also work to see if we can develop a better watering system that requires less person-intervention hours.
 - c. Space Theme (Fall). We discussed working in a "space theme" for the fall, as students begin to cover this material. Rena noted she will cover planets, etc... some time toward end of fall (shifted a bit later this year). This is something we'll try to coordinate with Rena's science schedule to the extent possible in future years. Space theme events:
 - i. *"Stargazing"* at the Fiddle & Griddle. TECS science committee hosted **"stargazing"** at the Topanga Community Center's annual "Fiddle & Griddle" on Sep 1.
 1. Was a great success. We brought 2 telescopes and when word got out, two other parents each brought one. So 4 telescopes in total (3 mirror and 1 refractor system).
 2. Kids (and adults) got to learn about planets, the solar system and the workings of telescopes.
 3. Got to see Mars, Jupiter + 3 moons, Saturn + rings + titan.

- ii. *Tile making* (see below)
- d. Wildlife theme (October; e.g. Oct 22-26 = LA Urban Wildlife Week)
 - i. *Beth Pratt visit*: As part of our regional “Urban Wildlife Week”, the school typically hosts Beth Pratt (Natl. Wildlife Federation) and P22 hikers on an after-school event + morning assembly + booth at Griffith Park for Urban Wildlife Week. It was pointed out that we’ve done this 2-3 yr in a row and not as much interest for all events. So this year: Beth for a morning assembly (Will work on dates with Mr. Gediman.)
 - ii. *Raptor Day*:
 1. Instead of Beth Pratt after school, it was suggested by several people to have Raptor Events present to the students instead. Raptor Events partnered with us for Science Day last year and it was a great event, according to all involved.
 2. The plan would be an after school event (details to be worked out). Rena pointed out that it could be nice to have during school hours. The committee noted that this would be up to teachers and Mr. G, because the classes already juggle a lot.
 - a. If there is interest from teachers and leadership, we can work with you to see if a school day event is possible.
 3. Tile Making (see below)
- e. Tile Making (Sep/Oct):
 - i. There was **great enthusiasm** for another tile-making event, similar to last year’s butterfly wall. (= learning, campus beautification). Done in collaboration with “Topanga Art & Tile”, and with VAPA committee. This year we discussed two theme options.
 1. Dates – working with Mr. G on this, and availability of Paul Doolin from Topanga Art & Tile.
 2. Space theme – planets, constellations, etc...
 3. Wildlife theme – to coincide with LA urban wildlife week; urban wildlife, raptors, coyotes, etc...

4. VAPA – Science Collaborations.

- a. The TECS Science and VAPA committees are working to collaborate on projects this year. Still a work in progress, but we are both committed to assist. Examples:
 - i. Butterfly tiles and art
 - ii. Space and wildlife tiles.
 - iii. Other....