

August 20, 2009

To all Slavens Staff & Parents:

I wanted to let you know about upcoming opportunities as we begin the new school year. Our CSC (Collaborative School Committee) last year reaffirmed our mission and vision and also took a look at general school processes. The CSC is comprised of parent and teacher representatives and is responsible for school improvement planning...including student achievement (which is reflected on CSAP and other test measures) as well as parent and family engagement.

While the CSC last year reaffirmed our vision, we also considered the need to have further discussions. One of the early expectations when Slavens began was that we (parents and staff) would look at our vision on a yearly basis. As a next step following the discussions from last year, we are going to have a few structured conversations this year to dialogue as a community about how we might recraft our vision. This dialogue will first take place in a smaller group format with about 25 parents and staff and then will be expanded to include the broader community. We are very fortunate to have Jeff Wein facilitate both of these conversations which will give us a springboard for continuing conversations this year.

If you are interested in this smaller group discussion, we will be meeting on September 19th from approximately 8:15 to 2:30. I invite you to express your interest to me with an email or note. While we would love to include all interested parents, we will need to limit the number to a manageable size with representatives from across the grade levels. These parents and teachers will be representatives and will be involved in sharing in a more detailed conversation with the broader community.

We will be hosting a conversation with our broader community on Thursday, October 15 in the evening where we will have an opportunity to talk about the vision for our school. The question that serves as the basis for our discussion is this: if we were achieving all of our goals, what would it look like?

Slavens is a great school because of our parent involvement, our strong teachers and because of the wonderful students we have attending our school. Our hope is to build on our past successes as we plan for the future. Again, please let me know if you are interested in participating in the smaller group discussion on September 19th.

Thanks,

Kurt Siebold
Slavens Principal