

THE SLAVENS SCHOOL STORM

APRIL '09

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER SERVING

THE SLAVENS COMMUNITY

JOIN US AT THE AUCTION

Join us April 25, 2009 for
the 11th Annual Dinner
and Auction at the DU
Cable Center.



SLAVENS CODE OF CONDUCT

At Slavens we take the high road. We genuinely care about ourselves, each other and our school. We show and receive respect by using kind words and actions, listening thoughtfully, standing up for ourselves and others, and taking responsibility for our own behavior and learning. This is who we are even when no one is watching.

CSC SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

BY MELISSA RUSS, CSC SECRETARY & PARENT REPRESENTATIVE

The CSC has been working diligently with Melissa Hatchett to improve the middle school offerings and flow of classes for next year. Given the many variables that need to be factored into the complex scheduling process, we are very excited about the changes that are being made for next year. Many of the changes are in response to parent and student requests for better communication regarding middle school classes, allowing true choice electives, extended length classes to maximize time students/teachers spend learning and minimize time students spend switching classes, and ensuring all Slavens students complete "Slavens specific requirements" for graduation.

You will be hearing some new language being used this year in association with middle school classes. Here is a look at the type of classes that will be offered at Slavens Middle School. Middle school **Core classes** are those required by DPS and include social studies, math, science, and language arts.

Exploratories are classes that are required by Slavens, but not necessarily by DPS. For sixth and seventh grade, exploratories will include P.E., keyboarding, Technology I, and Spanish. **Electives** are classes that students may choose for themselves, and next year electives will be offered on a semester basis. For sixth and seventh grades, electives will include drama, music, and art. Eighth grade electives will include P.E., Technology II, Spanish II, drama, music, and art. Another change for next year is that exploratories/electives will be extended in length.

Interventions at the end of the day would include classes like Mathletics, Geography Bee etc. Class descriptions are being developed and will be distributed to parents and students with the letters regarding electives/exploratories in late April.

On another exciting note, the Facilities Subcommittee of the CSC has been working with architects on developing a Slavens School Master Plan! The purpose of the Master Plan would be to

help us make the most from the monies we will receive from the 3A Bond. The subcommittee is continuing to explore the following construction/remodeling: development of the library/technology center where the auditorium currently is; re-using the current library space for classrooms for Spanish; and expanding the gymnasium over twice the current size and making it multifunctional by incorporating a stage and an auditorium within that expansion (using movable partitions, folding chairs etc.). These Master Plan improvements are in line with the building and curriculum priorities identified earlier this year by the CSC.

The CSC has approved an allocation request for about \$143,000 from FOSS and PTA for items not funded by DPS for the next school year. This number is pretty close to what is usually requested. If granted, these monies would cover salaries and supplies for the music and drama programs for both the elementary and middle schools, as well as salaries for the Librarian and up to 4 paras. Additionally, some monies would be allocated to the Spanish program; technology; gifted and talented; and special education. FOSS may also be asked to begin a capital campaign to raise money for facilities needs in order to leverage the bond money the school will receive.

The Slavens School Culture Subcommittee discussed in the January newsletter has been dissolved in favor of a thorough school assessment to first accurately define "where we are" as a school. Look for more on this in coming newsletters.

Finally, if you or someone you know would like to work on the school improvement plan, evaluate school data; provide strategic direction for Slavens and/or provide guidance and evaluation of the school budget, please consider an opportunity to serve Slavens on the CSC. Two positions holding a two-year term will be available next school year. Forms are available in the office and should be submitted by April 16, 2009. The next CSC meeting is April 14, at 3:15 pm in the library—all are welcome.