

**NOTES FROM ARNOLD'S CAC MEETING  
OCTOBER 27<sup>TH</sup>, 2009**

**-- Facilities:**

Mrs. Biggart reported that there are plans for improved lighting and asbestos removal starting next summer. I will follow up with AACPS to see if I can get more details. I will also check if there are any plans for painting the interior of the building.

**-- Health and Wellness:**

We decided to check off "Environmental issues such as mold, asbestos, and radon" as our one and only response to the county-wide CAC survey in order to highlight its paramount importance to our school.

We reviewed plans for use of clorox wipes and hand sanitizer in the classrooms and discussed cleaning of the cafeteria tables. Unfortunately, cost is an issue in implementing some other cleaning technique beyond warm soapy water in the cafeteria. This was, however, something that was raised at the county CAC meeting as well and there is some hope that it will be addressed by the Board of Ed.

Recess length has been an issue of concern to parents. Mrs. Biggart reported that the school has 45 mins to divide between lunch and recess, leaving about 15 to 20 mins for recess. My impression is that there is a groundswell of concern on this issue in the county CAC and that the Health & Wellness sub-committee will be studying it and making recommendations to the Board.

**-- Advanced Studies Programs:**

We reviewed the STEM-related after-school clubs and were pleased that the school already has several active clubs in the higher grades. Two clubs that we could implement at the school, but need parent volunteers are Destination Imagination (K-5) and Stock Market Game (4th and 5th grade). Both clubs provide curriculum and training, but require substantial time commitment from the parent volunteers. If you are curious about these clubs, you can visit [www.iodi.org](http://www.iodi.org) and [www.smgww.org](http://www.smgww.org).

We also talked about the possibility of parents leading Touchpebbles discussions either during or after the regular school day. Touchpebbles is a program geared for elementary school students within the Touchstones Discussion Project ([www.touchstones.org](http://www.touchstones.org)). It uses short thought-provoking texts to stimulate discussion among the students. **Mrs. Biggart has already arranged for training in leading a Touchpebbles discussion for anyone who is interested. The training will take place on Thursday, Nov. 12 from 8 am to 10 am.**

*If you have any thoughts or questions about the above issues, please share with the group. Also, please let us know if you have any other ideas or concerns that you think the CAC should address.*