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MEMO

Date: 12/1/16
To: Nicasio Board of Trustees
From: Don Armstrong, Ed.D.
Subject: Principal's Report December

Animal Issues

Our animal issues seem to be coming to an end. During the month of November we had Falcon Services continue the netting around the Library/Art building and excluded the bats that were living in the crawl space above. They went up and cleaned out all mess from the bats and we are now bat free in our buildings. Later in the month, Tony was cleaning rooms one morning and went to open an outside garbage can only to find a raccoon staring back up at him. It hissed at him, so I decided to call Marin Humane Society who sent one of their people out. We discovered that our visitor was a young raccoon who could not climb out of the can once it was in. The Animal Control officer removed the raccoon and we set it free in the woods. She gave us some tips on how to handle this in the future.

P.S. I wrote the above two days ago. Today, when I came to work I found that Pepper, our tame deer, reappeared. This time she was behind the fence so our practice of keeping the gates to the campus closed in the morning may have discouraged her from coming in. Robyn Burton said she would come by on the weekend and put some wire over the opening in the fence that most of the deer come in through.

Insurance Inspection

On November 29 we had our annual inspection by Keenan and Associates, our insurance provider. We had no major problems but we did learn more about Keenan Safety grants which we will look into applying for.

Septic

I spoke to Brenda Newcomb as recommended and she led me to the spot where all of our septic records were kept. I have retrieved all of our information including the plans and the documentation for the system. They are currently in my office. A side benefit of this discovery was that we were

able to reorganize the shed in the garden where everything was kept. It is now clear and able to be entered. All other construction documentation was moved out of the shed and into the CBO office to be stored with all of the other important district papers.

I did a little of my own research and contacted a school architect that I have worked with in the past. He told me that he had never heard of the Division of the State Architect approving septic plans and was surprised that they would be involved at all. He has always gotten permits from the county for that type of construction. I contacted the provider who has pumped or septic tank in the past and he said that he could monitor our system for us, which according to the documentation is an every two or three year event that looks at the test wells and the main pumping stations. Unfortunately, we have been playing telephone tag over the last couple of weeks and I have no hard numbers to provide for cost.

Questa has not responded to my latest inquiries.

Giving Through Youth

This year the 6-7-8 classroom will be participating in the West Marin Fund's Giving Through Youth program. The WMF is a fund of money that has been raised for charities and non-profits. Middle schools throughout West Marin are given \$2,000 to donate to non-profits and charities of their choice. They research the eligible organizations and choose to whom they shall donate. The list includes environmental groups, senior citizen groups, preschools and other non-profits throughout West Marin. The local representative for this project is our very own Elaine Doss.

Student Council

Student Council members were selected this month. The President is Jasmine Grady, Vice-President Ashley Winkelmann, and the representatives are Xoxa Bell, Flora Loose and Haley Dallara.

The Wizard of Oz

Rehearsals for the Wizard of Oz continue smoothly. A dress rehearsal will be performed for students from Union School on December 5. The performance will be the night of the 8th at 6 PM.

Radio Grant

It was mentioned at the last Board meeting that we wrote a grant for the new MERA radio that we will need to purchase for the new emergency system. We received word that we received the grant for \$5994 to purchase the radio. Mikki and Colin will be attending system training this month.

Nicasio Historical Society Trip

The 3-4-5 visited the Nicasio Historical Society this last month. The students walked to the square and met with Elaine Doss for a tour of the facility and information about the history of the Nicasio Valley. They ate lunch at the Druids Hall and returned.

Facility Use

We have had facility use requests from the Marin Shakespeare Company and the Marin Conservation League. The MSC held a Board retreat in our library and the MCL finished up a series on Ranching in the Park in the MPR. Both groups had successful meetings.

Emergency Preparedness

Last month we had Deputy Josie Sanguinetti, the county School Resource Officer, observe during our disaster preparedness drill and student release. She came by yesterday to tell us that we received very high marks for our procedures and she spoke highly of us to the County Board of Education and the Safe Schools Committee. She also congratulated our teachers on having prepared our students so well.

We conducted a successful earthquake drill this afternoon. All students and staff performed admirably.