

FOUR RIVERS FLASH: October 6, 2017

Announcements:

- **ELECTRONICS RECYCLING:** Saturday 10/7 (tomorrow!) 9-12: Drop off items (check [THIS LIST](#)) and make a donation to support school programs (\$5/item, more for TVs/monitors).
- **STUDENT LED CONFERENCE SCHEDULING:** conferences will be held after school on Wednesday 11/8 & Thursday 11/9 (please note several teachers have appointments on other days that week); click on the [PicATime Link](#) to schedule a 30 minute conference . Please contact Carolyn Wood if you are unable to access the scheduling program or if you are unavailable for the times offered.
- **[CLASSROOM OBSERVATION NOTES:](#)** Round 1 is available here and posted on the website.
- **FOUR RIVERS COFFEE:** We'll be placing our next order Friday 10/13 and delivery will be 10/17. To order, please send an email to ekellydill@gmail.com or drop an order form off at the main office. Order forms are on the school website (click on Family Council; Fundraising link)
- **HELP FOR PUERTO RICO:** In collaboration with Nueva Esperanza from Holyoke, MA, and surrounding organizations in the Pioneer Valley region, Elms College will be collecting monetary and supply donations. Drop off items in the box in the Farmhouse lobby area by Thursday, October 12. The following supplies are needed: Purifying water tablets, Batteries, Flashlights, First aid kits, Sewing Kits, Small Fire Extinguishers, Hygiene products, Battery operated radios, Garbage bags, Dish Soap, Disinfectant, Paper Cups & Plates, Napkins, Work gloves, Baby wipes, Sterile eye wash, Hand sanitizer, Sunscreen, Antibiotic Ointment, Adhesive Tape. All supplies will be personally delivered to a donation site.
- **NOTES FROM LOCAL EDUCATION COUNCIL (10.4.17)**
 - Survey responses say Thursday afternoons best for parent workshops.
 - 2-3 parent workshops being scheduled: How to deal with your student's emerging sexuality
 - Survey responses say Wednesday mornings still best for Coffee/LEC
- **PARENT KUDOS/QUESTIONS/CONCERNS (10.4.17)**

KUDOS

- In addressing substance use issues, consistent message from the school that leads with the need to protect young, developing brains.
- Back to School Night (8th, 9th, 11th) gave a sense of what's happening this year and showed a group of engaged, thoughtful, enthusiastic teachers. This school has amazing teachers!
- Several agreed their children are more enthusiastic about school than they've been in the past.
- Appreciation for the flexibility the school has showed in working with her student.
- Appreciations for the MS Soccer Coach--plays everyone, teaches skills, builds foundations that can be seen in varsity players.
- Appreciation for the ways the school supports a student with special needs--positive attitude, optimistic about kids, all inclusive.
- Looking at older products from early years of the school is so very impressive and moving.

QUESTIONS/CONCERNS

- Access to the buildings after practice--materials for homework, musical instrument, etc

- Need to communicate with parents when something significant happens in school so the info out there is not all gossip and rumor.
 - Is there a way to amplify the voices of students who are doing what they're supposed to be doing? A social norms campaign, leadership opportunities.
- **SEEKING PARENTS FOR WEBSITE USER GROUP:** We plan to redesign the school's website this fall and are looking for 4-6 parents to help critique our current website and test out ideas for the new one. Send an email to [Peter](#) if interested.

Reminders and Calendar Information:

- School closed for Columbus Day 10/9
- PSAT testing for Juniors 10/11
- 12th grade fieldwork/interviews for documentary film 10/11
- 7th grade to Green River for fieldwork 10/12 (rain date 10/13)
- School closed for teacher in-service 10/27
- End of Year Soccer Event 11/2
- No early dismissal on 11/3
- Student Led Conferences - 11/8 and 11/9
- School closed for Veteran's Day - 11/10
- Intensives for Div 2 & 3 - 11/17-22
- Early dismissal at 12:30 - 11/22
- School closed 11/23 & 11/24 for Thanksgiving

FAMILY RESOURCES

- Families for Depression Awareness is presenting a free Coping with Stress and Depression webinar on Wednesday, November 1 at 7:00 PM ET/ 4:00 PM PT. Esteemed Presenter, Dr. Elisha Goldstein, will discuss incorporating mindfulness techniques into a busy schedule. The program is designed for families, caregivers, employees and management personnel, and anyone interested in mental health resources. Register to join us for the live webinar!
- Friday October 20th (3:30-5:30) Four Rivers will hold the Franklin Youth Legislative Forum. This is an opportunity for students and youth to present ideas and current issues to legislative officials and peers to make any concerns known. There will be pizza. There will be snacks and there will be many people ready to listen. For more information, contact Matt Leaf mleaf@frcps.org or Kathy Leone kleone@frcps.org
- The Unitarian Society of Northampton and Florence is offering a high school Our Whole Lives (OWL) program. Free program; registration accepted till 10/20/2017 [click here for more information](#)

Questions: contact Carolyn Wood in the main office, #413-775-4577 (cwood@frcps.org)