**Kenji – District Update**

* January Board Meeting -
  + Board president is Rich Palmer, Steve Bernicke is VP
  + Student recognition:
    - entrepreneurship group in HS – raised $22k during the first semester across several organizations
    - National merit semifinalists
    - Commended scholars
    - Hispanic scholars
    - MHS Band
    - NHS inductees
    - Chris Stewart – PE Teacher and Football Coach – received Coach of the Year for region 16
* Dave Bergen – MES Construction Update
  + Load bearing walls are up, among other progress. Will soon start working on second floor
  + On schedule to open on time for next school year
  + Projected ready date: August 1
* Principal Flanagan working hard to make MES ready to be a K-5 building
* Past Tuesday was kindergarten and preschool registration for 23-24 year
  + Kindergarten class is around 140 students after this week
    - Current kindergarten is 143 students
    - Current 1st is approximately 170 students
  + Pre-school is around 150 students after this week
* Email Kenji with any questions not answered during this meeting

**Chris Flanagan – Building Update**

* Great atmosphere returning from winter break
* 2nd quarter report cards will go home Jan 18
  + This will be the first report card sent home for kindergarten students
* This Friday is a Bengals Spirit Day - “Rule Your School” - there is a city-wide contest with an opportunity to win a pep rally with the Bengals
* MES students participated in a city-wide card & letter making effort for Bills player Damar Hamlin last week
* Kindergarten registration opened on Tuesday. This is an ongoing open registration.
* Music class concert season will kick off in the next few weeks
  + First concert will be 3rd grade in February
  + These are held at MHS and open to immediate & extended family/loved ones
* Thank you to all parents participating in the PTO – the impact is substantial for the staff and school. Special thanks for the lunch provided last week.

**Maria – PTO Budget & Past and Upcoming Events**

* Budget Expenses:
  + January 4 - Lunch for MES & preschool staff
  + November 16 – Support Staff Appreciation Day – new committee and event this year
  + Budget will be posted on PTO website
* Events
  + Lunch duty volunteer spots are full – thank you!
  + Jan 11 – snacks set out for teachers today. Teachers were thankful. We will do this every Wednesday
  + Feb 14 - Valentine’s Day classroom parties will be held
    - Final classroom party of the school year organized by PTO/Room Parents
  + February Parent/Teacher conferences
    - PTO will provide meals for teachers
    - TBD on whether there will be a book fair during the conferences
  + March 4 – Save the date for Spring Changing Hands Sale
    - Link is open for consigners – register to consign for $11
    - Clothing items are limited to Spring and Summer items
    - Biggest PTO fundraiser
    - See Principal Flanagan’s newsletter, Changing Hands website, or PTO Facebook for more information – including volunteer links
    - There will be Friday and Saturday volunteer opportunities

**Denise – STEM Day review**

* Monday March 20 & Tuesday March 21
* Cincinnati Museaum Center will come to MES and set up stations for groups of students to explore
* Station themes:
  + Digging for dinosaurs
  + Experimenting with physical sciences
  + Forces of Nature
* Museum center provides all materials for each station including 2 staff members per station (6 staff members total)
* We will need some additional parent volunteers – sign up links will be sent out as we approach the date
* This type of hands-on science experience used to be scheduled with COSI, but they no longer provide this in-school experience
* Future Idea– we are hoping to do a “LATE Night” science experience every other year. This stands for Look Around and Touch Everything

**Maria – Future Needs**

* Co-chair for the STEM/Science committee with Denise
* GOTArt committee is in need of additional members
  + A lot of work and planning is needed for GOTArt week and we need to expand from one organizer to a full committee
* Open invite to anyone interested in sitting on a committee in general – we will publish those opportunities as they are known
* February 8 at 9:30am in MES Cafeteria - February PTO meeting will be a joint meeting with MMS and MHS PTOs and principals. This is open to parents to attend. There will be no MES evening PTO meeting
* No PTO Meeting in March due to a busy month with Spring Break