



- I. Welcome** (*Dena Porter, ASFS PTA President*)
- Dena welcomed everyone and gave an overview of the agenda.
- II. Overview of Social-Emotional Learning** (*Olivia Proietti and Elizabeth Uffelman, ASFS School Counselors*)
- The school counselors, Ms. Proietti and Ms. Uffelman gave an excellent presentation about the SEL (Social Emotional Learning) programs utilized at ASFS. The complete presentation can be found here.
 - ASFS uses CASEL (The Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning) as the foundation of their work.
 - 'Second Step' is their evidenced based curriculum and includes the following units:
 - Skills for Learning
 - Bullying Prevention
 - Emotion Management
 - Empathy
 - Problem Solving
 - The counselors also discussed new challenges they have seen since COVID, including students seeking more 1-on-1 attention, gossip, reduced peer cooperation, group chats, self-regulation and unkind words.
 - Ms. P and Ms Uffelman asked that families reach out with any questions they have. They will provide a list of home resources in the EFF.
- III. Principal's Report** (*Mary Begley, ASFS Principal*)
- Ms. Begley thanked attendees for participating in the meeting and wished everyone a Happy 2021 and upcoming 2022.
 - Ms. Begley noted that the first VLP students will be returning this week, with more coming in January. She can't wait to have everyone back in the building together.
 - Ms. Begley again thanked Dena Porter and all the volunteers for continuing to make outdoor lunch a success.
- IV. PTA Business** (*Dena Porter, PTA President*)
- Please vote by the end of the day on Wednesday, December 8th to approve the November 2nd ASFS PTA Meeting Minutes.
 - You must be an active ASFS PTA member for 2021-2022 to vote:
 - To join online, visit: asfspta.ocm
 - *PTA membership sponsorships are available*
- V. PTA Updates**
- Treasurer Report (*Jay Kaveeshwar, Treasurer*)
 - Jay began by thanking Justin Guest and all of the volunteers for continuing to make the ASFS gardens beautiful.
 - Jay reemphasized that this is a rebuilding year for fundraising. We have made good progress but still have a hill to climb. We have currently raised \$33,000 of our \$102,000 goal.

- o Jay reviewed several categories that these funds support:
 - Education and Instruction
 - Community Events
 - Staff/Curriculum Development
 - School Habitat
- Fundraising (*Olga Kasyan, Fundraising Chair*)
 - o The No Frills Fundraiser is on! The deadline to donate is December 31, 2021. 100% of your donation directly supports the ASFS PTA and is tax deductible. The grade level with the highest percentage of participation wins a pajama day, extra recess, and a treat! We have currently raised about \$16,000 of our \$22,500 goal.
 - o The ASFS 2021/2022 Auction is coming the end of March 2022. The theme will be 'Come as you are.' The Auction team is seeking a Business donation lead and a Parents donation lead. Please contact Olga Kasyan if you are interested!
- ASFS Community Service & KidsGiving (*Kristen Jeffreys & Amanda Sutton*)
 - o Thank you to everyone who supported the *The Clothesline's* clothing drive in November!
 - o KidsGiving is supporting *The Animal Welfare League of Arlington* (AWLA) this month. You can support them by donating an item from their wish list or by making your own enrichment toy. Collections are open until Friday, December 10th.
 - o Thank you to the 2nd graders for supporting AWLA and making spider ring toys for cats in need.
 - o KidsGiving is also supporting the Kindness Calendar this month. Print off the calendar, attach it to your fridge, and complete one act of kindness each day. KidsGiving members will get credit for completing at least five daily items on the calendar.
- No Place for Hate (*ASFS Equity Team*)
 - o Thank you to all the families who submitted No Place for Hate pledges! The student members are working on a display that will be shared in January.
- Global Celebrations
 - o Ms. Begley and Ms. Jones will read Patricia Polacco's *The Keeping Quilt* to the entire school on December 8th over the morning announcements. Classes will use this book to begin a discussion about the ways in which our celebrations reflect our family cultures.
 - o Students will be asked to complete a discussion sheet with their family and return them to school on Monday, December 13th.
 - o Students will create a quilt square in class using their planning sheet. These squares will be shared on December 17th, in student's classroom along with snack and a drink.
- Upcoming ASFS Events
 - o Berlitz Spanish Enrichment: optional Spanish instruction two mornings a week at ASFS beginning the week of January 10th. Register by Monday, January 3rd for the Winter/Spring Session: Berlitz.com/schools/Arlington-science-focus
 - o School Picture Make-up Day – Tuesday, January 4th: If you missed picture day or are new to ASFS, please contact Linda Liao

(liaofamilydc@gmail.com) or fill out the form in the EFF. It's not too late to order School Photo Packages at mylifetouch.com.

- ASFS PTA Thank You's:
 - Michelle Brydges & ASFS Librarian, Ms. Schryver - for leading the ASFS Book Fair and thank you to all of the Book Fair Volunteers this week!
 - Kristen Jeffreys - for coordinating the USA Map Blacktop Project and KidsGiving Fall/Winter Clothing Drive for The Clothesline
 - Thanks to all the parents who helped paint, and to those who donated and helped to sort clothing
 - Jay Gunasekera & Liz Mixer - for providing Staff Meeting Treats for our amazing teachers last week
 - Linda Liao & the School Picture Day Volunteers - for helping to make School Picture Day run smoothly
 - Ms. Lin and Outside the Box Day Volunteers - for a great event last week!
 - All of our ASFS Families for your generosity with No-Frills and volunteering your time!
- ASFS First Lego League Team
 - o Congratulations to the ASFS First Lego League Team for winning the Division 1 Champion's Award!
 - o Congrats to team members: Faiz Ahmad, Garida Batkhuu, Philip Vidal, Aliya Sahu, Carmen Reuter, Eddy Alhosani, Grant Dorsey and Mira Shomali.

VI. ACTL Updates (*Dima Hakura and Jamie Adams, ASFS ACTL Representatives*)

- APS Advisory Council on Teaching & Learning (ACTL) is gathering feedback on English Language Arts (ELA) education from school communities. See the ACTL ELA Presentation, and information about the APS ELA Program in the ASFS EFF (12/3).

VII. Upcoming ASFS Dates

- Friday, December 17th – ASFS Global Celebration
- Monday, December 20th – Friday, December 31st – NO SCHOOL (Winter Break)
- Monday, January 3rd – School Resumes
- Tuesday, January 4th – School Picture Make-up Day
- Tuesday, January 11th – ASFS PTA Meeting, 7:00-8:30pm