



**I. Welcome** (*Dena Porter, ASFS PTA President*)

- Dena welcomed everyone and gave an overview of the agenda.

**II. Gifted Services Overview** (*Raphael Villacrusis, ASFS Resource Teacher for the Gifted*)

- Mr. V began by sharing testing updates. All students that are new to APS or have not previously taken the CogAT will be given the screener (Grades 2-5).
- Mr. V reviewed the identification process, services currently provided to ASFS students, and classroom adaptations. APS is accepting parent/staff referrals for all subject areas until April 1, 2022. Mr. V may host a Q&A session in the spring for interested parents.
- He introduced the idea of PMI charts (Plus, Minus, Interesting) and did a brief activity with the parents.
- Mr. V wrapped up by providing parents with resources on Gifted Services and encouraged anyone with questions to reach out to him: [raphael.villacrusis@apsva.us](mailto:raphael.villacrusis@apsva.us)

**III. Principal's Report** (*Mary Begley, ASFS Principal*)

- Ms. Begley thanked all of the parents for their flexibility with the Halloween parade. She noted that this year was the first time in 26 years that the parade had to be held indoors due to weather. The kids had a great time, and she hopes the parents enjoyed watching it online.
- Ms. Begley thanked Dena for all her work to coordinate volunteers and in making outdoor lunch a continued success. She thanked all the many parent volunteers who have stepped up to help. They are still looking to hire outdoor lunch attendants but haven't been successful in finding qualified applicants.
- Thank you to Ms. Hall for continuing to work hard to make outdoor PE successful. This includes lugging equipment back and forth for many classes each day.
- Thank you to Mr. V for becoming a patrol sponsor this year and motivating students to become safety patrols.
- Ms. Begley acknowledged that we are all still transitioning and making adjustments post-pandemic. The #1 goal is to have happy, well-adjusted kids who are receiving strong academic instruction. Please continue to work with your children at home on kindness and find the joy in every day. School counselors are available if you have questions or concerns, and Ms. Begley is always available as well.

**IV. PTA Business** (*Dena Porter, PTA President*)

- Please vote by the end of the day on Wednesday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> to approve the October 5<sup>th</sup> ASFS PTA Meeting Minutes.
- You must be a PTA member to vote. There are currently 212 ASFS PTA members.

**V. PTA Updates**

- Treasurer Report (*Jay Kaveeshwar, Treasurer*)
  - ◆ Income update: we are making progress but still have a big hill to climb.
  - ◆ Jay reviewed several areas that these efforts fund: Education and Instruction, Community Events, Staff/Curriculum Development and School Habitat.
  - ◆ The full budget report can be found in the meeting materials folder.
- Fundraising (*Olga Kasyan, Fundraising Chair*)
  - ◆ 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!
  - ◆ A committee has been formed for the Auction (Amanda, Puja, Carrie, Olga), and

- they will begin planning soon.
- ASFS Community Service & KidsGiving (*Kristen Jeffreys & Amanda Sutton*)
    - ◆ Thank you for supporting the Food drive for AFAC. ASFS donated 482 total pounds of food!
    - ◆ KidsGiving will support The Clothesline as our November organization. ASFS will host a fall/winter clothing drive from November 8<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>.
    - ◆ Thank you to ASFS Kindergarten for sponsoring The Clothesline this month.
    - ◆ Students can sign up to become a member at [www.tinyurl.com/KidsGiving2021](http://www.tinyurl.com/KidsGiving2021).
  - ASFS No Place for Hate
    - ◆ The ASFS Equity Team would like to invite all families in our ASFS community to sign the **No Place for Hate Pledge**. See the ASFS EFF for the link to the online form. Submit your ASFS Family Pledge by Tuesday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>.
  - Upcoming ASFS Events
    - ◆ School Picture Day (Monday, November 8<sup>th</sup>) - Parents can order photo package(s) online at [mylifetouch.com](http://mylifetouch.com) (ID: EVTDDMBSC).
    - ◆ Report Cards - Posted on ParentVUE on Friday, November 19<sup>th</sup>
      - New Standard Based Grading System
    - ◆ Berlitz Spanish Enrichment - Stay tuned for winter/spring session details
    - ◆ ASFS Book Fair in partnership with R.E.A.D.
      - Students will be able to visit the Book Fair all week in the ASFS Library.
      - Virtual Read-Aloud with Pajama Mama on Monday, 12/6 6:30-7:30pm
      - Family shopping outside ASFS after school on Wednesday, 12/8 and Thursday, 12/9 until 6:00pm
      - Online shopping will be available all week
    - ◆ ASFS PTA Reminders
      - ASFS Spirit Wear - Order by Friday, November 5<sup>th</sup>
    - ◆ Annual Online Verification Process (AOVP)
      - About 2/3 of ASFS families have opted into the PTA Directory.
      - Opt in via ParentVUE to be included in the online directory.
    - ◆ Order your 2021-22 ASFS Yearbook at [ybpay.com](http://ybpay.com) (Code: 13273622)
      - You can submit photos for the yearbook via the link in the EFF.
    - ◆ ASFS Outdoor Lunch
      - Thank you to the many parent volunteers who are helping to ensure we are able to provide the choice for students to eat outdoors, weather permitting.
      - The December Volunteer Sign-up is now available through the EFF.
    - ◆ ASFS PTA Thank You's
      - Dena thanked many parents and teachers for all of their help through many avenues to make this year so successful.
    - ◆ ACTL Updates (Dima Hakura and Jamie Adams, ASFS ACTL Representatives)
      - ACTL is seeking feedback on math education in APS; parents can send feedback to Dima and Jamie by Noon on November 3<sup>rd</sup>.

## VI. Upcoming ASFS Dates

- Thursday, November 4<sup>th</sup> – NO SCHOOL (Diwali)
- Friday, November 5<sup>th</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Social Event, 4-6pm (Hayes Park)
- Sunday, November 7<sup>th</sup> – Kindergarten Social, 10am-Noon (ASFS)
- Monday, November 8<sup>th</sup> – School Picture Day (Re-Scheduled)
- Thursday, November 11<sup>th</sup> – NO SCHOOL (Veterans Day)
- Friday, November 12<sup>th</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Social Event, 4pm (Hayes Park)
- Sunday, November 21<sup>st</sup> – 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Social Event, 3-5pm (ASFS)
- Wednesday, November 24<sup>th</sup> – Friday, November 26<sup>th</sup> – NO SCHOOL (Thanksgiving)
- Monday, December 6<sup>th</sup> – Virtual Read Aloud with R.E.A.D., 6:30-7:30pm
- Tuesday, December 7<sup>th</sup> – ASFS PTA Meeting, 7:00-8:00pm
- Wednesday, December 8<sup>th</sup> – Early Release (1:26pm Dismissal)