

CAT Agenda March 4, 2008 at 6:30 PM Sharon's house Outcomes: Response to CAT WL Questions A sharing & discussion of issues Discussion on Nutrition of lunch menu follow up & next steps		Members: Acija Pomazan (Pre-K), Wendy Vissar (Gr 1), Sharon McCarten(Gr 2), Alice Newall (Gr 3), Senada Chelminski (Gr 4), Jennie Ruth-Trumpold (Faculty), Ann Coster (Faculty), Karen Pettigrew (PTO), Seamus Marriott, Gail Neff Regrets: Elaine Cassidy (Kg), Viveka Kumari (Gr 5)
Item	Discussion	Action/Response
Social	There were so many delicious delicacies for us to snack on at this meeting!	Yum! Thank you, Sharon!
Response to CAT World Language Questions <i>ES-Elementary School</i> <i>MS-Middle School</i> <i>WL-World Language</i>	Middle School Principal Michael Popinchalk joined us to respond to questions posed by CAT parents about the World Languages program in the Middle School. It was noted that it was great to have the questions as a basis for discussion. Concern: Compatibility of the ES and MS WL program-Must grade 6 students who have experience in a world language begin at the "beginner level" when they enter middle school? Though no 6 th graders currently are in the "B" program, there is a "B" class (the higher level) for Spanish and French. If students show ability they can be enrolled in the higher level class. Teachers also assess the baseline of their classes and teach from wherever the students are. MS WL does adequately prepare students for the HS higher level WL courses. WL in MS is not mandatory, rather it is an elective. MS students are no longer taking courses at the high school for the reason that it is not considered best practice to include MS students with HS students. If a student exceeds the MS WL levels, they will not be placed in the HS course. Students who are advanced in a language may also begin a new language. Students will be assessed this spring in order to better prepare for placement and scheduling WL class levels in the MS for the new year. Beginning level courses are available to grades 6, and 8. If there is a high enough demand for a certain level, there is an attempt to accommodate. There are 3 levels of language in the MS. Native speakers of Arabic do not have a course for them currently, but that is changing. What is the expectation for the auditor? When will the audit recommendations be implemented? It is expected that the auditor will help answer questions such as: Is there a strong alignment of program within and between divisions? How best can French and Spanish instruction support 2 nd language acquisition in our students? Some recommendations may depend on the budgetary implications; others may be implemented as soon as a process for implementation is put into place. Arabic for Native and non-native speakers in the elementary is beginning in 0809 with grade 1 students. What effect will offering Arabic have on the grade 1 curriculum? There has to be some classroom content instruction that is compromised in order to offer Arabic. There is always a give and take when a new program is added. Why is it not being offered in Egypt Culture? The EC program is so strong now with developing an understanding of the host country that teaching it in Arabic there would be a loss of content.	CAT members are invited to continue conversations with Michael if they have further questions. Should every student study a world language? This is a question that parents can consider. 30% of MS student don't engage in WL. A parent survey is being planned to provide the auditor data for her visit. Noted: The fact that CAC offers 3 languages is commendable.

<p>Group Check In & Discussion of issues</p>	<p>PreK- Traffic in front of school. The driver letting a child out needs to be alert to people from all sides. There is some blocking of the crosswalk by Egyptian police cars. The drivers of children need to be aware of the risk of not being cautious. The office does call offenders when we are made aware. <i>* In a follow up with John Hollenbach, he reports: There is a poster with the safe dropoff diagram on the bulletin board facing Road 253 by the guard house. Soon this is going to be placed on a pole out on Road 253 so the drivers can see it from cars. We are also painting cross walk and drop off areas on the paving.</i></p> <p>Grade 1 Some parents of children who live in outlying areas of Cairo, and whose children take the bus would like their children to be able to have a sensible snack in the morning on the way to school on the bus. Discussion included concern about choking as a danger on a bus. <i>*In a follow-up with the bus director, we found that the earliest bus pickup is at 6:55 am. This bus arrives at school at 7:45 am. It is our suggestion that these students eat at 6:30 am at home or eat their snack at school when they arrive at 7:45 before school starts. *In a follow-up with the Health Office, their recommendation is to not allow eating on busses because of the increased likelihood of choking as well as car sickness.</i></p> <p>Grade 2- nothing to report.</p> <p>Grade 3- Some concerns about the lunch menu were brought up regarding item quality as well as portion size and variety (offering a two week menu?). Whole plain milk has been added to the beverage choices. Thanks to Max for supplying us with the complete recipes of each of his daily menus for the nutritionist to analyze. Also he has provided a weekly analysis of portion sizes, numbers requesting refills, choice of drinks, how many refuse the hot vegetable, etc. All of this data is very helpful as we continue to work toward an improved lunch program.</p> <p>Grade 4- Grade 1 concert - could it be offered at night?</p> <p>Grade 5- Parents are ordering tshirts for the grade 5 to wear on the last day. Would like Seamus to give the grade 5 a bit of a pep talk before they depart ES. Planning continues for the parent transition meeting to have time to talk with one another. Also some parents would like to see theater/drama as a part of the ES curriculum.</p> <p>Volunteer parents would like to get other parents involved. How do we do it?</p>	<p><i>*Need to better communicate rules for drop off and pick up; make the drop off and pick up diagram available to parents; communicate with our security about keeping crosswalk vehicle-free.</i></p> <p>Lunch: Remind Max that Beef Stew is meant to be on a rotation every other week. Suggestions to consider: yogurt, soup, chicken dog, fried rice, hotdog bun and condiments for sausage. <i>*We can ask this question.</i></p> <p>Finding enough volunteers is an ongoing concern</p>
--	--	--

Other:	<p>Year of the Reader- will extend into 0809 because teachers are excited about all the new things they are learning and implementing. Our work with Laura Benson was fulfilling this year as meaningful professional development in literacy and reading instruction. In the second half of next year, we will begin to plan for the Year of the Writer.</p> <p>Parent Conferences- We did not opt for having conferences earlier than report card time because there was not a consensus amongst teams. It is a hardship for specialists to do earlier conferences because they have so many students to get to know. Also with some teachers using student portfolios, those teachers felt they needed more time to prepare. Some parents feel that evening conferences would allow more parents to participate. Special appts are always welcome and a reasonable option for parents.</p> <p>Faculty recruitment- All fulltime positions are filled. PreK, 2 in Grade 1, 1 in Gr 3 & 5, Tech and the AP. There are 3 part-time positions left to fill. Art, ESL, and Arabic for Grade 1.</p> <p><u>PTO NEWS-</u></p> <p>Spring Fair- Theme fair baskets - there was some thinking that we could go ahead with the baskets, but there is very little interest in helping.</p> <p>PTO Book Fair for next year- Susan Thomas and Sandra Gusler have volunteered to be the 0809 coordinators. Yahoo!</p> <p>PTO-May Ball- May 2 in the Sofitel in Gezira 400 LE, with dancing and international buffet.</p>	<p>NEED: Baker Books - looking for a volunteer coordinator for 0809. This requires 4-5 days of work in the fall and again in the spring. It is short-term, but concentrated and ideal for a parent who loves counting money!</p>
Next	April 8	Karen's House