

SSAC REPORT

FEBRUARY 12TH, 2012 MEETING

Good afternoon everyone. Our most recent meeting was held today at Catalina Magnet High School. I would like to thank Principal Rex Scott, Learning Support Coordinator Tamara Hille for their gracious hospitality. I would especially like to thank Chef Rebecca Yim and her Culinary Arts students for providing us with a wonderful breakfast consisting of quiche, zucchini bread, fruit, and cinnamon buns. After breakfast, we led a challenging MAZE leadership activity. Members had to get into groups of three with one participant being blindfolded and the other two acting as leaders. The leaders had to get their partners through the MAZE which was library tables, chairs, and bookcases without touching them. I saw some people signing to their partners as a method of communication, I also saw some members in shock at first or apprehensive. For some trusting a person who they didn't know that well was difficult, yet in order to get to the designated place there was no room for trust issues. Communication in this scenario was like a boat; it was the mechanism through which members voyaged to the other side. The people and obstacles were the rough waters out in the ocean and our chiefs had to know how to handle them. We related this to the real world where communication and trust play important roles in leadership.

Next, Dr. Pedicone shared a story with us from the big Moon about Sean the man who discovered one of the Rolling Stone's greatest hits. Where did he find it? He found it in the trash. Many thought it would not have worked, but Sean had the better vision and knew that even though it seemed to be bad on the surface it had great potential. With this, we recognized that we must pay attention and listen to the ideas of others that might not seem as fantastic. Who knows we might discover the next big hit.

Dr. Pedicone also talked about the new law that will be set into place next school year which will retain third graders from moving on to the fourth grade if they do not pass their reading AIMS. He asked if there was agreement. Most agreed to the fact that learning the basics is essential in order to move on to more high-level learning. One student, who moved from Japan when he was in the 3rd grade, felt that this law would have put him at a disadvantage because even though his English was progressing rapidly he still would have been left behind under the standards. This would have prohibited him from certain opportunities. Students inquired about the new testing for the district which would be more accurate, than AIMS. Dr. Pedicone asked us to think about the reality of what is said in the media as a future topic.

Members were then broken into committees to discuss the following items. One committee focused on cyber bullying, another on verbal bullying, and the third one on Courage to be Kind Activities. We recognized that bullying is detrimental to the health of our peers and can even affect the careers of others. We also acknowledged that bullying will always be present, but it is our duty to try to increase awareness on why it is

bad and decrease its potential to not be active. Possible solutions would be increasing works of kindness to encourage more positive actions, have a series of peer presentations on the issue, have positive social networking pages, and make the Courage to Be Kind Week BIG.

Today's agenda was definitely packed and interesting