

Overview

Members of the John Muir Parent Teacher Collective have engaged themselves to produce this document, by which we seek to clearly define the priorities, goals and desires of the collective based upon an agreed upon set of core values, tenets and actions. We are aware that our place in the community is governed by the following three components:

1. Image - That which we create
2. Identity - How we are perceived
3. Equity - The leverage of our Image and Identity within the community.

That is to say plainly, "What we do and how that is perceived empowers us, within and without, to perform and support important acts within and for our community." We recognize that we must define our culture and communicate it successfully to the local and national community. So we take it as our responsibility to 1. Express what our school is about to the larger community, 2. Teach others to express what our school is about, and 3. Correct any possible misperception in our community about the John Muir School, its staff, children, curriculum, etc.

The John Muir School Guiding Principles

The John Muir School's practices and curriculum are guided by the following principles of learning and community. The PTC core values will reflect and support these principles.

- * Children learn new concepts in relationship to previous knowledge and experience
- * The construction of knowledge by the child leads to comprehensive, authentic learning
- * Interaction with the natural world supports academic growth
- * Arts serve as the human expression of beauty allowing children to honor and communicate their experience
- * Positive social relationships are essential to a successful learning community
- * Small schools enhance student comfort and learning
- * The behavior of children indicates their emotional comfort and the community's health
- * The teacher's art is to create a stimulating atmosphere and participate as a learner

PTC Vision & Mission Statement

The John Muir Parent Teacher Collective (PTC) is a community consisting of ALL of the parents at the John Muir School. We are dedicated to support of the goals of the John Muir School, and the health and well being of the staff, students and the extended John Muir School family. The PTC will strive to assure the continuance of the John Muir

School program, including its long-term social, environmental and financial stability. All PTC actions will be predicated upon the core values of Community, Stewardship and Sustainability.

Tag Line

Community. Stewardship. Sustainability.

Core Values

Definition: Core values are a basic overarching framework you can use to understand and analyze simple beliefs and rules about what your community represents and how it acts. They are observable, discernable and do not change. Your tenets are informed by, and develop further, your core values.

COMMUNITY

Definition: a social, religious, occupational, or other group sharing common characteristics or interests and perceived or perceiving itself as distinct in some respect from the larger society within which it exists.

The Parent Teach Collective exists to create a respectful community of mutual support and open and direct communication between families and with the school staff. It operates in an atmosphere of respect, responsiveness, inclusion, service and joy to provide support for the learning environment and to respond to the needs of community members. Activities sponsored by the Collective strive to invite and include all of the families and staff of John Muir School.

STEWARDSHIP

Definition: An ethic that embodies the responsibility of cooperative planning and management of resources for organizations and communities to actively engage in the development and maintenance of its people, its property and its financial assets.

All members of the Parent Teacher Collective recognize and accept their role of stewards of the community. The atmosphere of the organization is one of responsible actions. Members volunteer according to their time and ability to benefit the John Muir School community. The Collective responds to needs of staff, students and families, proactively addresses issues that affect the school or community members and follows-through with decisions in a timely and responsive manner.

SUSTAINABILITY

Definition: Sustainability: The property of being capable of being continued with minimal long-term effect on the environment, of being supportable or supported.

A dynamic organization, the Parent Teacher Collective makes decisions cognizant of the need to sustain itself, but also to provide a model of social and environmental awareness. Goals and activities are balanced to positively impact and enhance stewardship of the natural world, the intra-community network and social justice and harmony with a focus within the community and local environment.

Notes:

COMMUNITY = Who are we? This is the subject.

STEWARDSHIP = How do we act? This is the verb.

SUSTAINABILITY = What do we do strive for? This is the object

Tenets

Definition: a principle, belief, or doctrine generally held to be true; especially: one held in common by members of an organization, movement, or profession

"The PTC believes that its members should..."

COMMUNITY

Respectfulness

- Be civil and respectful towards one another
- Seek to understand before seeking to be understood
- Speak directly, clearly and honestly with one another
- Act cooperatively, in the spirit of team-work and consensus-building

Inclusiveness

- Value every child and family in our community and provide equal opportunities and experiences
- Create ways to embrace and include new families into our community
- Create and maintain inclusive decision making models
- Create opportunities for parents to be involved
- Seek ways to increase the size of the active PTC community
- Seek assistance from and collaboration with the larger local community
- Include children in decision making processes where their input is needed

Supportiveness

- Support local businesses
- Decrease staff workload
- Support the curriculum
- Adopt an attitude of service

Communicativeness

- Facilitate ongoing communication between teachers and parents
- Advocate the role of teachers as the definitive source information
- Help parents stay informed in a timely and convenient manner

- Create a safe, open environment for parents to express their opinions

Joyfulness

- Provide a model of enthusiasm and joy for the children
- Select activities that are fun to organizers and participants alike
- Celebrate the diversity of our community and what holds us together

STEWARDSHIP

Volunteerism

- Provide volunteer time
- Help other parents find ways to volunteer
- Emphasize that parental involvement is encouraged but voluntary

Responsibility

- Be answerable for their actions
- Follow-through with issues that have been entrusted to them

Dynamism

- Be responsive to the needs of staff, parents, students and local community
- Decide quickly and act decisively to address issues and needs
- Appoint subcommittees to define and implement courses of action when needed
- Be proactive in addressing anticipated needs
- Be flexible and adaptive in ideas and actions

Reflection

- Reflect and debrief after every major event
- Act in way that reflects the values of the school, academically and socially

SUSTAINABILITY

Finances

- Create fundraisers that are meaningful and repeatable
- Make decision for the long term
- Help raise money to pay for activities and resources related to the curriculum
- Manage finances responsibly

Environment

- Reduce waste
- Strive to have a low negative impact environmentally in all our events
- Patronize local businesses

Morale

- Select activities that are not physically or emotionally exhaustive
- Select activities that bring the staff, parents, children and community together
- Maintain a positive attitude in planning and acting
- Select activities that emphasize team-work, fair play and internal reward

Legacy

- Document processes well so that new PTC members can follow them successfully
- Make plans and take actions that will have a far-reaching, positive impact

Actions

The actions listed here are the actual tasks that we agree to do in support of the above tenets and core values. ***Example:*** *When durable implements are completely nonviable will use only 100% post-consumer recycled paper drinking cups at all PTC functions.*

TO BE FILLED IN