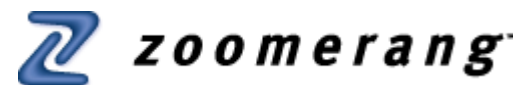


Deer Canyon Parent Survey 2008

Results Overview



Date: 6/4/2008 8:10 AM PST
 Responses: Completes
 Filter: No filter applied

#	Response
13.	Additionally, is there one thing you would like to see changed or added at Deer Canyon?
1	I would like to see more ways for WORKING parents to be included where ever possible. ie. planning meeting for 5th grade promotion is during the day and not after Open House like done years in the past.
2	The school has great support and a good foundation for a learning environment.
3	I would like to see the fund raiser events be more educational in nature such as an environmental group coming in to give a talk, or a multimedia demonstration.
4	How about starting school at 8:30?...
5	One frustration I have and have heard among several friends is that at the beginning of the year, the PTA asks for a donation in lieu of participating all the fundraisers. Yet, even when we donate to the PTA at the beginning of the year, we still feel obligated to support the year round fundraisers. I think the PTA should just ask for a donation upfront and not allude to no longer needing to support year-round fundraising.
6	Family Fun Night. Too expensive for large families. Would like that to go back to a minimal admission charge with optional food.
7	An extra driveway in the parking lot! Also... More opportunities for students to show off their excellent work, such as an Author's Tea/ Author's Faire- in which students who have written excellent pieces are selected to participate. Parents are invited to come hear them read their stories, and refreshments are served during a reception afterwards. Like a Talent Show for writers. This program has been very successful at other schools and serves to motivate students to write stories worthy of the "honor" of participating. An anthology of all the writing pieces featured is published, which is very exciting for the students. At other schools this event is put on by teachers (I did this job when I taught) - which makes more sense than using parent volunteers, as it is teachers who are the appropriate judges of high quality writing- and the appropriate people to be awarding this honor to the students. Typically there are at least 2-3 events per year, which gives a majority of kids the chance to be chosen at least once during their 6 years at Deer Canyon. I'd love to see this happen.
8	Deer Canyon to have the flexibility and creativity to maintain as many of the existing programs and possibly teachers in spite of the budget cuts. Now is the time to think outside the box and be open to parents and other groups willing to help in order to maintain a quality education for our children. Also, let the children be involved to better their own school. That lesson can last a lifetime. More recognition for the teachers and PTA members for all of their hard work and dedication.
9	Security is extremely important to me. I like to see the side entrance/gate closest to the kindergarten picnic area closed/locked once school starts leaving only the main entrance to enter from.
10	Parents need to be aware of how the budget is going to impact the kids. As soon as we know what will happen, I'd like to see Deer Canyons reaction. Not just with the class size, but to see what internal staff and teachers are doing to help. This should not be what is mandated by PUSD, but what Deer Canyon is going to do to help keep enable the student to maintain a high education with the least impact to them. Already.. the kids hear what is happening, who may be leaving. They need to see what the school is doing to minimize the change.
11	I would like to have math support or tutoring available after school as a program.
12	I think in general most parents DO NOT understand the difference between PTA and Foundation.
13	Stronger support for those students being bullied on the playgrounds. It is out of control!
14	Additional programs to stimulate & challenge students that are above the average levels for reading, math, etc. for their grade. At times, I believe that my child is bored in the classroom because some of the work is too simple & repetitious.
15	1. Have staff photos, the yearly school ones, on the office wall entrance (helps us put names to faces especially of teachers, aides, etc.); 2. Implement a more civilized and formal drop off and pick up procedure (too many children run out in front of cars and get out or in while cars are double parked which is very dangerous and tremendously slows down the driving lane); 3. Have all teachers attempt to release students on time @ 2:15...maybe a release bell would help some teachers [redacted] class is notoriously released 5 to 10 min. late weekly, sometimes daily); 4. Have all teachers attempt to write at least a monthly (preferably biweekly) newsletter to inform parents what they are working on in class, vital news, special announcements, etc.; 5. Add a daily planner that allows for homework and available space for immediate concrete teacher to parent/parent to teacher communication. This allows the K-5 gradual responsibility in learning to write their own homework and vital news to parents while seeing directly any positive or constructive feedback from their teachers which tremendously aides in parent teacher alliance & partnership. A last personal request, 6. Adopt simple basic uniforms - this shifts all focus to learning as it neutralizes irrelevant differences while leveling the playing field. Studies show that schools with uniform codes have higher academic success, less bullying, and fewer cliques.
16	I think the amount of homework assigned is reasonable and I am happy to help my children with it; however, please encourage the teachers to avoid the big at-home "parent participation" projects. Most of these projects are far beyond what a child can do on his own, so a parent is doing most of the work and the child is learning very little. A more simple, less "perfect" project that a child could complete on his own would be far more educational.
17	Can't think of anything
18	My son says better lunches. He hates the food, but does eat it.

19	I just hope our new principal is as wonderful as our current principal. I have not directly given my thanks to Principal Scull, but I think he has done a wonderful job at Deer Canyon. He interacts well with the children, parents & teachers. He truly has the student's best interest at heart.
20	I would like a list of resources for remedial, extra practice, and also more advanced work at all grade levels. For example: reading lists for young children who are at advanced reading levels, or recommended math workbooks for children who need more practice in a particular area. This would help me, as a parent, to give my child some relevant and timely help.
21	I'm not sure exactly how it should be accomplished, but I would like it if more were done to help typical students (and their parents) understand that special ed students are not weird or stupid, but just different. I am concerned about future bullying of my special ed child.
22	The parking lot/drop off in the mornings is very frustrating. I think a traffic manager, or one-way in and out lanes would help.
23	No, we love Deer Canyon.
24	I would love to see science, math and reading clubs which require parents to contribute time/money to participate in. I also want my kids to go on the floating science lab trip. I'd like this to be offered as an optional activity on a Professional Growth day and paid for by participants with parent volunteers to organize, drive, and chaperone.
25	I would love the opportunity to have (2) parent teacher conferences a year - one in the late fall and one in mid-spring, and maybe some email communication just to let me know what my child may need a little help on, or what they are working independently on so that we can make choices at home to support their learning.
26	all day kindergarten
27	Based on answer to 11 above, my son's teacher started communicating homework assignments (occasionally) via email. It helped me tremendously as he could no longer "pull the wool over my eyes" without my knowledge. I think more of this type of communication would be helpful to parents of children who are a bit less responsible than their peers. :)
28	lights or crossing guards at the Russet Leaf & Entreken crosswalk, it is crazy there in the mornings... it might make more sense to move the crossing guards from the intersection behind the school ground to this Russet Leaf/Entreken intersection.
29	The start time of Kindergarten. most families have more than one child in school and that 15 minute time difference makes a huge difference in the morning craziness of families
30	More feedback on homework and curricula.
31	It makes no sense to me that resource (room A) activities are held during school time (at least for some kids). Then they miss out on their current class time/teaching and just fall further behind. I'm sure that the situation is different for different kids, but it seems to me in some situations additional resource after school would be more appropriate and beneficial in keeping kids up to date with their current coursework and getting the additional help they need.
32	I would like to see more homework (math, science, grammar, writing), spelling words, project assignment for 4 and 5th grader.
33	Programs which reinforce a zero tolerance stance towards all forms of bullying - including "verbal" and so-called "friendly" bullying. I think there's some confusion about bullying and meanness and why it's important to be socially inclusive and compassionate.
34	Cooking classes for all ages. We teach kids about horses, pigs, chickens... and we eat because of these animals provide meals (meat). Why not teach about vegetables and fruits that you can eat with your these kind of meats??
35	My kids would not agree, but I think the homework has been very light in 2nd-4th grades. I will caveat that by saying that my child is a GATE student, very responsible, and perhaps he just doesn't need my involvement as much (i.e., maybe he's just getting it done on his own).
36	The dividing lines so I don't have to go to Willow Grove and my younger children could go to Deer Canyon without a hassle
37	The pick up area in front of the school is a nightmare.
38	Would like to see more being done to integrate technology into the students' education--enrichment opportunities, classroom projects, classes for students and parents, assemblies celebrating student projects. Invest in document cameras for each classroom. All new schools have this equipment. Deer Canyon students should be able to benefit from new technology too!
39	More parking, no open campus
40	Less emphasis on PE More emphasis on science and math
41	We feel very lucky that our child has the opportunity to attend Deer Canyon because it is a wonderful school.
42	I cannot think of any right now.
43	We do a lot of activities and events at Deer Canyon, one of which is Teacher Appreciation Week. Maybe we could tone it down by doing it for just one day a month or so. It was a lot, especially if you have a lot of teachers!
44	Maybe some type of feed back from the parent's about the kindergarten teachers helpers. Most parents and kids found one in particular to be, should I say... not nice.
45	School hours (start later)
46	NA
47	More science and arts programs
48	More information on how to supplement learning at home. More information about how Deer Canyon is ranked among schools in the county and within the PUSD.

49	none
50	I would like to see a better balance in the classrooms with regard to the number of children that leave the classroom for reading recovery, speech, resource, special education, etc. Some classes have many of these children and others have very few. Too many make it very disruptive.
51	Eliminate child-driven fund raising (Jog-a-thon, gift wrap, etc.) How can children feel school is important when their parents and community don't think so? If we send the message that we will only give money to schools when pressured we perpetuate the problem. How about a little civic-minded parent ed instead of classroom pull-out fund raising assemblies that teach our kids salesmanship and encourage greed?
52	Good Job done by Deer Canyon and hopefully will continue to do.
53	All of the teachers and staff members at Deer Canyon have been very professional, caring, kind, etc. I feel they are very well trained and know very well how to take the kids to the next level. I have nothing but great things to say about them all.
54	More PE
55	None
56	Menu with a little more variety
57	Although my children and I have enjoyed the vocal music program with Mr. Lee, I think it could be modified. Possibly the vocal music program could just be done K-2 or just K-1. I think that because the program is so similar at each grade level, it is not needed for five consecutive years (K-4) of a child's experience at Deer Canyon.
58	A drama program would be a great addition, although I know that it would require our support and participation to make it possible.
59	We would like DC to further emphasize the parent:teacher meetings during the school year, which got canceled several times and we have not had any chance to sit down and go through the intra-semester reports with my kid's teacher. The meetings really benefit both school teachers and parents to achieve both the academic and social development goals of our kids.
60	The most important thing is small teacher student ratio.
61	Is it ok to allow kids wearing hats in sunny days?
62	none that I can think of at the moment.
63	I have been a parent of DC for 7 years and all the teachers I have worked with were wonderful except for one, and she is still there! I really think that school should have a better system to evaluate if a teacher is fit for teaching certain grade. I think parents evaluation should be included in the teacher evaluation!
64	See # 11
65	Quit serving hot boiling coffee at every pta function. It is a liability and a danger with so many little children about. Why do we need to go to the expense of this year after year? Give the money to the teachers instead for their supplies.
66	I would like to see Sara Keddington and principal Earl stay.
67	The amount of paper that comes home is unmanageable. And I only have 1 child in school and he's only in kindergarten.
68	Kindergarten schedules are horrible!
69	More programs kids to have hands on experience so they are well rounded.
70	I've got a couple ideas of things that might help the school: First is the observation that my daughter brings home lots of paper. I wonder if you might be able to reduce printing costs by using more electronic forms of communications (website & email). I'm glad to see the school is considering publishing Echos electronically next year. Second: How about tapping into the skills and 'elbow grease' that parents (and the kids) might be able to offer? In my company, we often participate in Hands-on San Diego in September - how about submitting projects for some maintenance type things there? OR hosting a 'spruce up the school' Saturday work project where the whole family is involved? I bet there are a lot of parents with a lot of knowledge and the kids could learn a lot working with parents.
71	We have been at Deer Canyon for 3 years and have enjoyed our time greatly. The teachers and staff are wonderful. However, I have more than once raised my eyebrows at the content of the Cultural Corner in the Echoes newsletter. With today's climate of division in our culture, America bashing and the great level of disrespect directed at all of our leaders, may I suggest a Patriot's corner or perhaps an American History corner as a unifying tool? Anyone who attends DCES sees the wonderful ways that many cultures come together and are embraced- my children have greatly benefitted from their friendships with children from other nations-but this is America and we are allowing our beautiful history to deteriorate by embracing other nations rather than having other nations embrace America- afterall, they came here because they wanted something better - something only the USA can offer. Often, the entries to the CC are slanted in their content. For example, at Christmas time instead of talking about Ramadan and Kwanzaa (a 1960's era "made up" holiday by a criminal university professor who openly hates America) explain some American History - the Holiday of Christmas was declared a Federal Holiday by our government in the 1800's and that is the sole reason the students have a "winter break". We are raising children who question the amazing heritage of the United States. It is a shame to see so much energy wasted on what I deem to be a divisive tool in the newsletter. I thank you for allowing me the opportunity to express my views and am very thankful for the parents who volunteer to make the Echoes and the PTA as a whole such an amazing organization.
72	A better music program and I'm not referring to the DC choir.
73	Consider putting the school calendar (we currently get at back to school night) as an electronic format. Parents can print out if they want.
74	Give a cost per child that tells us exactly what our PTA and Foundation dollars provide per activity. Allow those of us who can to help with that budget rather than forcing fundraisers. If a parent makes a no fuss donation, the student should be excused from fundraising completely and no further fundraising materials should be sent home. In addition, children should not be required to attend the gift wrap assembly which idealizes junk gifts and frivolously cuts into teaching time. Find additional fundraising that does not require kids to sell stuff. We are already bombarded by scouts, baseball, soccer, etc. to sell more

	<p>junk. Many local businesses like Ralphs, Upromise, Amazon and others provide percentages for schools which does not require families to purchase anything additional, go door to door or call family members to peddle school fundraising junk.</p> <p>Make family fun night a true thank you by creating a free or nominally priced event. The current price is too high for many families on a budget. Families should not be required to purchase a meal in conjunction with the entrance price. This meal infringes on many religious and personal values. The meal should be optional and provided by a reputable restaurant as they do at Westview.</p>
75	More emphasis on Science.
76	Teachers need to be fired that have attitudes and replaced with sincere ones. There are plenty of people qualified, kids shouldn't have to deal with these incompetident ones that are now employed by deer canyon. Observe these teachers and ask the kids how they really feel.
77	I would like to see more male teachers. I don't know whether boys have enough educational role models. I also think they learn differently from girls and that doesn't get adequately addressed in elementary school.
78	Have a track for the kids to run on!!