

Dear Samantha Smith Parents,

As many of you are aware, our PTSA has been considering forming a partnership with the local YMCA for an Afterschool Enrichment Program. There were many reasons that led to this decision. One reason being that afterschool programs have become too challenging for a volunteer to coordinate. Another reason being that in recent years, it has been increasingly more challenging to get parent volunteers, which caused many cancelled classes. Other schools have decided to partner with the YMCA for afterschool enrichment and have had great experiences.

As we saw this past school year, our student enrollment continues to grow. Some of this growth we can predict and some we cannot. Regardless, we have to plan for growth in order to ensure our students get the very best educational experience. With the positive relationship we have started to build with the YMCA and the increasing need for more classroom space in the years and years to come, we have decided to combine our afterschool care with our enrichment program. This would mean we would no longer be a school site for the Boys and Girls Club.

The Boys and Girls Club has been a wonderful afterschool childcare option for some of our families for many years here at Smith. I have worked with their Director and they are aware of this change and the reasons as well. This decision was not one made quickly or taken lightly. This decision was made knowing that our available space would most likely be taken for classrooms, knowing that our students enjoy and benefit from our afterschool enrichment classes, and knowing that as a working parent myself, we still need an afterschool childcare option for many of our families.

Below are some of the benefits from this change:

- We will have many of the same enrichment class offerings previously provided through the PTSA
- We will have a greater capacity for afterschool care
- We will no longer need a PTSA volunteer present for classes, eliminating the need to cancel classes due to a lack of volunteer support
- Childcare will be offered whenever school is open, including during half day conference week
- Childcare will be offered during school breaks at the YMCA main campus
- Parents will be able to sign up for the most cost effective option, either a "Monthly Pass" that includes all enrichment classes or for individual enrichment classes

For those who depended on Boys and Girls Club as afterschool care, you will have the option of switching to the YMCA afterschool care. This program has a much larger capacity. In addition to this, you can choose for your child to attend enrichment classes as part of this deal or simply have after school care.

I look forward to partnering with the YMCA to provide afterschool care and enrichment opportunities next year. Families will receive detailed information about our afterschool care with enrichment options in April. Open sign-ups for the Fall 2017 session will be made available in May.

Thank you,

Mrs. Warner