

Janney Back to School Night 2010 Survey Comments

The chart below represents comments from the Back to School Night survey that represent opportunities for improvement, with corresponding explanations and next steps for future Janney family events. Positive comments, not shown in the chart, celebrated perceived efficiency, thoughtful classroom preparations, excited and engaged staff, organization, accessibility for families of all sizes, and connection to special subject teachers (e.g. science) and critical staff (e.g. the school nurse). Not all comments are included in this document, but all have been read and will be considered in future planning. Teacher specific comments have been passed on to the corresponding faculty as possible individual strengths and areas of improvement.

COMMENT SUMMARY	EXPLANATION/NEXT STEPS/RESPONSE
<p>Need for child care Allowing children to attend the event</p>	<p>Unfortunately, it is impossible to include children in this particular event. Although they are the center of our work, the presence of children would mean at least 600 people in the building and would limit teacher/parent interaction, the purpose of such a night. The leadership team is currently considering a student-led conference at the conclusion of the year that might be a better opportunity for interaction among parents, students and teachers.</p> <p>Childcare has not been offered at Janney Back to School Night in past years, primarily because of space concerns. With increased space next year, it is our hope that we can offer that service.</p>
<p>Multipurpose Room – Principal’s Remarks</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hard to Hear 	<p>Our new building’s sound system should provide some relief!</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purpose/Timing/Contents 	<p>The purpose of these opening remarks was twofold: the first was to serve as a welcome and to provide goals for the year (if you missed this talk or these references, the talk is also posted in the Principal’s Corner on Janney’s website) and the second was to give directions for the evening. Both parts were intended to be brief to give focus to the evening without taking over the much more critical classroom time.</p>

<p>Multipurpose Room – Teacher and Information Sessions at Tables</p>	<p>Overall, many comments celebrated the opportunity to meet with such a wide range of Janney staff. In the past, special teachers and other staff rarely met more than two or three parents; this session gave them the opportunity to engage with a greater number of families. Last year we had a three session schedule that allowed for visits to special classrooms, but most families did not visit those classrooms. In terms of numbers, at least, this method proved more successful.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noisy 	<p>We agree that the acoustics in the room were poor. We will look at the table arrangement to lessen space between the presenter and visitor.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formal Presentations Rather Than Informal 	<p>We will look at ways to standardize presentations, student work artifacts, etc. to maximize information without losing the opportunity to approach a table at any time.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would Have Liked to Still Be Able to Tour Classrooms Like Art and Library 	<p>This opportunity was available but poorly publicized – we’ll do better at informing next year!</p>
<p>Space</p>	<p>There were several comments on the crowded nature of the event (especially the initial gathering) and the difficulty of hearing both the opening remarks and the loudspeaker announcements. We choose to eliminate seats for the opening remarks to allow more people to fit in the multipurpose room, but acknowledge that it was not enough – we look forward to that modernization!</p>
<p>Classroom Presentations</p>	<p>The most successful classroom presentations seemed to include these traits (extracted from positive comments and comments that pointed out a need for certain information):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Curricular expectations for the grade level - High levels of preparation that increased efficiency - Time for Q&A - Approach to classroom culture - “day in the life” of students - Rich student work - Tips for helping at home

<h3>Three-Session Schedule</h3>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time 	<p>We will increase the time for each session by 5-10 minutes (particularly the first session) to alleviate time pressures.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offer Two Back to School Nights to Alleviate Family Schedule Conflicts 	<p>We realize that conflicts in schedule may not allow all families to attend this night. Part of the benefit noted in the three-session schedule is that families can arrive as late as 8:15 and still attend the last classroom session. Please note that individual conferences with teachers/visits to the classroom can always be scheduled.</p>
<h3>Information</h3>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prior to Back to School Night 	<p>The agenda for Back to School Night, along with descriptions of each session, and a description of the event were linked in the newsletter. If you are not receiving the newsletter, please sign up at janneyschool.org</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information From the Multipurpose Room 	<p>If you missed any of the school-level information in the multipurpose room, hard copies of the materials are available in the multipurpose room. The parents handbook for 2010 is also available at janneyschool.org.</p>