

6<sup>th</sup> Grade

# Spaghetti Supper

Tuesday

October 21<sup>st</sup> 2014

5:00-8:00 PM



*A Night in*

**VENICE**

## A NIGHT IN VENICE CHAIR EMILY STEWART

I had the BEST team ever!

Super crafters and support team: Lynn Brady  
Edith Pendock  
Jill Goldman  
Kristen Donaldson  
Shannon Lavery  
Jolanta Jackson

On the day of set up we had about 4-7 eighth graders helping, getting community service hours. A wonderful resource!

We focused on decorating the dining hall only. The rain was off and on all evening so it was best to have everything inside.

We started at the end of August, meeting with the group and planned our work session schedule. We met every Thursday for 4 Thursdays and then moved work sessions to Friday until the actual supper on Tuesday October 21<sup>st</sup>.

Prior to our first meeting, Jill and I went to the restaurant supply store to get clear plastic cups. The idea was to make Murano glass chandeliers out of plastic cups for the skylights. We were shooting for 4 fixtures but ended up with 3. The colored plastic cups were donated by my mother in law Janice Kissinger. Our color scheme for the night was red, white, black, and purple and blue.

In the entry we cut out black plastic garbage bags to make Venetian architectural windows, we added sheer white curtains to the doorway and hung a Venetian flag above the door coming into the cafeteria.

Gondola Mooring poles - Donated fabric tubes taped together and wrapped in white table cloth material, then red duct taped striped. We attached the plastic cups to the top as a beacon light. They were secured around the room with clear packing tape.

Gondola silhouettes - 3 large full and 2 mast heads, cut out of large card board with a jig saw, sanded edges and painted black. They were hung in the windows floating down the 'Grand Canal'.

I wanted the Venice architecture in the windows. Kristen cut from adhesive film a simplified, Moroccan inspired, Venice window detail and applied the film with windex and a squeegee. This is amazing material! We also discovered the negative shapes made for good décor as well as the paper backing to the film. We applied this motif through out the dining hall.

The hall way corridor (aka the Grand Canal)- we applied the lights on the hall side starting at 10 am. After that came the gondola silhouettes, then the blue and purple tulle that acted as a curtain back drop to the window architecture applied on the dining room side of the windows.

The Chandeliers were hung from a set of cross wires spanning the width of the skylight. Wire was stretched from canister light to canister light, the chandelier was hung at the intersection of the two wires. Glow sticks were put in the chandeliers as ambient lighting.

I bought two carnival masks for the hostesses...worn by Joan Wickman and Melissa Mcmorrow.

The columns were wrapped in battery operated lights and then sheer organza, which was wrapped and taped at the top and bottom to secure.

The bulletin boards were covered with black plastic table cloths and then decorated with the window architecture and the rugs. Red and white geometric rugs were hung on the wall for bold blocks of color.

The janitors put purple plastic over 2 of the three dining room sky lights, leaving the center bright. The florescent lights overhead were turned off for the evening, creating mood lighting.

The tables were covered in white plastic cloths with an inner square of black duct taped with red tape to the center creating a geometric diamond pattern also reinforcing the very thin plastic sheet goods.

#### PROBLEM:

The standard roll of plastic is wide enough for the long narrow tables, but not for all the rest. The plastic sheet goods need to be stretched under the decorative table cloth to fortify, as the plastic is thin and shreds easily after several wipe downs. We also ran out of white plastic table cloth material at the end and had to piece together and clear tape the cloths together. This was not ideal. As we ran out of clear packing tape as well. Buy more material than you need! TAPE, TAPE, TAPE!

REMEDY: Buy higher quality plastic table cloths in large sizes this is money well spent!

#### PROBLEM:

The layout of the space was a problem this year, see attached floor plan. The first floor plan seemed to not allow enough room for the kitchen crew/waitstaff to move freely with the table configuration planned. Adjustments were made. The problem came when the changes were made too late, AFTER the waitstaff had assigned the kids to the tables. This created twice the amount of work for the waitstaff crew. After the second plan was approved re-drawn and re-assigned, the tables were moved yet again and a table was completely omitted and things shifted. Again the waitstaff had to adjust on the day of the ss.

#### REMEDY:

Meet in August to discuss the floor plan. Schedule a day to walk through the arrangement with the waitstaff and kitchen committee so all space allowances are made. There should be a scheduled day to actually move the tables into place (if need be) so the space can be felt rather than just seen on paper. The waitstaff and kitchen crew should draw up the plan according to their needs. They then should run the plan before the decorating crew, if there are adjustments they should be considered, and the floor plan reworked (if need be), by the waitstaff crew. This should all be done early, well before the set up day.

The decorating crew had to have the tables directly under the chandeliers/skylights this year for safety reasons. The waitstaff and the kitchen crew had VERY specific needs for traffic flow and staff seating.

*(Chandelier space allowances)*

The budget was 200.00 but the entire team donated many supplies from their homes.

#### Ideas for future Spaghetti supper:

gelato stand – unfortunately this year we could not secure the ice cream donation from Kimballs or Bedford farms.

Live music for those waiting in line or a barbershop serenade group traveling through the dining room. Think outside box and think about new ideas to make it special - IT DOES NOT ALWAYS HAVE TO BE THE SAME EVERY YEAR!

Over all it was a successful Spaghetti Supper and a very organized group of committee chairs, and hard working parents.

# KITCHEN

