

Parents Guild Meeting – October 1, 2020
Google Meet

Amy Sneyers, Co-President

Welcome and Call to Order

Tony Maccarella, Head of Upper School

Mini-courses will take place after Thanksgiving and I'd like to request that parents volunteer to help. I'm asking now, because if you think you have time to help out (it's a 5 day event), please email me soon so we can begin the background check process that will allow you to work with our students on campus. Mini-courses are for students Gr 8-12 and the list of available courses will be provided to Upper School parents via email.

Anastasia Kelly, Head of Science Dept.

I'm here to update parents on the Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation (CIE) which began last year. We are working with teachers to find innovative ways to offer labs, bootcamps (20 US, MS and 20 LS enrolled). Look for more CIE Bootcamps in the Winter and Spring. Innovation Club began last week for MS and US. This year the children have decided to participate in Source America which designs devices for children with disabilities. We are continuing to meet with teachers regularly to bring STEM activities into the classroom. Please sign up for bootcamps! We are considering a nighttime bootcamp for US with an astronomy focus.

Geoff Bowman, Director of Admissions

Admissions keeps running throughout the year and we're welcoming families on campus. We've added four new students since the start of the school year, bringing our total to 324 students. Starting next year we'll offer a Pre-K program for 3 year olds. Two upcoming open houses are focusing on the early childhood recruitment. A MS and US open house will take place on October 10th which is limited availability and socially distanced. The Rebel Review NL went out this morning, please let me know if you're not receiving our communications. Surveys for new families will close next week. We are working with Ambassadors to get student profiles on our website and we'd like to also feature parent profiles. This is something that other schools highlight as well. We have some virtual events coming up with Chef Mark. Be on the lookout for some Fall cooking events by division, hosted on Zoom.

Chris Lebovits, Assistant Head of LS and MS

Parent teacher conferences will take place Oct 22nd and 23rd. Socially distanced outdoor movie night for the MS will take place October 31, movie TBD. Spirit week is next week, and you should have received a schedule of the events/themes. Excited to

announce Erica Cohen, our new Learning Specialist and Social Support for MS, and also Mindfulness and Study Skills. Part of our advisory program this year is to create monthly challenges. In October our theme is Teamwork. Erica is bringing her editing skills, inspiration, and soothing voice to meditations on these topics. She's doing 8th Grade Mind-Up classes each week.

Erica Cohen, Learning & Social Support Specialist

I pride myself on social and emotional well-being in the classroom. This year working in the MS during COVID, I think it's more important than ever to have the kids feel connected – not just with others, but with themselves. We need to encourage our kids to be kind to themselves, not just others. A lot of what we've been doing in September is building a mindfulness practice of just breathing and being. These are something that you can benefit from at any age, so I want to give you a little taste of what we're doing by guiding you in meditation this morning.

Guided Meditation

Kim Lawrie, Ladies Night In

I hope we're all very excited for this virtual event. The event will take place on Zoom, and we have a lot of fun things planned. The theme is "Sip, Shop, and Socialize". There is a modest admission of \$25 which gets you a swag bag with some gifts, raffles of up to 50 baskets, and all calling of winners will take place live online. We have a beautiful Louis Vuitton bag that will be raffled as well as other pocketbooks. We have a live wine pull. We're going to make a seasonal mocktail/cocktail. Chef Mark is going to walk us through making a charcuterie board. We'll have a fun segment on makeup and masks. There is also a comedian. We are still open to donations, if you have a business or have a friend that you would like to support SRDS by making a donation to a basket. Please invite your sisters, friends, mothers, etc.

Joni Pasenchuk, Co-President

We are planning on having a Lower-School Halloween Parade on Friday, October 30th. We're looking for volunteers to help Zuni to help setup, breakdown, and help the event. We'll send out a request via class parents. We are also still looking for someone to serve as the Recording Secretary. If you're interested, please get in touch!

Motion to Adjourn.

