

Thursday October 6, 2022
SRDS Parents Guild Meeting

The October Parents Guild meeting commenced with a welcome to all parents / guardians and the approval of the past meeting's minutes by Ms. Rosanna Young and Ms. Nassdja Anthony.

Division News

Mr. Tony Maccarella, Head of Upper School provided an update on the Student Spotlight and Internship Program for rising seniors. This program benefits the students as they have an opportunity to improve communications skills, prepare for college, in addition working in their field of interest. Goals of the internship include the all important "C skills": collaboration, creativity, critical thinking, communication and confidence building.

This meeting's Student Spotlight, Miss Aanika Patel successfully completed an internship at the Fair Lawn Chamber of Commerce this past summer. She provided insight on her positive experience and the confidence she obtained as a result of the internship. Aanika is looking forward to helping formalize the internship program and attractive to rising seniors.

Ms. Anastasia Kelly, Head of Middle School gave us insight on many of the "first" experiences that our middle school students will be able to participate in this school year. Some of the exciting developments and events:

- N-Block (sports/theme-oriented sessions, such as Mythology)
- M/S Social on 10/21 with a dinner and a magician
- Mini-Courses - Teachers will pitch ideas to students and a description of the ideas will be sent home to assist parents in guiding students towards selection
- M/S Happenings Newsletter- check it often for the latest news

Other notable points:

- This academic year's schedule allocates less time to study hall and parents should expect more homework time will be needed at home
- Boot Camp- Space Exploration on 10/15
- The portal is the central location for parents/guardians to check assignments, homework
- Interim comments for student progress will be available at the beginning of November

Mr. Anthony Gallo, Middle School Sports provided a comprehensive update on sports program which is gaining popularity. There are approximately 65 students participating with notably high energy levels across these activities.

Looking forward to winter sports which is scheduled to include: basketball, bowling (at Montvale Lanes), pickleball, fencing.

Registration will take place at the end of October and the winter session will begin the 1st week of December and run through February 21. Please remember your child will need a physical, so consider setting up the appointment if needed. Lastly, Mr. Gallo mentioned the Lower School program is being discussed/planned for Spring. Contact Mr. Gallo for further information related to registration/available sports.

Ms. Chris Lebovitz, Director of Student Experiences provided the following updates

- Lower School coffees are an important opportunity to meet class parents/guardians and learn about L/S events
- CIE Space for L/S - A space has been reconfigured, designed in collaboration with Meteor Education to create a multi-functional and innovative learning space. This project was funded in part from the successful 2022 Gala.

- Upcoming trips for L/S: HealthBarn
- Real kids wear pink! Breast cancer awareness
- Trunk or Treat on 10/31

Mr. Geoff Bowman, Director of Admissions noted that SRDS is in the middle of admission season with 2 more opportunities for new families to visit on 10/20 and 11/15. In addition, the shadow 3 classes for a glimpse of life at SRDS will take place.

Ms. Sarah Felitti-Powell, Event Chairperson provided an overview of this year's Ladies Night Out (LNO) event at Seasons in Washington Township, NJ which will have a Parisian theme for 2022. It's a wonderful time to meet and mingle with mothers/guardians and have the chance to win gorgeous baskets and special raffles with values of \$100-\$500. Important to note - we are collecting donations for baskets and sponsors. Please contact Sarah, Rosanna Young, Nassdja Anthony or Chrissie Signore for further information.

Ms. Rosanna Young, Co-President of the Parents Guild and Ms. Nassdja Anthony, Co-President of the Parents Guild updated us on the rescheduled Fall Festival for Friday, October 7th from 3-6pm with a BBQ, inflatables, pumpkin painting and a DJ. There will also be a REBEL Gear sale (cash and carry). Following the Fall Festival, the L/S and M/S will have a Movie Night at 6pm.

Alyson Sugar, Trunk or Treat Chairperson for L/S will be held on 10/31 at 2:30pm. We are anticipating approximately 30 cars and accepting candy donations (no nuts please) for the event.

The meeting closed with the motion to adjourn. Please mark your calendar for the next meeting on November 3, 2022 at 8:30am, Alford Hall – Performing Arts Center