

Parents Guild Meeting – April 1st, 2021

Zoom Meet

Amy Sneyers, Co-President & Joni Pasenchuk, Co-President

Welcome and Call to Order (Approval of March Meeting)

Jalaj Desai, Head of School

Recommendations/updates/requests. Especially important to follow these protocols so that school can remain open thru the end of the school year which is 10 more weeks left of school. We would like to end the year strong. Important thing of testing for Covid-19, please do not test at any random time due to so many inconsistencies of test results. Here are the 3 requests/recommendations:

1. If you need to test, please reach out to Nurse Ann Hanna and she will guide you as to what steps to take. We are no longer using Sovereign only for the tests. You may choose to use anyone you choose that is appropriate for the test.
2. If your student is asymptomatic and needs to get tested for example if flying please be sure it is on Monday morning and keep student and siblings at home until you get your PCR negative results
3. Until you get results please have student and siblings stay home as this can potentially have exposure on campus.

If traveling out of state for more than 24 hours, it is a requirement of the state to stay home and quarantine for 10 days without testing and 7 with negative test. Quarantine means do not mean DO NOT meet any other SRDS students. I request to please stay home during quarantine.

For any questions, please contact Nurse Hanna at any time.

On a positive note, SRDS participated in the Math Con this year. 843 schools across the nation have participated in the contest for grades 4 – 12th. I am happy to report that 10 SRDS are finalists and will be moving on May 1st a virtual contest. We are incredibly happy with our SRDS students. This is our first time participating.

Upcoming Events:

- Annual Gala on April 24th
- We are hosting Junior & Senior Prom on May 20th (Pier 115 indoor /outdoor proms) prom entertainment event in case dancing cannot happen.
- Senior Graduation on May 18th.
- All School BBQ either the first or second week of June

Last, SRDS students are not required to present full Covid-19 Vaccination.

Tony Maccarella, Head of Upper School

Mini courses and upcoming summer courses

First, I want to Thank the Parents Guild for the very lovely gift while I was sick and quarantined. I cannot thank you enough. Great chicken soup, cinnamon cake it was excellent! So thank you!

I am so happy to say how successful the mini courses and spring break academy were over the break. For the Mini Courses I wanted to share a clip unfortunately I am in a car and cannot at this time. I did share with the kids on the Monday meeting. It was a nice way to kick off the spring break.

For the Spring Break Academy, we had Wood working, Videography, and the class that I was teaching Financial Literacy. All three of these classes were successful as well. Tried to expand the learning beyond the school year and these really helped.

Final thing is the summer academy are online currently hybrid classes open to SRDS and non SRDS students (remote) variety course and full credit courses which show on your transcripts and noncredit courses. We have a good list of courses we already have 11 kids signed up and I welcome you all to go over the page with your children to find something they can choose and really enjoy in July.

Also, for kids going into 8th grade are also welcomed to join the courses. Writing course, math, literature. Grades 8th – 12th.

Next Level Day Camp will continue this summer for grades Pre-K – 7th Grade. Info will be provided soon.

Dana Stern, Head of Lower and Middle School & Chris Lebovits, Assistant Head of Lower School and Middle School

Mini course 5-7th graders one day mini courses during earth day umbrella (farm in Mahwah) kickoff for the kids virtually with “anything earth day”, we are still working on the agenda. Then we are having teachers teach 5th, 6th, and 7th on a smaller scale to give them the opportunity to learn on anything that comes under that umbrella such as Gardening, composting, sustainability, etc. We are really excited about that and to see the ideas that the teachers have for the program.

If anyone has any ideas/recourses for this, please reach out to Chris Lebovits or Dana Stern. We are still trying to keep the kids in their pods. This is one of the reasons we are not including 4th grade this year to be able to keep the students safe in the pods.

Conferences are April 8th and 9th MS will be student led conferences. LS you should have received an email with your appointment.

MS student led conferences with advisor. Good opportunity to reflect on their learning and for next year goals.

Important events and dates:

We will also be having the **Reading Buddies** this month with the Middle and Lower School. For the LS it is the highlight on their whole month when they get to meet up with their MS buddy. This will most likely happen on Wednesday April 21st. Your child will probably mention to you and this will still be virtually.

For the **4th Grade Moving Up Ceremony** will send save a date June 9th 8:30

8th grade grad June 10 9:30 in the morning.

Spring concerts and art show info will be coming soon prek-12 be on the lookout for the info.

We are in the process of recruiting teachers for the Teacher Feature for the Vine & Basket site for the event. Please check out! Chris and I would like to share our teacher feature. We love animals so we are doing everything dogs (like dog biscuits, dog treat jars, paw balm) some of the teachers are doing lots of interesting things!

For new parents, Teacher Feature is where a teacher volunteers their time. So far, we have about 20 packages of the teachers who volunteered their time and they are amazing and the kids love them. There is a section on the event site. There is something for everyone. All will be previewed the week before.

Jalaj Desai, Head of School A quick update in the admissions process. Thank you to all the parents to help with all the admissions processes and communications. 285 kids are enrolled for 21-22 a really good number for SRDS. (New and returning parents) Really appreciate all those parents who helped with this process.

Amy Sneyers, Co-President

Our event Vine & Basket is right around the corner April 24th entertainment, comedian, music prepackaging beautiful snacks silent auction raffles and much, much more. It is only a 2-hour event and it will fly by quickly and we hope it will make fun memories which will last!

On behalf of planning committee thank you to all who have participated (donating items, signing up on the website, purchasing tickets, sponsorship) I love how generous our community is and how willing to help you all are. We appreciate a lot.

If you have not had a chance to purchase your tickets the site is srd21.givesmart.com on this site you can sponsor a teacher, you can buy family ad or a family listing. If you would like to purchase a family ad please do as quickly as possible as we have a deadline for our printing journal. If not, we can add to our digital journal.

As you know, the proceeds from this event go to the SRDS Covid 19 Response Fund which is the pool of resources that allow our children to learn safely all year during the pandemic and with your help it will continue to protect, educate, and enrich our children into 2022.

Over this past year we have witnessed many school closures and educational standards slipping across the world and that has really hit home how fortunate our Saddle River Day School children are. They have had the option to be in school almost the entire time and when they had to be home, they could rely on a cutting edge virtual experience to facilitate their amazing education. This situation was only possible through the extremely hard work and the huge amount of resources that the administration, faculty and staff dedicated to it. And by participating in the Vine and Basket you will help to continue these efforts into next year. We hope to see you there. Being a part of Vine and Basket is just a wonderful way for us to have fun together, to help our children to stay safe and thrive and to show our appreciation for SRDS.

Lori Savas, 50/50 Raffle Chairperson

Just a reminder that one of the items you can purchase for the Vine & Basket event is the **50/50 Raffle Tickets**. You should have received information in the mail. This is a great opportunity to give a \$50 contribution to the school but then have a chance to win 10k., how easy is that! Everything is online

now. You do not get a physical ticket other than the one that you got in the mail. You can purchase your tickets as of now. They are great gifts for friends and families. Being online is so easy to do.

Kathy Slomin, PG Co-Vice President

If you have any corks that would like to get rid of or empty wine bottles. Please send to SRDS for vine & Basket as they will be used for the décor of the event.

Gretchen Lee

Quick note as this year is a little bit different with the dates as some of you have noticed in terms of what is on the calendar because of crowd limitations and some of the Covid protocol it's a little bit of a moving target so I apologize first of all if we have missed anything. I know we conferences which were originally scheduled on the Significant Dates Calendar which mind you was scheduled a long time ago had moved to April 9th. We are doing the best we can and will continue to update as much as possible. I know Dana just mentioned the 4th Grade moving up and the 8th Grade Graduation I am going to the calendar literally after the meeting to update the calendar. Please be patient and please pay attention to the date changes as they are happening this year beyond our control, but we are doing our best we can to manage them. Please pass along to the rest of the community.

Jalaj Desai

AP exams you will receive an email shortly if you have not received yet.
Summer camp registrations are on the flyer, Gretchen will send info shortly.

Joni Pasenchuk, Co-President

Draw your attention to some important dates noted on the agenda. Of course, tomorrow is a day off. Conferences are next week as well as the Spring Concert and our Vine and Basket event. If you are celebrating a holiday, Happy Holidays.

Next Meeting Thursday, May 6th