

Parents Guild Meeting – February 4, 2021

Zoom Meet

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

Welcome and Call to Order (Approval of January Meeting)

Jalaj Desai, Head of School

Quick update on Testing for the next 6-8 weeks. Four things to keep in mind:

- If your child feels sick he/she must stay home for 1-2 days.
- PCR Test for asymptomatic person for whatever reason please try to have it done on a Monday for a minimal disruption of school time.
- If anyone has done a PCR test for any reason, you must stay home until the school gets the results.
- If any family wishes to get tested, you can contact Sovereign Laboratories directly . They are located in Fair Lawn, NJ and you can choose to have them send the results directly to SRDS. Results are sent within 24 hours.

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

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

Snow date Contest results by this weekend.

Laura Hollis, Director of Technology

Innovation, problem-solving and design thinking in Covid times at school and at home

Update:

Pre-k through 1st Grade:

- A tech box with iPad was provided to all students which provides programs such as Osmo with all types of hands on tools and different manipulatives and gives the school immediate feedback. These tools help the students be independent. They also have Art and Intro to Coding among others.

2nd Grade:

- Chromebooks were provided to each student where they have Animal Studies, programs which help in writing.

3rd Grade:

- Students work with Book Creator an application which helps the students create and design Ebooks with texts, images, audio and video and E-publish them.

4th Grade:

- Working on a long term project in creative writing. Students are creating a story of a fictional family of 4 and they design floor plans, a smart house, 3D images, hobbies for the characters, interior design.

5th Grade:

- Students are working on Video Book Talks

6th Grade:

- Students are working on Digital Literacy Projects such as STEAM Expo

Upper School

- TED Talks
- May events happening In person/Virtual
 - Some topics are:
 - Gaming
 - Sharing ideas for home without technology
 - Virtual cooking classes
 - Maker Classes
 - Art
 - Ephoto books
 - Family history
 - Writing books
 - Journal

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

Friday, February 5th SRDS is re-introducing an Old School Style of Tubing with 8th Grade. We will continue to try the same with Lower School next week if possible. A notification will be sent if so.

All coffees have gone great so far and the spelling bee as well. Krishan did great! Should any parent not be able to join a coffee please reach out to Dana Stern.

Tony Maccarella, Head of Upper School

Lots going on in Upper School.

Gateway Diploma Program at SRDS for Upper School starts this year for Freshman and Sophomores. Joe McMenamin is the coordinator. The Diploma Tracks are:

- **Arts Diploma**
- **Humanities and International Engagement Diploma**
- **Innovation and Entrepreneurship Diploma**

Tuesday, February 9th Mr. Maccarella is meeting with Freshman and Sophomore parents to explain the program as there is so much involved.

February 20th 8th Grade has a **Fundraiser - Hoops for Cancer** for all grades Pre-K – 12th Grade designed by the students to raise funds for the American Cancer Society. \$2 registration fee and registration page is going up today. Email notification will go out to everyone.

February 23rd is ***Sophomore College Info Night***, a virtual meeting specifically for Sophomores. ***Mini Courses*** are happening the first week in March (Tuesday – Friday) before Spring break for grades 8-12. All mini-courses can be done remotely, just in case.

You can find info on SRDS **Spring Break Academy Courses** on the school website. Non SRDS students can register but only remote for grades 7th – 12th. Registration is now open.

There will also be **Summer Academy Courses** offered in a hybrid format. More information to come.

Mr. Maccarella will send a reminder for the ***Upper School coffees***.

Joni Pasenchuk, Co-President

Love and Kindness Week & Faculty Hearts Cart

Love & Kindness Week featuring a Virtual Appreciation Station, Heart Notes, Kindness Confetti and a school wide Red Out & Pizza Party on Friday, February 12th

Heart Carts: In appreciation for teachers and staff. Idea was brought by a member of our SRDS Community. We will have one Heart Cart positioned in the Lower School, Middle School and Upper School for a total of three carts. Every week up to three families will sponsor a cart in one of the schools. The sponsor family/ families will provide nut-free treats and /or trinkets for their cart. Each cart has three tiers. This will go on throughout the year. A wonderful way to say THANK YOU for our wonderful staff.

Chrissie Signore, Director of Alumni and Special Events

SRDS is doing a Community Service Project called “From the Heart of Saddle River Day School.” Students were encouraged to donate an art project for Brighton Gardens Assisted Living Home located in Saddle River. This project will unite all 3 divisions to work together to bring their artwork to the residents plus staff at the facility. The Parents Guild will package the artwork and include cards and bring everything to Brighton Gardens next week.

Amy Sneyers, Co-President

Save the Date, April 24th for Gala 2021, “Vine & Basket” a hybrid event from the SRDS Courtyard or the comfort of your home. We will have a Silent Auction, 50/50 raffle and proceeds will go toward the SRDS Covid Relief (correction: Response) Fund for next year. It will be a lot of fun and go toward a great cause! Participation is crucial and the planning committee could use some help. Volunteer opportunities are:

- Donate Gift Card(s) or item(s) for baskets
- Advertisement or Sponsorship opportunities
- Raffle 50/50 chairperson needed
- Computer savvy person needed to help produce the Ad journal
- Post Event tasks such as distributing prizes in person or delivery

Motion to Adjourn – Next Meeting Thursday, March 4, 2021

