

Parents Guild Meeting – October 7, 2021

Rosanna Young, PG President

-Welcome and Call to Order (Approval of September Minutes and seconded)

Karen Ferretti, Director of College Counseling

-everyone should have received an email about our upcoming virtual zoom meeting with author Becky Munsterer Sabky who wrote the book, *Valedictorians at the Gate*.

-Becky formerly worked in Saint Lawrence admissions department and then spent the past 13 years at the Dartmouth admissions office

-talk will be from 7:30-8:30pm. Becky has fun stories, advice, etc; do not have to have read book; all parents welcome

- If you are parents of juniors, this is Junior College Night, after the author talk I will talk to juniors and parents of juniors about the college application process.

-book is available on Amazon so you can use SRDS Amazon Smile to purchase

-October 25, 7pm I will hold meeting via zoom to talk about the book. All parents invited. Please contact me with questions.

Laura Hollis - Director of Technology

-for the first time I'm building a Lower School Ideas Lab google website; kids will write, place videos, etc. on the website; documentation that shows what we are doing each week will be available; parents can log in; preK-4th Grade.

-Middle School is going strong with projects

-The Upper School has a lot of integration projects.

-Video production class worked on documentary about covid; produced and edited the video project and partnered with a school in Sierra Leon; those students submitted video clips

- now SRDS students are working on part 2 to documentary; The SRDS students documented how it felt to be a teenager during a pandemic, what it was like for them to be in lock down, etc. They are incorporating videos from students in Sierra Leon who are the same age and highlighted similarities and differences between the experiences.

-The video club is covering sports teams, theatre groups and making their own movies

among other projects.

-The TED Club is going strong. We have many members this year and are meeting on Fridays at lunchtime.

-we will have a drone at homecoming

Tony Maccarella, Head of Upper School

-always exciting in Upper School

-We are offering 36 clubs; 2/3 kids signed up already; need all students to sign up; Clubs should start on Tuesday next week; fantastic topics - chess club, several gaming type clubs, great academic ones: model UN, FBLA, drone club (this one will be after school b/c it is small and we hope it will grow and we hope to purchase another drone).

-this week is Spirit Week - junior class is "killing it"- Monday was Movie Monday, yesterday was Wacky Wednesday so kids were wearing all kinds of wacky stuff; I was out here grilling for Tailgate Tuesday; today students dressed in grade colors trying to show grade spirit

-energy on campus is phenomenal and everyone is pretty much here this year - love walking through halls and seeing the Upper School energy

-tomorrow is Rebel Friday, whole school will be dressed in blue and white; will end classes early to have a field day and color run

-yesterday we held award ceremony and it was Wacky Wednesday so we looked great during the ceremony!

-I will introduce an Upper School teacher, Jen Maylath, who is organizing a parent bookclub and there is still time to sign up; this book is great- I will be there to talk about it as well

Jen Maylath, English Department Chairperson, Upper School

-I really wanted to start a parent bookclub at the school because I love to read and discuss what we've read; also as parent of teens I know the importance of carving out a little time for yourself and it will be really nice to read a new book each month and then get together have some cheese and wine and discuss.

-with help from the Parents Guild getting out the information, we were able to put this together

-October 27, 7pm we will be meeting in the commons in North Hall to discuss *The Plot* - is a page turner, well written, has a great twist and will give us a lot to talk about. Information was sent out via email and is posted on the portal.

- will send out sign up list if you want to bring something
- encourage you to take some time for yourselves each night to read something for you and also to come here to talk about the book and your own interest and thoughts
- please come and join us on Oct 27 at 7pm; here we will announce book for the following month; if you can't be there this month, this will be an ongoing all year

Lynn McCormack, Director of Development

- the Annual Fund has a new name - it's now called the SRDS Fund
 - makes sense because it impacts every aspect of SRDS education and relies on the support of everyone in the SRDS community
- the SRDS fund bridges the gap in what we receive in terms of tuition and what it costs to educate your child; really makes the difference between a good education and an outstanding one
- we ask everyone to support it; current parents, past parents, alumni, etc. Our Board of Trustees and faculty and staff participate at 100% level. We are hoping our families participate at 100% level too.
- can make a gift in numerous ways; online by credit card, make a pledge and pay it off over the course of the year, gifts of stock are becoming popular (you don't have to pay capital gains taxes on); I'll be at homecoming if you would like to talk about ways to give.
- we are going to have our first SRDS fund mailings going out in November; Fall Day of Giving will be on Nov 30; we hope for your support- thank you!

Niles Patel, Associate Director of Network Infrastructure and Student Council Advisor

- Student Council is selling gear at homecoming; we have outerwear jackets, windbreakers, sweatshirts, sweatpants, tee shirts, etc. (This is for Student Council which is different from the online gear which is Danny Brown's department.)
- checks and cash accepted- all at homecoming on Saturday; come early it goes quick

Rosanna Young, PG President: October / November Events

- Homecoming on Saturday; great Fall Festival for everyone to get together; will be a bbq, inflatables, rock climbing wall, varsity games, etc.

-Lower School and MS Pajama Movie Night - Friday, October 15, 6-8 pm; *Adams Family 2*; snacks will be provided; for LS parent needs to be there; MS can be drop off

-pumpkin decorating contest: details will go out in email soon; will have pumpkin painting at homecoming so that is a great time to do this; children can paint, carve, decorate pumpkins however they want and then email a picture of it to me; PG Board will choose finalists and post them on Instagram and Facebook and community can vote for winners

-we will also have a candy donate-back initiative so any candy that you do not want you can bring here and we will be donating it to Soldiers' Angels; a local restaurant does a huge candy collection for this cause so we will partner with them and they will arrange to have it shipped out overseas to our troops

Sonali Kapoor, Trunk or Treat Chairperson

- we need parent volunteers to make this a big hit for the LS kids; they are so excited; if you have any questions reach out to me; we will send out a sign up form; this is very important event for the LS; Seniors can decorate cars (4-5).

Sarah Felitti-Powell, Ladies Night Out Chairperson

-While we know that this is a fabulous event for the ladies in our community, we would be remiss if we did not say that the health and safety of our community is priority number one. So please know that we are working on putting protocols in place to make sure that this school event will be safe for parents, teachers and administrators and ultimately our children. More on that protocol will go out next week. Please remember that anything can change day to day.

-each of you should have received a communication from your class parent about this event; it's on November 4 at Season's Catering in Washington Township from 7-11pm.

-two special raffles: one is a Tiffany necklace and the other is a Hermes bracelet

-we are looking for you to register, also to donate whether it is an individual item that we can put together with a basket, or you could donate a whole basket or simply donate money and we can do the shopping for you; also need wine donations (valued at \$20 or more).

-all donations can be dropped off at the guard house; please label "Ladies Night Out 2021" and write to my attention or to Chrissie's attention

-Also, aside from Ladies Night Out, Rebel pjs are for sale - \$35, all sizes back in stock; please go online to order and we will send home with your child

Jalaj Desai, Head of School

-Diwali Celebrations are back; October 19; pre-K-12th graders will be spread out in the big gym; student leaders from Upper School will teach younger kids how to dance, there will be presentations, etc and it will be a very fun event.

-October 21-22: Parent Teacher Conferences will be on campus in North Hall; more information will be sent out; there will be different stations for teachers; won't be fixed appointment times but rather time slots where you can visit with your child's teachers. There will be four different three hour sessions over a 2 day period; will have an evening session open to all.

Judy Han, Amazon Smile Chairperson

-This is the last week to sign up for the raffle; if you sign up for Smile, tell me and I will enter you in the raffle; if you don't know what it is, or need help signing up, call or email me.

Rosanna Young, PG President

-Volunteer of the Month: Sarah Felitti-Powell! We would like to honor Sarah- clearly she has taken on so much; mentor to me, pj sales, Ladies Night Out, etc.

Jalaj Desai, Head of School

- we are raffling SRDS hats and 1/4 zips for people who are here. You win if your middle name starts with letter M, if you live on a street beginning with M, if you were born on February 29 - thank you!

Rosanna Young, PG President

- motion to adjourn