



THE VILLAGE SCHOOL

Parent Association Meeting Minutes September 16th 2022

Welcome

- Welcome from PA Co-presidents A. Hunt-Davies and V. Lisung. Let's support the school and make this an amazing year for the kids!
- Welcome from School Director Laura Dykstra. "The energy this year has been contagious!" Laura is officially a parent at VS - her daughter is in the toddler program. The VS mission is PARTNERSHIP - teachers, parents, students work together to foster a lifelong love of learning.

Introduction of Chairs

- **Parent Association presidents** - Valeria Lisung & Adrian Hunt-Davies
- **Secretary** - Media and Communications - Sarah Astourian
- **School Archivist** - Crissy Dailey
- **Book Fair** - Cindy Lee & Leslie Sanchez
- **Spring Gala/Auction** - Cindy Lee (Need a Co-Chair)
- **Spirit Store** - Yoogin Noh (Need a Co-Chair)
- **PA Teacher Appreciation Lunch, Fall & Spring** - Kim Cristo
- **Family Events Chair (e.g Pumpkin Picking Event, Humdingers)** - Crissy Dailey & Georgia Killilea
- **International Day** - Amy Dalal
- **Host Families** - Kara Morrow and Yoogin Noh
- **Parent Night Out Event** - Ansatasia Pozzessere & Amy Dalal
- **Parent Information Exchange (PIE)** - Kasia Kolodziej & Kara Morrow
- **Primary Greeter & Dismissal** - Adrian Hunt-Davies
- **Room Parent Coordinators** - Crissy Dailey & Georgia Killilea
- **Host Family** - Kara Morrow and Yoogin Noh
- **Harvest Fest** - Ginine Cilenti
- **Community Service** - Marla Gozman & Rebecca Cohen

Upcoming Events

- **Book Fair:** 9/19 - 9/24 - please see Wednesday Weekly and/or VS calendar for opening and closing times. Still looking for volunteers! Upper Elementary and MS will have access to e-wallet to make purchases, please see QR code on Book Fair flyer or check link on Wednesday Weekly

- **Back to School Night/New Parent Cocktails:** 9/21 - please see Wednesday Weekly and/or VS calendar for details. Parent-only event
- **MS Car Wash:** 9/24, fundraiser for class trip to Boston
- **Pumpkin Picking:** Currently in the calendar as 10/1 but will probably change to a weekday (instead of Saturday); Secor Farms
- **Toy/Book Drive:** 10/3 - 10-/14; books, puzzles, gently used toys, work tables, art supplies, stuffed animals, etc.
- **Healthy Lunch:** 10/3, 4 week trial run on Mondays and Tuesdays with Threefold Cafe (already provides lunch for the Waldorf School and Nature Place Day Camp. Parents will be able to order days/weeks in advance or as late as 9 AM on the day of delivery. Volunteers needed to transport food to school by 11 AM. If the trial goes well, we will use bento boxes that will need to be returned.
- **PA Meeting:** 10/7, 9 AM
- **Parents' Night Out:** 10/14, location TBD
- **Teacher Appreciation:** 11/9 - will need volunteers, Latin American theme
- **Gala:** 3/31, seeking location suggestions (for approx. 200 people), volunteers, CO-CHAIR
- **International Day:** 4/28 but preparations start in December. Virtual museum will be hybrid this year. Seeking volunteers.

Event Updates

- The Welcome BBQ - "tremendous, brilliant!" Great turn out, we ran out of burgers! Thanks to everyone who participated.

Community Engagement

- Rebecca Cohen is our Community Engagement leader and PA liaison.
- Enrichment: if you did not get a spot in the class you wanted, please email Rebecca so she can assess interest and the possibility of adding more classes for this and future sessions
- Suggestions for future classes include: Robotics, STEM, debate, writing workshop, entrepreneur program, car building, drama, math olympiad, ski club at Camp Gaw (would need parent involvement)
- Primary yoga is coming to VS on 9/29
- AM yoga is being considered but will need to fit into the teachers' schedules
- Private music lessons: sign-up email out on 9/17; some teachers/instruments will be available during school hours - if the time slot you are seeking is not available, please email Rebecca (rcohen@thevillageschool.net)

Support Needed

- Spring Gala Chair - Co Chair
- Spirit Store Chair - Co Chair
- Primary greeters - 8:50 AM, walk children from cars to the main entrance, time commitment is 10-15 min, as many days (or as few) per week as you like. Contact Adrian at adrian.hunt Davies@gmail.com The car line will only work with Parent Support!
- Blue room needs 1 more room parent

Parking Lot & Drop-Off/Pick-Up

- The parking lot is very busy - please be mindful and drive slowly
- Primary students dismiss at 3; discussion of separate primary car line is ongoing
- If your child is in LE, UE, MS: please do not use the car line before 3:10. If you arrive before 3:10, please park (enter parking lot on Hopper Ave).
- Greeters are no longer available to older students, only primary; you do not need to wait for someone to come to the door
- LE, UE, MS drop-off: 8:25-8:35
- Primary drop-off: 8:55-9:05
- Toddler drop-off: 9:00
- If you have an older student and primary student, your primary student can enter the building with their older sibling. Older siblings will accompany primary students to their classroom.

Following the Village School Online

- Facebook & Instagram - parents FB group, post any questions as there are lots of experienced parents to answer them
- Web Page and Calendar - sync to your own calendar (please choose the calendar that says VS closings and events; the language on the website will change to reflect this as at the time of this meeting the language on website was incorrect)
- The Wednesday Weekly email is an excellent way to stay up-to-date with VS offerings and news

Other Updates

- Amazon Smile - way to donate to the school! does not work for books and/or subscribe and save
- Boxtops has an app! Another way to support the school
- Curious reader -book store in glen rock - will donate to VS a percentage of purchase
- Wednesday Walk starts 9/22nd: 3 miles, but it's in loops, so you can drop out after 1 or 2 miles. It takes about 45 mins and runs every week unless the weather is poor. Starts about 9:05, meet at the Waldwick pool parking lot, if you would like to walk in a different area, please suggest to adrian.
- Green room parents, 2 volunteered at the meeting!!! Yanyan & Wenjun
- Hispanic heritage month is this month! Parents are setting up display, if you are of hispanic heritage, please bring in items that represent your family; send in photos or items, can be sent digitally to angela/martha (spanish teachers) by Back To School night - parents from hispanic community are invited to come in and talk to the students - please get in touch with Valeria Lisung at vagaro@hotmail.com for more details
- Parent information exchange - 2 dates TBD in fall and spring; features panel of teachers for parents to ask about Montessori values, conflict resolution, why we don't give grades, how to get the kids out of the house without screaming, etc.

- Host families - Yoogin - the program pairs new families with experienced families. This year we had 45 new families and 26 volunteer families. We try to match up families with similarly aged children; program level playground play dates worked well this summer. Always looking for more host families!
- Will try to set up an audio call for parents who cannot attend meetings - have tried to do this in the past but got very low turnout. Maybe Google meet? Audio may be difficult. Open to trying new ideas so we can include as many parents as possible in the PA meetings. Maybe have a person to respond to chat questions on Google meet? We have tried evening meetings in the past but they were “kind of a dud.”
- Class lists - can be found in parent portal, family access module, students, search by class.
- There will be a database change this school year, software will be more user-friendly.

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to any member of the PA!