

W+H PARENTS ASSOCIATION

Meeting Minutes

Date | time Nov. 10, 2022 7:00pm | *Meeting called to order by* Kevin Kornecki

In Attendance

Approximately 50 participants between family and W+H staff in person and online

Minutes were approved from the Oct. Meeting. 1st by Ashley Brazoban and 2nd by Kevin Kornecki.

Updates from W+H Administration Team

Mike Romeo (Athletics Director) Middle and Upper School sports are in between the Fall and Winter Seasons at the moment. All Fall teams had a great season with all teams having a winning season which demonstrates improvement into the quality of the program. Volleyball in particular had a great season under new coach Raquel Belo. Mr. Romeo also shared the link to the Wardlaw Hartridge Rams online store -

<https://teamlocker.squadlocker.com/#/lockers/wardlaw-hartridge-athletic-online-shop-335180>.

He encouraged everyone to get their spirit wear and show they W+H pride. A parent asked Mr. Romeo about the possibility of getting a fencing program for W+H. Mr. Romeo shared that progress has actually been made on that front. They have received strong interest in fencing in Middle School and even some interest from Upper School. The school is partnering with AFFA in Garwood to bring a program on campus. There will be something started this year in either the winter or the spring. It may start as a club first before transitioning to a full sport offering as it gets fully developed to understand the needs from an expense and equipment perspective. MS held sports awards this week where the kids got all dressed up and were celebrated for their Fall sport achievements. They also showed the new athletics video at the MS ceremony and the kids gave it a standing ovation.

Gerard Gonnella (Director of Admission) shared that the admission information sessions held on Oct. 22nd was a huge success. The Admissions team is now working on follow-ups. If you know anyone who may be interested in attending W+H, please direct them to the school website to get information and watch the Vimeo videos. Gerard also shared some save the date items:

- Nov. 30th – Coffee & Conversation with Dr. Bowman to review Upper School offerings.
- Dec. 5th – Athletics Information Session with Mike Romeo for grades 7-10
- Dec. 15th – Annual gingerbread event in person this year
- Virtual Admissions events
 - o MS – Nov. 15th and Dec. 6th @ 7pm

- US – Nov. 16th @ 7pm
- LS – Dec. 8th @ 7pm

Mr. Gonnella also shared that the school was moving to a new Financial Assistance platform (Clarity) that should make the path the Financial Assistance easier.

Bill Jenkins (Development Office) shared some feedback regarding Fall fair and the 50th reunion events that took place that weekend as well. He said the alumni left impressed with their alma mater. The Ram Run last week was another successful community event and thanked the WHPA, class parents and Booster Club for their help. The prizes from Fall Fair will be announced next week. The Fall Appeal for the annual fund has been sent out. introduced himself as the liaison to so much that happens externally to the school from fundraising with parent, alumni, foundations and companies to the great partnership with the WHPA. Everything he does is to enhance the experiences of our students. The school is rooted in generosity starting with the land the school is built on which was a gift by the JP Stevens family. The school has a long history of tradition. If you are interested in learning more, please ask. Alumni from around the country will be attending Fall Fair this weekend including the Hartridge 50th reunion class. The annual Ram Run will be taking place on Friday, Nov. 4th. More information will be shared shortly.

Rudy Brandl (Director of Communications) shared some insight into all of the events we have held this year and the amazing weather we have had starting with Convocation in September. The performing arts season is upon us with the Upper School play last week, MS musical next week and the upcoming winter concerts for all divisions (US – Dec. 1st; MS – Dec. 8th; LS – Dec. 16th). Mrs. Byrne is also coordinating with the mayor of Edison as W+H was asked to perform at the Edison Winter Wonderland event. More information to come. Mr. Brandl is coordinating the young alumni panel for the January WHPA meeting. The recent grads come back and talk about how their W+H experiences have prepared them for college. It is also nice for parents to see the kind of graduates our school produces.

Rudy then did a review of the school publications. The WHEN is the WG Electronic Newsletter and come out every Thursday by 5pm. If you are not receiving it, please let hm know. This is your guide to the happenings at W+H over the last week and upcoming. The Oak and Ivy is sent 2x per year in Dec and the summer and includes major highlights from the school. There are also several student publications: The Beacon in the Upper School, The Typewriter in the Middle School and the Hyphen which represents the visual arts. Current and past publications can be found on the school website under school news.

The group then started a discussion regarding the many opportunities in terms of clubs and electives across the Middle School and Upper School. The Upper School has approximately 25 clubs this year. They change each year as they are student driven based on interest. A parent asked about cross divisional opportunities for clubs. Dr. Crafton shared the club she is advisor for is Reading Buddies that features kids in the US reading to kids in PK and JK on a weekly basis. She also shared the Freshmen are helping the MS kids this week with the STEM

Workshop. Increasing the amount of cross divisional opportunities post pandemic is definitely an opportunity.

The group also discussed the many leadership opportunities offered across the school from leading clubs and publications, student government as well as meetings in LS and MS. The foundation of leadership includes the signature public speaking programs and opportunities across all three divisions.

Treasury Report

Kerry O'Neill provided the treasury report update in the absence of Monalatha Sampathkumar. Fall Fair raised a little less than \$7k due in large part to sponsorships. The goal for Fall fair is to break even and cover expenses so having a profit is a great start to the year. The Monthly Meals program and the Ram Shop are both doing very well compared to budget.

Division WHPA Update

Lower School VP Ashley Brazoban provided the update. She thanked everyone for their help with the Halloween Parade as it was a fun day for the kids. All graded in the LS have been holding parent receptions too help parent get to know each other. Ashley also told parents to take a look at the extracurricular clubs that are offered in the LS. They change each trimester and are driven by student interest. The Holiday Craft Event is coming up on Dec 10th and will replace the Holiday Boutique. This is based on past parent feedback that the items being offered by the vendors in recent years have been poor quality and the kids would rather make something. The WHPA is partnering with Color Me Mine to host this event. You can register your kids by clicking on the link sent out from WHPA and picking the pieces your child would like to make. The children will then make the items and they will be delivered back to school before winter break in time for holiday gifting. This event is open to all three divisions.

Middle School parent, Kerry O'Neill, provided the update. She provided an update of the new MS House System in the middle school and how it has brought the whole division together working together. House Olympics were held today. It is also an opportunity for the kids to learn about the school's history. The MS Musical, Tuck Everlasting is coming up on Nov. 18th and 19th. The 18th is a student only performance for children in grades 1-12. The 19th is open to all families in all divisions.

Upper School VP, Shakti Jha, provided the updated. She shared information regarding the Peer Leadership event held earlier that evening for the Freshmen, their parents and their Senior peer leaders. There is an US parent social planned for Dec. 2nd in the Oakwood room. 11th & 12th grade classes are selling gift cards. You pay the face value of the card and the card is loaded with that value but the students get a percentage of cards sold as a fundraiser for their prom.

WHPA Winter Basket Raffle

Update provided by Kerry O'Neill

- Each grade has been assigned a theme for the Winter Basket Raffle.
- Each family is asked to donate an item towards that theme
- Items can be dropped off Nov. 14th – 22nd from 7:30-8:30am in front of the LS at the Fire Lane.
- Any items are welcome even if not related to the theme.
- Super Raffle items are needed as well – electronics, purses, tickets etc.
- Tickets for the raffle will go on sale Dec. 1st
- The LIVE drawing will be held Dec. 14th.

Calendar of Events

Update provided by Kevin Kornecki

WHPA Main Events Calendar

Nov. 14th – 22nd – Winter Basket Collection every morning from 7:30-8:30am

Nov. 21st – Holiday Pie Pickup

Dec. 1st – Family Meal Pickup

Dec. 10th – Holiday Craft Event

Dec. 14th – Winter Basket Raffle

Jan. 5th – WHPA Alumni Panel Session

Jan. 30th – Feb 3rd – Scholastic Book Fair

Feb. 3rd – International Family Fun Night

Feb. 3rd – 50/50 Super Raffle Drawing

Feb. 14th – LS Valentine's Day Dance

Mar. 2nd – Family Meal Pickup

Apr. 13th – Family Meal Pickup

Apr. 29th – Spring Gala @ Metuchen Country Club

May 1st – 5th – Teacher Appreciation Week

May 4th – Family Meal Pickup

May 17th – 20th – Scholastic Book Fair

May 20th – TENTATIVE: Food Truck & Vendor Event

June 1st – WHPA Thank You Luncheon

Calendar of all events through Winter Break

Nov. 14th – 22nd – Winter Basket Collection every morning from 7:30-8:30am

Nov. 15th – MS Winter Sports Begin

Nov. 16th – Last Day to Order Holiday Pies

Nov. 17th – LS Coffee & Conversation @ 8am

Nov. 17th – Booster Club Meeting @ 7pm

Nov. 18th – MS Musical Student Only Performance @ 3:30pm

Nov. 19th – MS Musical Open Performances @ 12pm & 4pm

Nov. 21st – US Winter Sports Begin

Nov. 21st – Holiday Pie Pickup

Nov. 22nd – LS Friendsgiving Event

Nov 23rd – 25th – Thanksgiving Break

Dec. 1st – WHPA General Meeting @ 8:30am

Dec. 1st – US Winter Concert @ 7:30pm

Dec. 8th – MS Winter Concert @ 7pm

Dec. 9th - School Closed for Parent Conferences

Dec. 10th – Holiday Craft Event @ 10am – 1pm: Register @ <https://color-me-mine-edison.myshopify.com/collections/wardlaw-hartridge-holiday-event>

Dec. 14th – Winter Basket Raffle @ 7pm

Dec. 15th – Gingerbread Event @ 5-7pm

Dec. 15th – Booster Club Meeting @ 7pm

Dec. 16th – LS Winter Concert @ 11am

Dec. 16th – Noon Dismissal All Divisions

Dec. 17th – Jan. 2nd – Winter Break

Jan. 5th – WHPA General Meeting & Young Alumni Panel @ 8am

Next Meeting

Dec. 1st @ 8:30am

Meeting was adjourned at 8pm and handed over to Dr. Corinna Crafton for a special presentation.