

W+H PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

Meeting Minutes

Date | time Dec. 1, 2022 8:30am | *Meeting called to order by* Abby Price

In Attendance

Approximately 30 participants between family and W+H staff in person and online

Minutes were approved from the Nov. Meeting. 1st by Shakti Jha and 2nd by Youlin Tsai.

Updates from W+H Administration Team

Bob Bowman (Upper School Division Head) Upper School concert is taking place Dec. 1st (tonight) in the Performing Arts Center at 7:30pm with a reception sponsored by the WHPA to follow the performances. Seven student representatives from the Upper School are attending the People of Color and Student Leadership Conferences in person in San Antonio along with some faculty members. This event is attended by thousands of participants and it is meaningful that W+H was invited to attend. It is the much anticipated College Acceptance time in the Upper School. It is nice to see kids rooting each other on. This is the initial round of acceptances with more to come as the year progresses.

Jennifer Rose (Middle School Division Head) shared that there are several events happening right now to introduce 8th graders to Upper School and 5th Graders to Middle School. 8th graders got to attend classes as Upper Schooler before Thanksgiving break while the Freshman were on their Peer Leadership trip and 5th graders in turn spend time attending Middle School. This is a good opportunity to expose them to what to expect next year as they shift divisions. The Middle School Winter concert will take place on December 8th with parent Conference the following day on December 9th. The Middle School will also hold its annual Teacher for a day event on December 16th where MS students can sign up to teach their fellow classmates something for one class period. Some additional exciting news is that there will be a parent speaker from the United Nations visiting the kids on Dec. 15th. The House system in the MS continues to flourish. Houses are in the process of picking new captains. In addition, students will be starting their Trimester 2 electives.

JohnEric Advento (Lower School Division Head) shared that he has kicked off the 12 days before the break where faculty will dress in themes. The Living Museum celebrating Cultural Heritage will be happening in the 2nd grade. Friendsgiving was attended by over 300 students and families with 98% of the LS represented. Dec. 9th will be Parent Conferences and the LS Winter Concert will take place the morning of Dec. 16th.

Dr. Corinna Crafton (Acting Head of School) will be hosting 8th grade families for a meet and greet of faculty and student leaders prior to the concert on Dec. 8th in the Oakwood Room. DEIB committee is moving on with their 2nd of 10 focus groups. This one is on alumni engagement and investment.

Bill Jenkins (Development Office) shared that the alumni panel will be held on Jan. 5th where families and students can hear from recent alumni regarding how W+H prepared them for college. There will be an alumni basketball event on Jan. 6th followed by the Booster Club Winter Games.

Rudy Brandl (Director of Communications) applauded the Upper School and Middle School students for their recent performances in the US Play Clue on Stage and the MS Musical – Tuck Everlasting. The annual gingerbread house event will be held on Dec. 15th which is the same night as the next Booster club meeting. Upper School students have been asked to kick off the inaugural Edison Winter Wonderland event on Dec. 2nd. Students from the band and concert choirs will be performing at noon.

From a sports perspective, Rudy shared that 19 Fall athletes made the all GMC teams which is the best we have ever done. All teams had winning seasons and tennis team won their division while volleyball came in 2nd.

Gerard Gonnella (Director of Admissions) shared information on upcoming events:

- Gingerbread event – Dec. 15th
- Athletics Virtual Information Sessions -n Dec. 5th and Jan. 9th
- Middle School Virtual Information Session – Dec. 6th
- Early Childhood and Lower School Virtual Information Session – Dec. 8th
- Upper School Virtual Information Session – January 11th

Treasury Report

Nothing significant to report this month.

Division WHPA Update

Lower School VP Abby Price provided the update. Class parents have started planning for winter celebrations and the division VPs will be working with the LS head on plans for Valentines Day.

Middle School parent Kerry O'Neill provided the update for Samar Noor. Make sure the kids are wearing coats as they are going out for recess each day. 2 parents are coming in for career discussions. An email will go out to see about getting more involved. Field day will be held at the end of the year. Questions would be if parents want to be more involved with kids in house activities. A survey will be going out to gauge interest.

Upper School VP Shakti Jha shared that there would be an Upper School parent social in the Oakwood Room starting at 6:30pm on December 2nd.

WHPA Winter Basket Raffle

Update provided by Kerry O'Neill

- Each grade donated items and baskets were made based on theme.
- There are 44 baskets available to buy tickets for.
- Raffle Ticket sales start Dec. 1st and run through Dec. 12th
- The LIVE drawing will be held Dec. 14th.
- The link can be shared with families and friends. You do not have to be a current W+H family to participate.
- Prizes are worth over \$11,000.
- There are 3 tiers of prizes. Tier 1 ranges from \$100-\$199 and cost \$2 per ticket; Tier 2 ranges from \$200-\$399 and cost \$5 per ticket; Tier 3 ranges from \$400-\$750 and costs \$10 per ticket.

Calendar of Events

Dec. 9th – Parent Conferences for all divisions. School closed.

Family Dinners – Next set of meals available will be for March, April and May.

Holiday Craft Fair – Abby shared that the deadline is today, December 1st. This event is open to US and MS students as well so please make sure they are aware. This event replaces the Holiday Boutique held in previous years. It was changed based on parent feedback that the items from the boutique were cheap in nature and they would much rather have their kids make gifts.

Winter Raffle – Dec. 14th – All items have been collected. Site will go live for ticket sales on Dec. 1st and the drawing will be held on Dec. 14th.

IFFN – Feb. 3rd – A fun family event full of live performances from students representing the many different cultures in our school Food and crafts from varying cultures also available. Please think about what you would like to do. Shakti Jha is coordinating and she will be sending out a request for performances, food donations and crafts.

Book Fair 1 – Jan. 30th – Feb. 3rd – Scholastic Book Fair. More details regarding timing for classes to shop will come out in the new year.

Spring Gala – April 29, 2023 – This event will be held at the Metuchen Country Club. It is a fun night of dinner, dancing and live auctions. Details are being confirmed. Please save the date in the meantime. More details to come starting in January.

Next Meeting

Jan. 5th @ 8:30am with recent alumni panel for guest speakers.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:20am.