



THE VILLAGE SCHOOL

Parent Association Meeting Minutes September 15, 2023

Welcome

- Welcome to all new and returning families joining the school - Kristy and Marla
 - Great turnout! Both in-person and online had many participants and lots of new faces

Introduction of Chairs and Events

- **Parent Association Presidents** - Kristy Lawton & Marla Gozman
- **Secretary** - Sarah Astourian
 - Responsible for taking the minutes and collating information for the Wednesday Weekly. If there is something you would like included in the WW, please email Sarah at greenberg.se@gmail.com.
- **Host Families** - Leslie Sanchez
 - Every new VS family receives a host family to answer questions, provide insight and support.
- **Welcome BBQ** - Eunice Armstrong
 - This event took place on 9/10 and was well attended
- **Middle School Chairs** - Crissy Dailey & Amy Dalal
 - New position, created with the intention of planning activities for MS
- **Room Parent Coordinators** - Crissy Dailey & Cindy Lee
 - Responsible for disseminating coordinated information to Room Parents so they can pass it on to the parents in their classrooms.
- **Parent Events** - Anastasia Pozzessere & Valeria Lisung
 - Responsible for Welcome Coffees the first week of school (well attended) and Parent Night Out. Currently planning an event at SOMA on 10/13 from 8-11. \$10 contribution/person. Food, drinks, and maybe even a DJ!
- **Primary Greeter & Dismissal** - Diana Kaniuga
 - As a courtesy to parents, parent-volunteers walk Primary and Kindergarten students from the car line to the main doors in the morning and from the main doors to their cars at dismissal. It is always better for the child to leave the parent than for the parent to leave the child.
- **Book Fair** - Cindy Lee & Raheen Khan-Hardasani

- The set-up and planning for this event was in evidence at the meeting, as we were surrounded by books. This event runs from 9/18-9/22.
- **Fun Run** - Kristy Lawton
 - The VS First Annual Fun Run will take place on Friday, 10/13
- **Family Events Chair** - Alexis Carillo & Lara Donohue
 - Include such events as Pumpkin Picking on 10/9 and Humdingers on 1/26
- **Harvest Fest** - Raheen Khan-Hardasani, seeking co-char
 - Takes place on Saturday, 10/28. This event has been running for over 40 years and is your kids' chance to wear their Halloween costumes to school. Best for Toddler, Primary, Kindergarten.
- **Winter Fest** - Valeria Lisung & Raheen Khan-Hardasani
 - Lunar New Year theme, held on Saturday, 2/10. Best for Toddler, Primary, Kindergarten.
- **Virtual Alumni Panel Chairs** - Kara Morrow & Melissa Killiri Kim
 - Goal is to invite VS alumni back to answer questions and provide insight into how a Montessori education influences life after VS
- **PA Teacher Appreciation Lunch, Fall & Spring** - Kim Cristo
 - 11/8-11/9 and 3/6-3/7
- **Parent Information Exchange (PIE)** - Emily Gojman
 - The Primary Teacher Panel on 11/3 (following the PA meeting) gives parents a chance to ask questions of Primary teachers. Also responsible for a Carousel Cakes school fundraiser in November.
- **Spring Gala** - Cindy Lee, Becky Cohen, and Gina Kourtesis
 - The VS's biggest fundraiser of the year on 3/23 at Felina in Ridgewood. Raffle, live and silent auction.
- **International Day** - Raheen Khan-Hardasani & Amy Dalal
 - School-wide, all-day event on Friday, 5/3
- **Community Service** - Ginine Cilenti & Dania Sander
 - Responsible for multiple initiatives throughout the year. Community service/engagement is a large part of a Montessori education.
- **Creative Community Play Day** - Sarah Astourian
 - 5/11, building an adventure playground at VS based on The Yard in NYC.
- **Gardening/Green Team** - Yoogin Noh
 - Responsible for beautification of the grounds with student involvement on different days throughout the year.

Support Needed in the Following Areas:

- **Primary Greeter/Dismisser** - Morning Dismissal Coordinator & Helpers
 - 8:50 - 9:10 AM, 2:55- 3:10 PM; a great way to make friends and interact with students. You do not need to volunteer every day of the week, any help is appreciated; volunteer [here](#) and/or contact Diana with any questions at duddo31@yahoo.com

- Other volunteer opportunities are available [here](#).
 - Event chairs, please check the sign-up sheet periodically to assess need.

School Welcome and Update from Laura

- “I hope we have as great a turnout for every meeting this year! Our mission speaks to partnership, I am grateful to be in partnership with you.”
- Welcome to Nimali Matos, Toddler and Primary division head
- Parking lot safety - we have a very busy parking lot, please drive slowly and yield to pedestrians. Pedestrians, please use the crosswalk.
- **Car line** - please pull up to the Atrium, don't stop at the first crosswalk. Elementary car line starts at 3:10 - not before! If you arrive before this time, please park so you do not clog up the car line for Primary families.
- Jen Sanchez introduction
 - Open door policy, parents are always welcome. Launching Friday VS Adventures on social media platforms.

Upcoming Events

- Book Fair, 9/18 through 9/22. Breakfast and extended evening hours on Mon 9/18, popcorn giveaway Tuesday, balloon artist on Friday. Please see WW for a complete schedule.
 - Everyone can create an eWallet but only UE & MS students are allowed to use them without a parent during the school day. LE & Primary classes do a walk through and can write a wish list but cannot purchase without a guardian. The book fair is a fundraiser for the school; there is also an option to purchase books to donate to the library and classrooms. Teachers have their own wish lists, which will be displayed.
- Back to School Night, Wed 9/20. Please see WW for a complete schedule. All parents are encouraged to attend.
- UE Ice Cream Social, 9/22. Fundraiser for the UE field trip to Frost Valley, NY.
 - Sign up to donate toppings [here](#). QR code available at the entrance for donations, cash and cheques also accepted. A link will go out in the WW for those who want to donate but cannot attend the event. This event is appropriate for all program levels.
- Parent Night Out, 10/13. Soma in Walwick, 8-11. \$10/person for food, drinks, dancing.
- Sneaker drive, 9/22. Any size/condition accepted, shoes must have rubber soles.
- Wellness Week, 10/10 10/13. Kicks off with presentations by [Be Brain Bright](#) for parents and students of all levels. Please see the [PA calendar](#) for a full list of the week's events.
- Fun Run, 10/13. Fundraiser for new playground equipment.
 - Parents are invited to cheer on their kids in LE, UE, MS (not Primary/Toddler).
- Gala, 3/23. Fundraiser at Felina in Ridgewood. Seeking donations for this event including but not limited to stay at a vacation home, event tickets, airline miles, hotel points,

tangible items. We also have an ad journal, ads available for purchase. Please contact [Cindy Lee](#) with any questions/donations.

- MS Escape Room - Parents, please respond to the email so we can book the venue!
- Enrichment classes, music, and school lunch. Sign up on the [PA webpage](#).
 - Primary enrichment will be available in January

Budget

- Discussion including input on parent events - \$50/family for the school year, paid as part of tuition. The idea is that no parents should have to pay out of pocket for a PA event. Printed budgets available to peruse.
- Motion passed.

Other Business

- Weekly Walk - no longer the Wednesday Walk. If there is enough interest, Marla will "lead" the walk on Friday mornings. The walk is approximately 45 minutes.
- VS Alumni Babysitters - Please check the VS Facebook page for updates and/or contact Diana Kaniuga at duddo31@yahoo.com.
- We now have an online spirit store! All activities are represented. Wear your VS attire on our first Spirit Day, 10/13 (Fun Run).
- School Toolbox - 106 parents elected to use this system for the first time this school year, and those who did thought it was great.
- If you are purchasing books outside of the book fair, please check out the Curious Reader in Glen Rock. Our librarian has a great relationship with this local small business and they donate a portion of their proceeds to our school if you mention it when you purchase books. They also offer free gift wrapping!