

**SRDS Parents Guild Meeting -
Thursday October 5, 2023**

I. Welcome & Approval of September 2023 minutes - The October 2023 Parents Guild meeting commenced with a welcome to all parents / guardians from Ms. Rosanna Young and Ms. Nassdja Anthony and the approval of the past meeting's minutes.

II. Update from the Head of School, Mr. Jalaj Desai

- Mr. Desai welcomed all the parents and guardian and provided the following updates:
- SRDS will have several school trips, including France, Costa Rica, and Puerto Rico.
- In Lower School, we are beginning the math enrichment program.
- In Middle School, we are working with a math specialist, who will prepare children for the math competitions this school year.
- Upper School students will be excited for the new fitness center planned for early Spring 2024.
- The new smoothie machine is sure to be a hit with all students – with U/S daily access until 9:30am and after 2:30pm; M/S access is planned for 2x per week.
- The state of the school overview will be presented in November.

III. Division News:

Mr. Shai Zacaraev, Head of Upper School (U/S) provided the following updates:

- September has been a very busy beginning of the school year and there are approximately 36 clubs currently in progress.
- The Senior Sunrise was a success with about half of the U/S participation and a great way to begin the academic year. We are considering a Senior Sunset towards the end of the school year.
- The U/S assembly will be an important gathering, with a goal to build on planning skills, discuss school rules, communicating and planning for absences, and following up on missed work as needed.

Ms. Lebovitz, Director of Community Engagement, Assistant Director of Lower School Admissions provided the Lower School (LS) update in Ms. Stern's absence:

- Spirit week is coming – week of 10/9!
- We have received a wonderful donation of 100 pumpkins for the L/S children.
- Pink-out Pop Up Boutique in recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness 10/25.

Office of Community Engagement news from Ms. Lebovitz:

- Thank you to all volunteers – your efforts are amazing as you host and organize events for students and parents, making all of us part of the SRDS community.

- Events: Crafty Rebels & Pickel ball – are sold out! You will receive a confirmation email for each event.
- Rebel Readers book club – next book for the club is “Hello Beautiful”.
- November gratitude vision board is being planned.
- Socials are on the way – stay tuned.

Ms. Anastasia Kelly, Head of Middle School provided these updates for M/S:

- Remember to check the MS Happenings doc for the up to the minute information and updates.
- The Rebel “voice” students are in the process of assisting of the planning for SRDS Spirit week.
- Parent Teacher conferences: 10/19 – M/S half day of school; 10/20 no classes
- Fall Social for M/S, 10/27 at 4pm to 6pm will include fall related events and an illusionist will perform. Dinner will be also served.
 - At 6pm, those children who signed up and a permission has been received will attend a NJ Devils game. Pick up is at SRDS at 9:30pm.
- Advisory Program is in full swing with 7th and 8th grades, they are working on group collaboration and team building skills.
- Dress code is going very well – keep up the great work!
- New portal – Schoology information will be sent out week of 10/9 with instructions.

IV. Wellness at SRDS – Ms. Alicia Pooley, SRDS School Counselor

- Welcome to Ms. Pooley, SRDS School Counselor! Ms. Pooley encouraged the parents to engage with her early. She is meeting with the students in all grades with the goal of getting to know them during the school year.
- In all grades, she will help students with emotional learning, problem solving, conflict resolution and dealing with stress – an overall approach on well-being.

V. Admissions Update – Mr. Geoffrey Bowman, Director of Admissions thanked the parents for the continued support.

- Open house dates: 10/14, 10am – those visiting in the morning are welcomed to stay and enjoy the activities and 11/13, 6pm.
- Student shadow dates will be over the next few weeks for M/S & U/S, which is an opportunity for students considering joining the school to learn about a day at SRDS.

VI. Homecoming on Campus, Saturday October 14, 2023, from noon to 4pm. All Welcome! Chrissie Signore, Director of Alumni & Special Events

- Looking forward to the SRDS annual Homecoming on 10/14 at noon.
- We will have a swag sale, uniform swap (please leave uniform donations at the gate house) and volunteers are always welcomed.

VII. Lower School Truck or Treat & Movie Night – Alyson Sugar, Lower School Rep/Event Chairperson

- **L/S** Trunk or Treat and the parade (1:45pm) will take place on 10/31. Please consider donating **nut-free** treats and decorate your trunks.
- Planning a Movie night for L/S – timing to be confirmed soon and will be communicated.

VIII. Save the Date for Ladies Night Out – Wednesday, November 8th at The Tides Estate. LNO updates provided by Ms. Jackie Vasquez, PG Co-President / Event Chairperson and Sara Aufgang, Middle School Rep/Event Chairperson

- **Registration is active today!** The event is open to all in the SRDS community, family, and friends.
- A new location this year which will be The Tides Estate in North Haledon.
- A fun evening of gathering, shopping, and winning! There will be over 150 tricky tray baskets, 2 raffles and tables to shop in advance of the holiday season.
 - Calling all ladies for a trip to Wildflower Farm in Hudson Valley! Tickets will be on sale for an ultra-luxurious time to relax and a day away.
- Class parents have sent out emails for class donations for your class basket, and they will also help coordinate the class tables.
- Sponsorship at the \$1K level is still available – the sponsor will have event recognition, full page journal ad.
- Donations of gift cards, products, or make your own basket to donate.
- Consider sponsoring a teacher to attend the event, as it's a great time for getting together.
- Contact Jackie and Sara for further information or any questions.

IX. One Click, One Ask – Class Basket Donations and Upcoming SRDS Events, Ms. Rosanna Young and Ms. Nassdja Anthony

- This year we have streamlined the annual SRDS LNO and Gala donation to 'one-click-one ask' to make it easier for all parents/guardians.
- All donations are appreciated big and small alike. These events benefit the school, students, and staff with funding from the Parents Guild. The proceeds of our LNO providing funding for annual events, programs, and festivities.
- The annual SRDS Gala has been successful and has played a significant role in funding in part or fully: a state-of-the-Art Graphics Lab, Ideas Lab, The Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (outside grant received), the Lower School Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship which transformed an empty space to a thriving location for our L/S students and recent courtyard renovations.

X. Motion to Adjourn – Next meeting on November 2, 2023, 8:30am Alford Hall, PAC