

**SRDS Parents Guild Meeting -
Thursday November 2, 2023**

- I. Welcome & Approval of October 2023 minutes** - The November 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. Division News:

Ms. Dana Stern, Head of Lower School (L/S) provided the following updates:

- Thank you to all that volunteered and participated in the L/S 2023 Trunk or Treat. It was a wonderful turnout, and everyone had a great time.
- The Pink-out pop-up shop had a successful raise, and the proceeds will be presented to the Valley Health Breast Cancer Oncology unit. SRDS will present the check to Valley Health when they visit the school in November.
- The next event / charity will benefit the Mahwah Food Pantry with a Food drive.
- Exciting news! Pre-K won the "Decorate a Pumpkin" contest and selected a PJ & Popcorn Day to celebrate.
- Looking forward - stay tuned for the L/S student spotlight at the December PG meeting.
- Please remember please contact us if you need anything for your L/S student.

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

- Student council elections will take place today and there will be a pep rally led by the student council as well.
- Halloween was a success and fun for all!
- A continuing and important topic we are having is social media discussions and a checklist will be available to aid in those discussions.
- Successful seasons for tennis and soccer teams with league titles!
- Varsity jackets – measuring and ordering will take place.
- Signing day for seniors is scheduled for week of 11/6.
- U/S spotlight: Sahil & Devraj, seniors are involved in raising funds for an orphanage in India and visited them. They had an opportunity to spend time with them, in classes and learned about their interests, how they start their day and the challenges they face daily.

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.
- Thank you to all that helped support the Halloween candy donation; the students had a fun time with all of planning, door decorating and competition.

- The Fall Social for M/S was a hit with games and an amazing illusionist which mesmerized everyone. The NJ Devils game was also a hit, and the students enjoyed their time together.
- Mini courses for 7th and 8th grades will be discussed the week of 11/6; 6th grade mini courses will take place the 1st week of December.
- New N-Block selection is on the way and winter sports will include – bowling, basketball, fencing and hockey.
- The 8th grade lockers have arrived.
- M/S spotlight: Jack H. discussed the road to becoming a chess expert in a short amount of time (under 1 year). He wanted to challenge his progress and expertise, and as a result he is now rated at the 1200 level, which is a tremendous accomplishment! He will be playing in various upcoming tournaments.

III. Office of Community Engagement news from Ms. Lebovitz:

- Many activities for both students and parents:
 - CIE Bootcamp for 11/4 – bring mittens/gloves as the activity is winter focused.
 - Pre-K 3 & 4 Field Day planning is underway.
 - Rebel Readers book club on 12/7 – Hello Beautiful is December's book selection.
 - Crafty Rebels on 11/28 – Charcuterie Board class; 12/7 Resin workshop
 - Rebel Bowlers for parents and guardians on 11/7, Lucky Strike
 - 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.

IV. Admissions Update – Ms. Lebovitz on behalf of the Admissions Office:

- Open house activity:
 - Early childhood – pre-k 3, 4 will have an open house on 11/3.
 - Grades K-12 will have visitors on 11/13, 6pm.
- Student visit day is scheduled for 11/9; thank you to all student volunteers.

V. 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 continues and will close on 11/6.** The event is open to all in the SRDS community, family, and friends. Consider sponsoring a teacher to attend the event, as it's a great time for getting together.
- The new location this year is The Tides Estate in North Haledon.
- The buffet will have food for everyone's taste, as well as an open bar.
- A fun evening of gathering, shopping, and winning! There will be over 120 tricky tray baskets, 2 raffles and tables to shop in advance of the holiday season.
 - Bring labels to attach to your raffle tickets.
- Contact Jackie and Sara for further information or any questions.

VI. Pies for Prom, Chrissie Signore, Director of Alumni & Special Events

- Students will participate in the Pies for Prom event and proceeds help defray the cost of the event.
- Chef Mark leads this great tradition with his signature pies, you can order and pick up just in time for Thanksgiving.

VII. Holiday Market- Save the Date, Friday December 8th at SRDs. Judy Han and Cindy Mueller Giardina provided this update:

- This year we are holding the Holiday Shop for L/S & M/S students.
- In the spirit of the giving season, students have an opportunity to shop for gifts, targeting a maximum price of \$10.
- Each class will have their schedule time and have helpers as needed.
- More information to follow LNO – so stay tuned!
- For further information, contact Judy or Cindy.

VIII. Motion to Adjourn – Next meeting on December 7, 2023, 8:30am Alford Hall, PAC