



THE VILLAGE SCHOOL

Parent Association Meeting Minutes January 5, 2024

Welcome

- Happy New Year and welcome to all parents - Marla
 - In-person attendance: 16; virtual attendance: 6; Total: 22
- Update from Laura on 2024-25 enrollment process
 - Tuition schedule went out in December, 2%-4% increase depending on program level; kindergarten had the largest increase. Our goal is sustainable tuition; the last two years we had 7-8% jumps - we will not do that in future. Our full impact report will go out in February. Sibling discount remains, most other fees are included in tuition.
 - Re-enrollment is now open to current families, February 12th we open it up to the public.
 - There have been some challenges with securing observation times via Veracross - we are working to add spots and smooth out this process.

Event Updates

- Alumni Panel - Thank you to Laura, Kara, and Melissa
 - Well attended (approx. 40), "amazing" event. The panel was informative for parents who are deciding whether or not to stay, "very impactful." "The children are so prepared - academically, socially, emotionally." "We were all crying." Alumni panelists attend a variety of public, private, parochial schools.
 - For those who could not attend, there will be a link in the WW to the recording of the event
 - Would it be possible next year to get a tagline for each of the students? Should we bill this event as "deciding whether or not to stay at VS?"

Upcoming Events

- Gala - Early bird tickets sales end 1/5 - *Cindy, Gina, and Becky*
 - Raffle will take place that evening, you can buy more raffle tickets for either the tuition credit or the beach vacation, but those who purchased early bird tickets are automatically entered
- Community Service Initiatives Update - *Dania and Ginine*
 - Acts of Kindness - Jan. 8-12 during school day
 - All program levels will do different crafts that will be given to a local nursing home

- CFA Snack Packs - Grocery Store Collection Jan. 13 and 20; collection of donations at school from Jan. 8-26
 - Snacks for food insecure children to take home over the break. If you are not able to purchase items, please consider donating money. There will also be an opportunity for older students to solicit donations from local grocery stores. VS students will assemble snack packs before we go on break - we will be looking for parent volunteers - sign up sheets will go out soon.
- The Montessori Journey on Jan. 17 - *Emily*
 - Incredible opportunity to see what happens in the classroom. We have 28 RSVPs at the moment; each parent gets a “work plan” for 2 levels (they do not have to be the level your child is in). First lesson starts at 7 but there will be a little reception at 6:45. The PA is planning to provide dinner for the faculty/staff before the event.
 - Emily could use one more volunteer for this event as there are a lot of moving parts. Marla will discuss the budget with Emily. A flier will go home for this event.
- Blues Busters Event on Jan. 26 - *Lara and Alexis*
 - SkyZone in Allendale for LE-UE-MS. You will need to purchase your own ticket but please put your name on the RSVP list
- Parent Roundtables during Feb. 2nd PA meeting - *Marla*
 - 2-3 parent “hosts”/program level (we will also have an alumni parent) with whom attendees can converse. How can we get the word out about this?
 - Can we include “why stay at VS?” tagline and/or brief profiles of the hosts?
- Primary/Toddler Winter Fest on Feb. 10, from 10-12 a.m. - *Valeria, Raheen, and Wenjun*
 - Lunar New Year Theme - not a drop off event - crafts and activities
 - Diana offered to wrangle a few UE and MS kids to help out
- Spring Staff Appreciation Snacks & Luncheon on March 6 & 7 - *Kim*
 - Theme TBD, sign up sheet will go out next month
- International Day on May 3 - *Raheen and Amy*
 - South American folktales, African music, European dance, Australian games. There will be a sign up sheet for volunteers. You can go to the PA webpage to do this or wait until the sign up sheet goes out via the WW
- Community Adventure Playground update - *Sarah and Becky*
 - Some changes to this event from the last meeting - this will be worked into an UE event, please see below
- Upper Elementary Earth Fair on May 23 (TBC) - *Becky*
 - An “earth fair” fundraiser for the organization TEAM, which builds wells in Burkina Faso. Students will work with one of our parents who runs Tinkergarten. Students planning on making and selling self-watering planters - we are seeking about 100 plastic water/soda bottles to make these - any size will do.
- Parent Talent Show on May 11 - *Sarah*
 - Now it will open up to LE, UE, MS students as well as parents
 - QR code for donations, which will be earmarked for the music program

- There will be an “audition,” a dress rehearsal, and the show. Not a big time commitment!
- Please look for a sign up sheet going out via Room Parents and the WW

Other Updates

- School closed Monday, Jan. 15 for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- Parent Association for 2024-2025 - consider volunteer roles; signs up to come soon
- PA Drive housekeeping
 - Please save anything that you have worked on! It is helpful to those who will take over your role in future
- Friday PA walks - always posted on FB