

**SRDS Parents Guild Meeting -
Thursday January 11, 2024**

- I. **Welcome & Approval of December 7, 2023 minutes** - The January 11, 2024 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**

Upper School: Mr. Robert Kettlewell - Dean of Students grades 9 and 10

- **April – Career Day event.** We are seeking SRDS parent that can provide information on various careers, job experience/exposure for US students.

Ms. Jennifer Maylath - Dean of Students grades 11 and 12 provided the following updates:

- Upper School held their Winter Formal before the holiday break, and it was an amazing, fun time! DJ photobooths and dancing to the very last minute made it as time to remember!
- The Robotics team has been successful with 3 wins, and they are going strong for future events.
- **Rebel Readers** – Parents Book club, upcoming 1/17 and 2/15 – take a little time for yourself to read the **How to Build and Boat** and **I Have Some Questions for You**. Join the sessions and have some fun discussing these interesting books.

Ms. Dana Stern, Head of Lower School – provided updates for both LS and MS:

LS Updates - Check the LS photo gallery for pictures to LS events.

- The Seeing Eye Institute joined the LS to present the valuable role dogs play in the life of those who are blind.
 - Rebels for a Cause will hold a “Pennies for Pups” and raise funds to help the expenses in the training of dogs for the blind.
- Look ahead coffee meetings on target for 1/16 -23 to hear about the upcoming academic year’s curriculum.
- LS Spelling B will be held on 1/19 and 2/7
- **New!** For 3rd and 4th grades, Mrs. Rhoads will hold afterschool sessions to create science kits for children receiving care at Sloan Kettering, sign up by 1/31.

MS Updates – semester end 1/26 – let’s have a strong ending! Remember to check the **MS Happenings document for the latest updates!**

- Look ahead coffee meetings on target for 1/24 -26 to hear about the upcoming academic year’s curriculum.
- Notable events include -Gore mountain ski trip, MS Winter Dance 2/2 – volunteers are needed for set up and clean up; CIE Bootcamp on 1/27 from 10:30am to 12:30pm – theme is architecture and engineering.
- Other events – **Crafty Rebels** – lots of fun for parents / guardians. Upcoming session on **How to make a charcuterie board** (LS event); **Embroidery** – all divisions, bring a shirt or tote to embroider. In addition, Ms. Hess will hold a **Yoga session** on 1/21, 7pm.

III. Upper School Spotlight – Stay Mega, Misha T

- Misha, a SRDS US entrepreneur of the Stay Mega showcased his positive lifestyle clothing line and his journey into the clothing business. Mentored by the Hush Life boutique owner, Misha found a passion for clothing and began screen printing his logo brand, **Stay Mega**. Check out Misha at [STAY MEGA – StayMega \(staymegashop.com\)](https://staymegashop.com)!

IV. Middle School Spotlight – JL Blessing, Skylar B

- Skylar B, MS provided an overview of the volunteer work she dedicates her time to, called **JL Blessings**, a non-profit organization. Their mission is focused on providing backpacks with essentials (such as toiletries, socks, supplies and motivational notes. Skylar helps organize the backpack effort during November and December by collecting and packing for donations given to various sites in Newark and Paterson, NJ as well as in NYC. Typically, 500 or more backpacks are distributed during December. Well done Skylar!

V. Admissions Update from Mr. Geoff Bowman, Director of Admissions

- Today is our last student visit day for all 3 divisions starting in the morning through lunch.
- Admissions deadline is 1/22/24 and re-enrollment documents on 1/25.
- Pre-K through 8 contracts will be sent in January early February.
- New families will have the opportunity to connect with PG members.
- Thank you to the SRDS Parents Guild and all volunteers which work so hard to make all the admissions events a success.

VI. Lower School Snow Ball Dance, Ms. Alyson Sugar, LS Representative

- Get ready for the LS event of the season- the Snow Ball Dance on 2/1, 6pm. Volunteers needed – contact Alyson.

VII. Winter/Spring Sports at SRDS from Mr. Anthony Gallo, Assistant Athletic Director

- Boys & Girls basketball begins week of 1/15
- Fencing for MS will take place at the Arena Fencing Academy, Wednesday & Friday from 3:30pm-5pm. Those students who are interested will develop their skills and prepare to compete at the junior varsity/varsity level in Upper School.
- Baseball in the Spring – exciting news as SRDS will offer for the 1st time baseball for interested students. Additional US sports – boys' tennis and track.
- On the horizon from the P/E department – Dance Fusion for Upper School and a weight room space for students (8th grade and US)

VIII. State of the State of the School Address, Thursday 1/18, Woodcliff Lake Hilton at 7pm. RSVP today! saddleriverday.org/Address24. Please join!

IX. Gala 2024 Announcement – Save the Date April 13th at Alpine Country Club. Nassdja Anthony, Co-President of the Parents Guild and Rosanna Young, Co-President of the Parents Guild

- **The Gala 2024 theme is Rebel Verse!** Futuristic and exciting, we are starting the work for gathering volunteers for the decoration, experiences for both silent and live auction. Send your ideas to Nassdja Anthony and Rosanna Young.

X. Motion to Adjourn – Next meeting on February 1, 2024, 8:30am Alford Hall, PAC