

**SRDS Parents Guild Meeting -
Thursday February 1, 2024**

- I. Welcome & Approval of January 11, 2024 minutes** - The February 1, 2024 Parents Guild meeting commenced with a welcome to all parents / guardians from Ms. Nassdja Anthony and the approval of the past meeting's minutes.

II. Division News

Upper School: Dr. Shai Zacaraev- Head of Upper School

- PJ for Prom – Great success! Thank you to all that participated and supported the effort.
- On April 6 – Walkathon Around School! This will be a great gathering and community event of activities and walking.
- Debate Team will compete this Saturday, 2/3.
- Robotics club continues to impress with great progress in their ranking, starting at no rank and now they are in 15th place!
- Black History Month- Chef Mark and Dr. Z have interesting events planned for students in US and MS.
- This spring's musical is Shrek and will take place on 3/7.
- Peer Mentors, a new program which our junior and senior students will help students coming into 9th grade with questions and general support.

Middle School: Mr. Ozvald provided the following updates on behalf of Ms. Kelly

- MS Social will take place on 2/2 on campus from 7pm to 9pm.
- MS Debate team will be defending their position on Saturday in Basking Ridge, NJ.
- This year's musical is Annie – auditions begin on 2/13.
- Spring N-Block begins soon.
- Love & Kindness month is February! We will be collecting non-nut goodies and snacks for the teacher carts. Stay tuned for information coming soon from the PG / class parents.

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.

- Tonight, the Pre-K3 – 2nd grade will hold their SnowBall Dance – thank you to the amazing volunteers!
- The 3rd & 4th grade social event will be held at the Sky Zone on 2/8, from 4pm to 5:30pm
- Love & Kindness Week – all divisions will participate; stay tuned for further information from the Parent Guild weekly note.
- Black History month with Chef Mark – The importance of this month will be discussed across the divisions with various events.

Ms. Stern also provided the following updates on behalf of Ms. Lebovits:

- **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.
- All parents / guardians welcomed at the Yoga night on 2/21, 7pm.

- Pickleball will be held on Tuesday in February: 6th, 13th, 20th
- Other events include Code alla Mode on 2/27 from 5:30pm to 6:30pm; Career Day- we need volunteers for grade 8th - 11th on 4/11

III. Spotlight – REBELS with a Cause, 4th Grade PBL, Ms. Kaitlyn Cotter & Ms. Erika Ehrlich, 4th Grade Teachers

- Our awesome 4th grade students showcased their many talents, such as t-shirt design by Colson and their work on important causes and fund raisers. Some of the causes and recipients of their hard work includes the Valley Hospital, breast cancer awareness program; the Mahwah food pantry; a nursing home visit; an orphanage; the Seeing Eye organization and Jump Rope for Heart – cardiovascular research. Our Rebels and teachers have the passion, the heart and the non-stop drive to positively impact many across these important organizations – thank you!

IV. Building the Future Campaign, Ms. Lynn McCormack, Director of Development

- The **State of the State of the School Address** was held on Thursday 1/18. We are so excited for the [Building of the Future Campaign](#) which will provide a new science and entrepreneurship center, new turf field and expansion of parking. This is an exciting time with the fund-raising effort underway. Check the website for campaign updates and contact Lynn McCormack with any questions on the campaign / donations.

V. AI at SRDS, Dr. Kevin Merges, Chief Global Impact Officer

- Dr. Merges provided an update on several efforts underway, including the role of AI at SRDS to incorporate into the curriculum with a thoughtful approach, to assist in streamlining and enhancing teachers' efforts.
- As SRDS continues to grow, online classes will be offered, starting with one-week classes, earning a certificate upon completion. In addition, online classes are being considered for parents, such as workshops to improve skills, as well as learn about AI.

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

- Thank you to the SRDS Parents Guild and all volunteers which work so hard to make all the admissions events a success.
- Contracts are due February 8 – any questions contact Geoff Bowman or Kris Sweeney.

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

- Get ready – it's tonight! The LS event of the season- the SnowBall Dance at 6pm.

VIII. Athletics at SRDS, Mr. PJ Petrow, Director of Athletics

- We are preparing for the Spring Sports Season with registration information on the way this week, including the Coaching Academy and Afterschool sports program.
- Spring Season for US includes Track & Field, Golf, lacrosse, boys' tennis, and new for 2024 a baseball team for 10-11 players this season.
- In MS we will have boys' tennis, volleyball, and lacrosse.
 - Check the SRDS Athletic Site for further information.

- The P/E and Health program will begin and focus on enhancing the physical ed curriculum.
- The new fitness center is targeted to open in June, after an approximate 4-month preparation period of the space and delivery of the equipment.
- The new turf field is planned for Fall 2024.

IX. Gala 2024! Mark your calendar & save the date - April 13th at the 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, sponsorship opportunities, ad journal space are available. Send your ideas or questions to Nassdja Anthony and Rosanna Young.

X. Motion to Adjourn – Next meeting on March 7, 2024, 8:30am Alford Hall, PAC