



PARENT REPRESENTATIVE ORGANIZATION

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CDS PRO MEETING NOTES **March 6, 2024**

Thank you to all the parent volunteers who joined us for the March PRO meeting! It was refreshing to see all the enthusiastic morning smiles and share exciting updates and ideas together. While the notes from our discussion are below, and we are all gearing up for our upcoming spring events, we would also like to bring your attention to upcoming volunteer opportunities for next year.

1. PRO Co-Chair
2. Gala Subcommittee Chairs – Acquisitions, Decorations, Copywriting/Development, Food & Beverage, Marketing/Catalog
3. Philanthropy
4. Book Fair
5. Social
6. Fundraising
7. Yearbook
8. Big Dig
9. Spring Fair
10. Age-Level Ambassadors
11. Classroom PRO Reps

We look forward to partnering with you in the coming school year, and if these positions pique your interest, please reach out to us directly via email or the PRO involvement page on the CDS portal, indicating the area or position of interest. While our current volunteers are irreplaceable, there comes a day when our schedules may shift, and/or we move on to our next chapters beyond preschool.

Please let us know if you would be interested in receiving more information on any of these roles and attending a future interest meeting to discuss.

Thanks,

Lindsay Hauss & Dima Najjar

lindsay.hauss@gmail.com

dimanajjar11@gmail.com

Key Dates

- **March 11-22:** School Supplies Drive for SHARE of McLean [donate here!](#)
- **March 18:** Camp contracts due by 4:00 pm
- **March 20-22:** Library Support! Look for the signup in next week's Highlights!
- **March 25-April 5:** Spring Break, No Classes
- **April 10:** Next PRO Meeting at 7:00 pm
- **April 13: Two Events!** SHOP– Big Dig Fundraiser at DePaul's Urban Farm in Vienna
 - BUILD– Big Dig Mud Kitchen Building at CDS 9 am - 2 pm
- **April 13-25:** Big Dig on CDS Campus [sign up here to volunteer!](#)
- **April 16:** Book Club, [Mindset](#) by Carol Dweck at 9:15 am, CDS Barn
- **May 4:** Spring Fair
- **May 8:** State of the School Address by Dr. Mary
- **May 31:** End of the Year Party and Art Show, and Library Grand Reopening

Committee Updates

BIG DIG

- CDS is looking forward to welcoming back parents to participate in the annual Big Dig in April! Opportunities to volunteer in your child's classroom and assist the children with planting are available the weeks of April 15th or April 22nd.
- If you have children in multiple classes, please only sign up to volunteer in one class. We want to give as many parents as possible a chance to volunteer.
- On Saturday, April 13th come shop at DePaul's Urban Farm (2599 Chain Bridge Rd in Vienna) from 10 am - 2 pm! Purchase plants for your home AND shop from the CDS Big Dig Wishlist. DePaul's is generously donating 20% of all sales mentioning CDS.
- Also on Saturday, April 13th from 9 am - 2 pm, join CDS gardening and art teacher, Ms. Tracie Grise, and fellow parents to build mud kitchens for our playgrounds! If you have a knack for woodworking, or if you're great at following directions, [sign up here!](#)
- Co-Chairs: Mallory DeBenedetto (mallorydeben@gmail.com), Caroline Crosby (carolinekcrosby@gmail.com), and Zahra Malik (malik.zahra@gmail.com)

PHILANTHROPY

- SHARE School Supplies Drive will be kicking off March 11th for the two weeks leading up to Spring Break. Please consider donating items through the [wishlist](#) which can be sent directly to CDS, or you can purchase items for your child to bring in during drop off.
- NAPKIN NETWORK: Thank you to all parents who have donated to the ongoing collection of items for the Napkin Network. Over 1,000 diapers have been donated so far! Let's keep the generosity going, as this effort continues to the end of the school year.
 - Families can donate the following items:
 - Diapers or Pull Ups (packages may be opened, just place diapers inside a Ziploc bag and label it with size. Larger sizes are more in demand.)
 - Wipes (unopened)
 - Formula (unopened and unexpired)
 - Drop off donations at carpool
- Co-Chairs: Jamie Hurwitz (hurwitz.jamie@gmail.com), Jess Farrell (jessparfven@gmail.com), and Meg Griffin (megggriffin212@gmail.com)

STAFF APPRECIATION

- Last month, self-care items were provided to our dear staff on Thursday, February 15th. In March, a special snack break will be provided, and in April a delicious lunch!
- Stay tuned in April for details about a full week of Staff Appreciation activities in May.
- Co-Chairs: Nicole Llorenz (nikkisandoz@gmail.com) and Lindsay Scott (lindsay.tharpe@gmail.com)

SPRING FAIR

- The Spring Fair subcommittee appointments are complete and planning is underway! Over 100 volunteers will be needed on the event date (May 4), so please connect with Volunteer Coordinator, Julie Hemmige (julie.hemmige@gmail.com) to express your interest. Keep an eye out for a signup link in April.
- Sponsorships are available and are a great way to advertise your business! Families may also sponsor. See the attached underwriting contract for more information or email mdavis@countryday.org.
 - ---> [Underwriting Contract.pdf](#) <---
- Co-Chairs Heather Swietlik (heather.blanda@gmail.com) and Angela Lee Brown (anglee201@gmail.com)

SOCIAL

- The End of Year Art Show and Party (May 31) is coming up, and event attendance will be complimentary (no ticket purchase required), as a thank you to CDS parents for all your support this year. Book your childcare early!
- An adults-only Happy Hour is in the works. Details to come.
- Co-Chairs: Irina Bassiur (irinabassiur@gmail.com), Stephanie Fay (stephecon@gmail.com), and Samantha Ofori (sccalloway@gmail.com)

YEARBOOK

- Classroom parent volunteers - please focus on making final candid photo selections. Thank you for all your hard work on this special keepsake.
- Co-Chairs: Lindley Thornbug (lindleythornburg@gmail.com), Elizabeth McIntyre (elizabeth.krabill@gmail.com), and Cynthia Cameron (ckheilpern@gmail.com)

AGE-LEVEL AMBASSADORS

- For any 3s, 4s, or Kindergarten students, Golden Boots is offering its soccer program again this spring! The program will be Sundays, 4:30-5:30 p.m. outdoors at the Langley School from April 7 to May 19 (7 weeks). For more information, [please click here](#).
 - Register [here](#). Follow the prompts to set up a household account, if necessary. Choose “Lil’ Boots Playgroups - Spring 2024” from the first drop-down menu, then the appropriate CDS group from the second drop-down.
 - Contact Golden Boots in the office if you have any questions about the program or schedule: 703-287-0088 or info@goldenbootsoccer.com.
- Red Panda Art Studio in Bethesda has put together a Spring Break Camp for CDS families April 3-5th, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.
 - April 3th & 4th Location is 5481-C Wisconsin Ave
 - 5th will be at their pop location 11 Wisconsin Circle
 - 3.5yr olds to 6+ (Siblings Welcome)
 - [Details & Registration](#)