

**SRDS Parents Guild Meeting -
Thursday March 7, 2024**

- I. Welcome & Approval of February 1, 2024 minutes** - The March 7, 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 and More

Mr. Joe McMenamin, Dean of Faculty- New Learning opportunity for parents

- New forums for parents of all grades to learn about the Digital Landscape to help parents/guardians understand and keep informed of the rapidly change digital world we are in with our children. Stay tuned for dates and times.

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

- Dr. Shai introduced Faith W, the new student council president.
- This spring's musical is Shrek and will take place on 3/7.
- On April 6 – Walkathon Around School! This will be a great gathering and community event of activities and walking.
- Peer Mentors, a new program which our junior and senior students which will assist incoming students to 9th grade with questions and general support for a smooth transition.
- Buddy BBQ – event planning is underway, stay tuned for information/dates.
- Thank you to the Parents Guild, their support for events such as the Fall Pep Rally, Winter, and Spring Formals.

Middle School: Ms. Anastasia Kelly, Head of Middle School

- Spring N-Block has begun, with a variety of sports, clinics and fun courses.
- Student led conferences on 3/15 – please confirm your child's time with your Advisor.
- MS students have been very business – some of the notable activities include:
 - Chess competition, Math competition with 10 students which were awarded the "Best new Team"; Math-con underway and the next level will take place in Chicago
 - Odyssey of the Mind- 3 teams participated, 1 team qualified for the state level; in N-Block we have a Problems & Challenge course led by Ms. Leigh
 - Engineering Competition – the stats: 9 teams from LS and MS; 7 of the 9 projects were successful and 4 will be submitted to the national competition.
- Upcoming discussion: Students moving from 8th to 9th grade, expectations, curriculum and more. Parents meeting on 3/12 5pm
- 7th Grade: Permission slips for the Boston trip are due 3/15.
- MS musical this Spring will be Annie and rehearsals are underway.

Ms. Christine Lebovits, Director of Community Engagement & Assistant Director of Lower School Admissions provided the LS update on behalf of Dana Stern, Head of LS

- Book Fair in the CIE, 3/11-12.

- LS Conferences- teachers have extended the invites, check with your child's teacher if you have not received that information yet.
- LS Musical auditions planned for week of 3/11.
- Earth Day – we are planning to work with a company and plan the event for the Spring.
- The Heart Cart was a success! Thanks to everyone who donated and worked to make this an event from our hearts!

News for our SRDS community

- Check your email on March 8 from Ms. Lebovits with a roundup of all news and events happening in April! Highlights for upcoming events include:
- Rebel Readers – April's book is "The Midcoast" written by Adam White
- Restorative Yoga – a deep and relaxing session
- Spring Break Academy, on Monday to Thursday, 9am to noon will be available.
- Pickleball – come out and have fun, there will be various sessions on April
- Crafty Rebels will be a fun session to paint a portrait of your favorite pet on 4/17.
- Thank you to all the parents who have been the ambassadors for the new parents' event.

III. Student Spotlight – Faith W., New Student Council President

- Faith W., a SRDS Junior student has been involved in the student council since her freshman year at SRDS and is excited to represent the students to the SRDS community.

IV. REBELS in LA & Code a la Mode, Lauren Hollis, Director of Technology

- Code a la Mode, girls who code! For Pre-K4 to 8th grade is meant to demonstrate the accessibility and fun of coding.
- US Los Angeles trip was a success, the students had an action-packed agenda, learning the intricacies of videography and meeting industry professionals at NetFlix. They enjoyed the LA landmarks and created a reel for the PG meeting. The reel was a creative look at their time in LA and memorable experiences and sites- well done team!

V. Love & Kindness Week at SRDS Recap

- Great turnout and enjoyed by our faculty - the cart was never empty! Thank you to all the parents that donated and the very hard work from Tanya Hall and Claudia Sasso.

VI. NEXT for Autism, Michelle Smigel, Co-Founder and Board Chairman

- Michelle a current parent at SRDS provided an overview and collaboration of the NEXT for Autism. Her journey began as her eldest child is on the autism spectrum. Check out nextforautism.org to learn more about the important work they are doing to support and develop individuals with autism.

VII. Scholastic Book Fair, Tanya Hall, Book Fair Chairperson

- Upcoming this week in the CIE!

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

- MS N-Block sports are underway, the LS is finishing up the Winter season.

- Sports team highlights: Bowling state tournament, 1st place; boys basketball faces a tough schedule; girls basketball win their 8th Bergen County title.
- Spring Sports – all paperwork must be in before students start:
 - US & MS Golf, Lacrosse, Track & Field, Boys tennis
 - US – Rowing and Baseball clinics
 - MS & US – Softball clinics on Tuesday/Thursday in Allendale (transportation will be provided). sports program.
- Check the SRDS Athletic Site for further information.
- Projects in progress/upcoming: Tennis courts moving to the lower field; resurfacing the tennis courts; Fitness center and Turf for field.

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

- Continued success in admissions due to so many SRDS families representing their positive experience and help with new and prospective families.
- We are also extending event invitations to new families to experience and feel the impact of the SRDS community.
- If you have any questions, contact Geoff Bowman or Kris Sweeney.

X. Style Night@ The Shops at Riverside, Thursday, March 12th 6pm, Melisa Polo Landau, Fashion Stylist

- Join on 3/12 for a fun evening of style as you are looking for Gala styles and a special raffle for the ultimate clutch bag to accompany your outfit.

XI. Gala 2024! Reserve your spot now for 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 planning is underway and it's going to be packed with exciting silent and live auctions items.
- 50/50 Raffles - Spread the word for a chance to win up to \$10K! Raffles are still available.
- Questions? Contact Nassdja Anthony and Rosanna Young.

XII. Motion to Adjourn – Next meeting on April 4, 2024, 8:30am Alford Hall, PAC