

Open IPA (Independent Parent Association) Meeting

Fourth Wednesday of every month; Held in the Upper School Auditorium; 8:15am start time, open forum.

Wed. 8/28/24 Meeting Minutes:

- TIS parent & IPA VP, **Deborah Gladney**, introduced herself and gave overview of IPA purpose and mission; Main goals are supporting TIS staff and to fundraise for field trips in all three divisions. Sara Nelson IPA President was absent due to travel conflict.
 - Asked for IPA Exec Team to stand with introduction. Then TIS Board Members to stand. Made point for all to feel comfortable to reach out to any of these people as needed.
- TIS Head of School, **Mr. Paul Druzinsky**, gave introduction and reiterated the important relationship between IPA and TIS administration, stating that parents and parent involvement are the lifeblood of a school. Also noted that he is very reachable and willing to meet however he will not divulge any issues with staff employment or specific student situations out of respect for privacy. Did request parents to utilize fair chain of command when working to solve an issue, ie: reach out to your teacher first, then division heads, then HOS.
 - Open for general questions for HOS (Head of School)
 - *Parent Question:* Parent asked for update on the TIS expulsion from the Central Plains League, stating no update beyond the media release has been provided to TIS families.
 - Mr. Druzinsky gave reassurance that he, Mr. Andrew Maness and Coach Tyler Keim are working on reestablishing a relationship with a league that is a good fit for TIS. Noted that the ethics violation did not involve any danger to or infraction from a student/adult but will examine what details can be released and will communicate to TIS families to his best ability.
 - Parent with question was relieved to hear and appreciated the honest feedback and further effort to communicate available information.
- **Mr. Brent Lewis**, TIS Development Director, was introduced and gave update on our upcoming fundraiser “Panther Open” golf tournament on Thursday, October 10.

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- Panther Open Golf Tournament, held at Terradyne Golf Course, 4-man team scramble, 7:30am breakfast, 8:30am start play.
- Proceeds go to Annual Fund / Panther Fund which help cover the operating costs of the school.
 - Open for general questions for Brent Lewis
 - *Parent Question:* Parent asked if TIS is a 501c3 and Brent affirmed it is.
 - Mr. Druzinsky spoke about his plans to have an open meeting to educate the parent population about TIS finances and how it all works. Noted that it hasn't been clear in the past and hopes to clear up any confusion with transparency.
- Deborah Gladney (IPA VP) stressed that **IPA has a goal of raising \$18K** for this school year to fund field trips in each division (Upper, Middle, Lower, ELC) as well as the lower school swimming unit. Gave brief examples of planned field trips which include locations both in and outside of Wichita.
- Introduced each Division Head and their IPA parent representative for fundraising updates:
 - **Lower School: Erin Wilson & IPA rep Megan Resch**
 - Popcorn sales has been a success, tallying \$1,600 so far.
 - Others opportunities include: Charlston Wrap, Spring Flowers, Carnival, Sweetheart Dance, Restaurant Nights and Bingo Night, etc.
 - Looking for **parent volunteers** for the following
 - Day-to-day parent volunteers to help with supporting teacher needs such as making copies, sorting, organizing, library, etc.
 - Carnival volunteers to help put on this very popular event
 - Room Parents for seasonal grade/room parties
 - Open for general questions for Lower School:
 - *Parent Question:* Requesting more information re: **Founders Day**
 - Founders Day is a school-wide event, Friday, September 6, beginning with a senior breakfast at 8:00 am and whole school gathering in Upper School Gym 9:00 am. All TIS families invited and encouraged to attend. Kindergarteners and Seniors ("Senior Buddies") dress up in more dressy-

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attire and sit together towards the front. All other students wear provided TIS gear (see below) and sit with their classes. Speeches from the stage included. Parents encouraged to attend.

- TIS T-shirts are ordered and aim to be delivered on time but there may be a delay in arrival— in which case an alternate attire request will be communicated.
- *Parent Question:* Requesting more information re: **Homecoming**
 - Homecoming festivities begin the afternoon Friday, October 11, and is a well attended school-wide celebration. Douglas Ave. near the school will be closed from crosswalk to Webb Rd. Will have customary activities including student/ teacher parade, bounce houses, cupcake challenge, chili cook-off, etc.; families encouraged to stay for the football game in the evening. Activities are held in the grass area behind the lower-school.
- **Middle School: Jodi Todd & IPA MS Rep Cara Gerhardt**
 - Upcoming events:
 - Grandparent's Day, Friday, November 22.
 - Winter Assembly, including 1st semester honors and Breakfast
 - Working on other/new event opportunities to raise money (Trivia Night?)
 - Looking for **parent volunteers** for the following:
 - Library & classroom volunteers
 - Grandparent's Day (11/22)
 - Field Trip chaperone/volunteers
 - Reiterated that MS has the largest monetary requirement of all divisions because all four grades take their field trips on the same day, requiring transportation beyond our one TIS bus.
 - Deborah Gladney made point that even if your children aren't in MS, still important to support the fundraising efforts of all divisions
 - Open for general questions for Middle School- *None*

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- **Upper School: Monica Petino & IPA US Rep Susan Engelhof**

- Ms. Petino's introduction included that while her position is currently interim, this is her 23rd year at TIS; teaching and has a son who went through all years at TIS, so she is familiar with all angles of involvement which she finds helpful when navigating in her new role.
- Looking for **parent volunteers** for the following:
 - Exploring parent volunteer presence at games such as line judges, ticket takers, etc.
- Exciting new field trips include biology/science-based trips in the works
- Open for general questions for Upper School:
 - *Parent Question:* Is there now or has there been school-sponsored Senior Trips? Answer was no, senior trips not traditionally school-sponsored but sometimes the seniors themselves will organize a trip. Invited conversation on it if it is something parents want to explore.

- **Early Learning Center (ELC): Ricayah Hayden and IPA ELC Rep Erin Black (not present)**

- Not as many field trip opportunities due to complexity and ensuring safety of our youngest age group but they do hope to have a Movie Night in December.

Deborah Gladney closes with a big thank you to all parents who attended and request to keep coming and to stay as involved as you can. Also, reminder to all that we meet on the 4th Wednesday of every month. Looking into varying the times to include some 5pm/evening options. Feedback welcome.

>Attendees then broke up into divisional small groups inside the auditorium to discuss matters specific to their division (ELC, LS, MS, US).

Conclusion of meeting, approximately 9:30 am.