

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

- I. **Welcome & Approval of October 2024 Minutes** - The November 2024 Parents Guild meeting commenced with a welcome to all parents / guardians from the PG's Co-Presidents, Heather Holder and Jacqueline Vasquez and the approval of the past meeting's minutes.
- II. **SRDS School Update**
 - **Mr. Jalaj Desai, Head of School**, provided the following updates:
 - A Rebel Roundtable, ***What It Means to Be a Teacher***, will be held on 11/18 at 7pm. The discussion with Q&A will be focused on the evolving role of educators today, their challenges, and the rewards of teaching in a modern classroom setting. While this session is open to all grades, it will be geared to MS & US content.
 - An update on the school construction project will be coming soon.
- III. **Lower School News and Upcoming Events**
 - **Dana Stern, Head of Lower School**, provided the following updates:
 - Class pictures will be taken next week with uniform attire.
 - Art Therapy for grades Pre-K through 4th grade on 11/18
 - The 4th grade did a wonderful job with the Rebels with a Cause Pink Pop Up Shop for Breast Cancer Awareness raising funds for this important cause.
 - Math competition for grades 2, 3 and 4 scheduled for 11/14. This will be a great way to introduce competitions to LS students. The practice materials have been provided.
 - Look-ahead to MS for the 4th grade will take place on 11/15.
 - 1st grade Project Based Learning (PBL) theme will be 'sourdough bread making' and logo design with Ms. Cuccio.
- IV. **Middle School News and Upcoming Events**
 - **Anastasia Kelly, Head of Middle School**
 - Our November theme in MS is gratitude.
 - The end of the marking period is 11/8 and this will be a good time for students to check in with their teachers and make adjustments as needed.
 - Mini-course choices will take place – refer to the Happenings document for additional information.
 - New N-Block options will be announced the week of 11/11.
 - Check the MS Happenings Doc for the up-to-the-minute information - changes are reflected during the week.
- V. **Upper School News and Upcoming Events**
 - **Shai Zacaraev, Head of Upper School**
 - Thank you to the parents for their continued involvement in US happenings.

- Interim grades will be ready shortly and an important check-in for students on their progress.
- Students are excited about the upcoming mini-course: Behind the science the starter – sourdough bread making.
- US Musical – Little Shop of Horrors – come out to support our US students!
- Fall Formal Dance on 11/15
- Pies for Prom fundraiser – order pies by 11/14.
- Check the Upper School Happenings Doc for all events.

VI. Middle School Student Feature & Fundraising Efforts

- **Shane W, NF1 Fundraising** – a debilitating condition of tumors that impacts many, Shane has decided to raise awareness and fundraise for this cause.
- **8th Graders, Youth Spiritual Empowerment Program.** Several 8th graders decided to help improve the conditions of the visitation rooms for children in Child Protective Services (CPS). Donations of new / gently used toys are beginning now. There will also be a bake sale to support this cause.

VII. Admissions Update

- **Geoffrey Bowman, Director of Admissions**
- Thank you to the PG and all the volunteers who participate in the Admissions events.
- We received a record number of applications this year.
- We've had a busy fall with visit days and open house events, including the following:
 - Today we have a 9th grade visit day and had one in October.
 - We have two more dates, 12/3 and 1/9, which will be the last days.
 - Week of 11/11 - our last open house for the fall - will take place.
- Please remember to complete the survey.

VIII. The SRDS Fund Update

- **Lynn McCormick, Director of Development**
 - Thank you to all families who have supported the SRDS Fund and the 10/29 day of giving – it was very successful.
 - The students and the faculty benefit from this small but mighty fund with the focus on an exceptional educational experience.
 - Giving can take place at any time of the year!
 - Any questions on giving, please call Lynn McCormick.

IX. Upper School Gateway Diploma Program

- **Joe McMenamin, Dean of Faculty and Gateway Diploma Coordinator**
 - **The Gateway Diploma** is an US honors level program for those students with an interest in self-directed study and research.
 - The application deadlines are as follows: sophomore students must sign up by 11/18/24 and freshman students must sign up by 2/25/25.

X. Upper School Volunteer Program

- **Kristin Myers, US Spanish Teacher**

- Rebels can do small acts of volunteering that make a big difference in our communities. Today, many students already volunteer in many community service programs. Starting this year, we will ask US students to volunteer for 30 hours of community service over 4 years. Our students come to us with ideas to make a difference, from helping with food pantries, packing essentials for the homeless, raising funds and awareness for cancer and toys for underprivileged children.

XI. Student Technology Project with Laura Hollis will be discussed at the next meeting

XII. Community Engagement

- **Heather Holder provided** an update on behalf of **Chris Lebovits, Director of Community Engagement and Assistant Director of LS Admissions**

- **Community Events:** We have a robust calendar of events for a variety of interests including Yoga, our Rebel Readers Book club in November and December, along with our Crafty Rebels creative sessions.
- **Rebel Dads** was a success! We are working on the next date to be announced by Oscar F., Co-Chair for Rebel Dads

XIII. Athletics Update

- **PJ Petrow - SRDS Director of Athletics**

- The SRDS Prospective Student Clinic on 10/27 was well attended with approximately 30 families.
- MS/US Winter sports sign-up starts on 11/8.

XIV. Ladies Night Out, November 13th at The Tides – “Denim & Diamonds”!

- **Volunteer Opportunities** are needed from 10am-2pm for setting up, contact Sara Aufgang and Claudia Sasso.
- Don't miss out on the great baskets and experiences, including a mystery basket, a Chloé Tote Bag, NEXT for AUTISM's “Night of Too Many Stars” dress rehearsal, and so many chances to win fabulous tricky trays!
- Raffle tickets will be available for purchase at LNO. Purchases made before midnight Saturday will receive pre-printed labels for guests to put on the tickets at the event.
- Exciting preview of the Ladies' Nashville Trip on April 4-6, 2025, at the Four Seasons and many fun activities to enjoy.

XV. Motion to Adjourn – Join us for the next meeting on December 5, 2024, in Alford Hall, PAC.