

SRDS Parents Guild Meeting

Thursday, May 1, 2025

- I. Welcome & Approval of April 2025 Minutes** – The May 2025 Parents Guild meeting commenced with a welcome to all parents / guardians from the PG's Co-President, Heather Holder and the approval of the past meeting's minutes.
- II. Lower School Super Science Team**
 - **Wendy Rhoads, Lower School Science Teacher**
 - Showcase of students and their projects.
- III. Update from the Head of the School**
 - **Jalaj Desai, Head of School**
 - Thank you to the Parents Guild and all parents for an amazing Gala. It was a tremendous success!
 - Thank you for your dedication and work throughout the year! Our SRDS community is thriving, and it is because of our parents.
 - Construction is progressing and we are tracking on schedule for our project at this time.
 - We look forward to September on our SRDS campus.
- IV. Spring Day of Giving/SRDS Fund**
 - **Lynn McCormack, Director of Development**
 - Thank you for your continued support and strong culture of philanthropy.
 - The last annual day of giving for the 2024/25 academic year is May 13th.
 - Our SRDS Fund provides our students with opportunities and innovative ideas, and our teachers with continued education and professional development.
 - Please consider a donation to round out the year!
- V. Videography and Technology T-Shirt Fundraising Update**
 - **Laura Hollis, Director of Technology**
 - A successful trip to Los Angeles where students were able to learn more about the film industry.
 - They visited the University of Southern California, met with SRDS alumni and had dinner with industry professionals who shared their experiences. In addition, students had the opportunity to spend time at Netflix.
 - On the SRDS campus, students helped the Middle School with their Minecraft project.
 - SRDS students designed a t-shirt that can be worn on Reble Fridays and proceeds support the victims of the LA Fires. Shirts available for purchase at <https://www.saddleriverday.org/fs/form-manager/view/f9141748-a0b5-4c71-a313-b45372587ea2>
- VI. Upper School Community Engagement Highlight**
 - **Childhood Cancer Society Saddle River Walkathon**
 - **Hannah G., Hannah P., Emma E., Giada C., Kylee H., Serena G., Charlie M.**

- Scheduled for Saturday, June 7th at Rindlaub Park, the event features many ways to contribute to the Childhood Cancer Society. SRDS US Students create the group “Rebels Against Cancer” and are actively organizing the event including collecting donations, soliciting vendors and sponsors. The event highlights our SRDS community spirit and culture of volunteering for important causes. Additional information is available <https://givebutter.com/c/Js595>

VII. Upper School News and Upcoming Events

- **Shai Zacaraev, Head of Upper School**
- It is a busy time as we head into May events in the Upper School:
 - May 1st – College Sweatshirt Day.
 - May 12th – Last day for our morning meeting for the year.
 - May 16th – Last day of class for seniors.
 - May 20th and May 21st – Art Show
 - The Robotics Club will be in Mexico for a competition on May 21st. They are also submitting a video for the Maryland Tech Innovation Show.
 - Juniors and Seniors had a wonderful time at their respective proms.
 - The Upper School Concert was a success.
 - The SRDS Innovation Night and the Walkathon were great events with many students participating.

VIII. Lower School Update

- **Dana Stern, Head of Lower School**
- Remember to check in with your child’s teacher for class-specific events.

IX. Admissions Update

- **Geoffrey Bowman, Director of Admissions. Update given by Heather Holder on behalf of**
- We remain very busy in admissions and have already started tours for Fall 2026.
- Many grades are full/close to full for the Fall
- We have new family information sessions coming up and we are excited to welcome our new families back to campus:
 - May 7 - Early Childhood
 - May 20 - Upper School
 - May 22 - Lower School
 - May 28 - Middle School
 - May 22 - We are also inviting new lower and middle school students to meet their classmates and teachers next year.
- As we finish this year, a tremendous thank you to the Parents Guild for all your support. Thank you for your time, energy and for so enthusiastically sharing your family's SRDS story. It has been another fun year!

X. Middle School Update

- **Anastasia Kelly, Head of Middle School**

- As we head into May and June, check the MS Happening Document for the latest dates and times for events, as it is a very busy time of year. It is the source for all events, and it is updated throughout the week – please remember to review. A few of the events:
 - Advisory Cup Kick-Off on May 2nd and May 3rd – it is a month-long event where students will compete in a variety of activities. Highly competitive among teachers and students!
 - The MS Play is *Aladdin Junior* and will take place on May 1st and May 2nd.
 - We have our annual events such as Capstone Presentations, the MS Concert, the 8th grade trip and a field trip for the STEM Club.
 - New! A new event this year is the 8th Grade Awards Ceremony on May 30th.
 - MAP Testing is completed and not part of the students' grades. This exam is meant to assess students' math proficiency, highlight gaps, and helps in developing the curriculum. It's important students do not focus on the number because students can get the same number but have different performance.

XI. Community Engagement at SRDS

- **Updates** provided by **Heather Holder** on behalf of **Chris Lebovits, Director of Community Engagement and Assistant Director of LS Admissions**
- The Rebel Readers Book Club- the last Book Club will meet on May 29th and the book is *Write for Your Life*.
- **Looking for New Family Mentors** - if you are interested in helping us welcome new families by emailing them and checking in, please contact Chris Lebovits.

XII. Athletics Update

- **Shai Zacaraev, Head of Upper School** provided the update on behalf of **PJ Petrow, Athletic Director**
- Mr. Petrow appreciates all the help from parents, faculty and students.
- Registration for the Fall Season begins in May.
- Exciting opportunity to be part of the Red Bulls Camp in August.
- Students participating in Fall sports must be on campus to start training on August 18th.

XIII. Parents Guild Announcements

- **Heather Holder, Co-Presidents of the Parents Guild**
- **SRDS Gala 2025** was successful! Thank you for all the donations and all the volunteers that worked tirelessly, including Rosanna Y, Amy S, the Class Parents, the Division Representatives.
 - Please send us feedback on your experience at the Gala.
 - The Silent Auction has a few items that are still available for purchase.
- **Around the SRDS Campus** - Reminder that reserved parking spaces are only for the family who has purchased them. Please do not park in these spaces.
- **SRDS Parents Guild Volunteer Nominations** – We have several spots for parent volunteers and encourage you to consider volunteering as it is a great way to meet new families and be a part of our community.

- **Teacher & Faculty Appreciation Day on May 6th** – 7:30am to 10:30am. Parents are welcome to stop by the courtyard and help hand out breakfast and gifts to our amazing faculty and staff.
- **PG Coffees will be rescheduled** – New dates will go out in the weekly Envelope.
- **New Family Lawn Signs** – Take part in welcoming new, incoming families by volunteering to continue the tradition of delivering “Welcome to SRDS” signs for their lawns. If you would like to help out in this effort, the signs can be picked up in the Admissions Office in Main Hall starting Tuesday, May 6th. A list of remaining towns was shown in the slide presentation.

XIV. Motion to Adjourn – See you in September 2025 and enjoy the summer!