Castilleja

Introductions

- Nora De Cuir begins the meeting by introducing herself and inviting others to introduce themselves.

New Head of School

Introduction

- Moved to the neighborhood with her husband Anthony and three of their four children.
- Came to Castilleja from Brearley School in New York City, where, among other accomplishments, they just completed a modernization.
- 5th generation New Yorker who is loving the Palo Alto weather and community.
- Went to a girls' school herself from kindergarten through 12th grade and holds a PhD in Molecular Genetics and Microbiology.

Goals for 2025-26 School Year

- Engage with the community, establish relationships with students, employees, families, alums, and the broader community.
- Understand and advance Castilleja's enduring academic program and our commitment to educating women leaders.
- Support the student experience, celebrate traditions, and cultivate community to foster lifelong connections.
- Work to complete our campus modernization, including the garage, the main campus, and leadership fundraising.
- Ensure that school finances are optimized in support of the program, the mission, and the institution's long-term success as we transition to a new CFOO when Kathy Layendecker retires in June 2026.

Visual and Performing Arts 2025-26

- **Upper School Musical:** Friday, November 7, at 7:00pm, and Saturday, November 8, at 2:00pm and 7:00pm
- **Winter Concert:** Thursday, December 11, at 7:00pm
- **Middle School Musical:** Friday, February 6, at 7:00pm and Saturday, February 7, at 2:00pm and 7:00pm
- **Dance Performance:** Friday, March 13, at 7:00pm and Saturday, March 14, at 2:00pm and 7:00pm
- **Upper School Play:** Friday, April 24, at 7:00pm and Saturday, April 25, at 2:00pm and 7:00pm
- **Spring Concert:** Thursday, May 21, 2026, at 7:00pm

Updates

- **Castilleja Enrollment for 2025-26**
  - 416 students in grades 6 through 12.
- **Spring Monitoring Report**
  - 60% of students use alternative transportation, that's up 3% from the last report.
  - This is 15% below our daily average maximum trips.
  - 12.7% below am peak.

    - We are well below our car counts and parking demand: 24% below peak occupancy.
    - We continue to run morning and afternoon shuttles.
    - We continue to provide incentives to our employees to walk, bike, carpool, take the train, off-site parking at AME, etc.
    - Employees also work as traffic and parking monitors throughout the day:
        - The morning pickups.
        - Throughout the neighborhood during the day.
        - The afternoon pickups.
    - Off-site parking is available for juniors at AME and for seniors at First Presbyterian Church.

Construction Principles

- **Safety**
    - Entire construction site is and will continue to be fenced off.
    - Parking and traffic monitors maintain vehicle flow and ensure safety of pedestrians and bicyclists.
- **Vehicles**
    - All trucking follows the City of Palo Alto's approved trucking route.
    - No trucks are allowed to queue on the residential streets.
    - No construction parking is allowed on residential street,
    - Traffic flow is managed by monitors.
- **Reducing Construction Impacts**
    - Admin and Gym buildings provide significant sound blocking.
    - Fencing with screens provided.
    - All construction equipment has the latest sound attenuation.
    - Noise monitoring and mitigation is performed.

Timeline

- Moving into Casti Village at the start of the 2026-27 academic year.

Neighborhood Newsletter

- Construction news get posted biweekly.
- Scroll down a little bit to the bottom and click on Looking for More Details?

Question and Answer

- Question: Is the school going to use new ways to enforce the fact that students should not park in the neighborhood?
  Answer: We worked with the deans over the summer to come up with a good plan. We follow through with students and do our best to make sure that they comply.
- Question: What about parents?
  Answer: We also do our best to communicate with them and work to minimize impacts.
- Statement: We still see lots of cars without Castilleja permits and we know that they are Castilleja cars. We see students and parents get out of them.

Response: Please send photos so that we can work to track down who is parking where they shouldn't be.

- Question: What kinds of safety measures are being put in place at the exit of the garage?
  Answer: That hasn't been determined yet. We are working with the City on the measures.
- Question: Who is making sure that the trucks follow the trucking route?
  Answer: We have monitors in place who guide the trucks to ensure that they stay on the city-determined routes.
- Question: Is the garage on schedule?
  Answer: Yes. We are on schedule and anticipate completing the work this winter.
- Question: Could the Head of School's goals also include complying with the CUP?
  Response: We will make sure that that that is included as part of engaging with and establishing positive relationships with community members.
- Question: When will the move into the temporary classrooms take place?
  Answer: During the summer.
- Comment: Betty, welcome to the neighborhood. We are looking forward to getting to know you better. There have been a lot of issues in the past, and that is what we are concerned about here.
  Response: We are always working to do better and this conversation is part of that process.
- Question: What else is the school going to do to make sure that students aren't parking in the neighborhood anymore?
  Answer: We will continue to enforce our policies. It's hard to get to 100%, but we are always trying to do better.
- Question: When will demolition on Kellogg begin?
  Answer: Deconstruction along Kellogg will begin in the summer.
- Question: How will you keep trucks from going on Melville?
  Answer: our trucks haven't been using Melville. They are allowed to use the intersection with Emerson to make turns, but they don't use it as a through street.
- Question: When will you know more about safety at the exit from the garage? There are pedestrians, runners, children, and cyclists to think about.
  Answer: We are still working out that plan with the city.
- Question: Where can neighbors find the general timeline from the presentation?
  Answer: We will add it to the Neighborhood Portal.