

MCDONOUGH
PARENTS ASSOCIATION

Lower School Parent Association Meeting

April 5, 2018

Welcome & Introductions: Regan La Testa, LSPA Chair
Janine Stewart, LSPA Vice Chair

Regan asked if there was any interest in taking on committee chair positions. Regan will work on an email to send out to room parents. Openings include:

Bake Sale
Hospitality
Parent Get-Togethers
Teacher Appreciation Lunch
Uniform Exchange
Used Book Sale
Janet Herbert signed up to help with Faculty Free Friday.

Director of Parent Relations: Jen Little

Guest Speakers: Barbara Robbins, Head of Lower School

Barbara Robbins- April highlights:

Multicultural Night was a wonderful community event with a phenomenal turnout despite having been rescheduled. Pictures are on the school website.

Adventure in the Arts Day: 4/20- musical presentation along with the art tour. See Lower School Links for details and schedule. Postcards with schedule to be mailed. We advise parents of children in different grades to prioritize the musical presentation and fit in the art tour when time permits. Still need volunteers to prepare the artwork for display (ongoing) and to display the artwork on April 13.

April 9- Lisa Winter- a "robot maker" will bring her robots and share her interesting life story . See Lower School Links for details.

April 12- Professional development morning has been cancelled. April 12th will be a regular school day

April 12: Tap, Click, Read: Growing Readers in a World of Screens. A MPA parent education event featuring Lisa Guernsey, a leader in the field. Klein Lyceum, 7P. Childcare and dinner provided. Please register for the program and for childcare. Don't miss this opportunity

April 23: Parents and Schools: Partners in Sexuality; 7:30- 9P. Presented by Debbie Roffman Suitable for parents of **all** Lower School children. Special segment for parents of 4th graders starts at 7p, and then Debbie will speak at 7:30.

May 4th: Math Explosion- lot of collaboration with middle school. They will be building with lumber and the middle school student will be supporting the lower school students throughout the activities that day. Fewer parent volunteers are needed since Middle School will be there.

Faculty and Staff Update

Malika Delancey- has been appointed the Principal of Lower School at Park School and will be leaving McDonogh after this school year. There are candidates spending time in the lower school teaching lessons while being observed.

Mrs. Howell (4th grade) will be retiring

Mrs. Newcomer is also retiring after 44 years. Candidates have been teaching 4th graders.

Nancy Fleury, Associate Head of Lower School:

Lower School practices used to support positive student behavior for optimal learning

"Positive Behavior Expectations" is a resource guide that lives on the school website. It is a resource that parents can access any time. It outlines behavioral expectations using the points of the moral compass.

- Important for parents to know so things can be reinforced at home.
- Important to understand the link between academic learning and social/emotional learning. Responsive classroom is an approach to teaching that the lower school has embraced as a roadmap to ensure consistency when they work with our young children.
- Learning for Living is a spiral that is built upon at each grade level Themes are revisited each year using age-appropriate literature and activities. The money raised at the book sales helps to fund the purchase of the anchor book that supports the theme. Also helps the faculty and staff when our children have a blip- they can refer back to the principles and activities the child has been taught.

Responsive Classroom Approach

- Evidence based.
- Provides consistency and continuity.
- Supports a strong and safe school community.
- Promotes a positive community and developmentally responsive teaching.

Guidance and Discipline of Students

When children feel safe they are more likely to take academic risks

When there is a misstep there is a 4 tier approach

1- reminding language, redirecting, reinforcing

2- Invited to rest and return or take a break in areas of the classroom

3- Buddy teacher Intervention- sometimes just a change of environment for a few minutes helps

4- Admin or Dr. Dan- may schedule problem solving conferences

Logical consequences allow children to make a connection between their misstep and the consequence that follows. Gives the child a sense of ownership of their school environment and their role in it.

Thank you for your support at home. When there are repeat missteps, Nancy or Malika and/or Dr. Dan are resources for you.

Homeroom teachers are the first point of contact. They are happy to support and partner with you to help resolve issues.

Never hesitate to reach out with your questions and concerns.

When severe behavior situations arise, there is no magic formula and the situations are assessed on a case-by-case basis.

Safety is number one. A misstep that impacts the safety of other children is addressed swiftly. Learning must not be disrupted by any child.

There are supports in place when a child has a challenge-

Recurring situations require consequences that are aligned with the misstep. With young children they are thorough and they spend a good amount of time peeling back the layers.

Transparency is desired but confidentiality and privacy of the children must be respected for ethical and legal reasons.

The admin and staff regroup every year to determine the classroom balance as they assign classes for the next school year.

Lower School Committees:

Faculty Free Fridays:

Nina Basu & Cristina Ginsberg, Co-Chairs

- Need PK and K volunteers.

Adventure in the Arts Day:

Brandi Rey

- Volunteers needed to help prepare the art for display.
- Volunteers needed on 4/13 to display the artwork. Sign up for 1 hour blocks.
- Adventure in the Arts day is on 4/20

Used Book Sale:

Amy Roseman

- Need volunteers on Tuesday, May 1 to set up books according to grade level.
- Book sale on Wed. May, 2nd.
- Needed: 4th and 5th grade level books
- Send \$1 for your child to select 2 books
- Drop off book donations in the boxes located in the lobbies of Elderkin Hall

Upcoming Events:

- **April 6:** Faculty Free Friday
- **April 12:** Parent Education Event- Tap, Click, Read: Growing Readers in a World of Screens; Klein Lyceum 7pm
- **April 20:** Adventure in the Arts Day
- **May 2:** Used Book Sale
- **May 4:** Math Explosion

**Next Meeting May 3, 2018 in Mullan Board Room
Meeting Attendees**

In attendance 4/5/18:

Regan LaTesta
 Janine Stewart
 Janet Herbert
 Brandy Rey
 Jenny Meacham
 Amy Roseman
 Jennifer Ashley
 Susan Marwaha
 Rebecca Freeman
 Audra Antwerpen
 Whitney Whitman
 Randi Hertzberg
 Lea Ward
 Jackie Ansell
 Christina Ginsberg
 Claire Hansen
 Nina Basu
 Opeyemi Arowojolu
 David Dopkin
 Lee Xian
 Lauren Shuman
 Jamie Swann
 Hamisha Prajapati

Barbara Robins, Malika DeLancey, Nancy Fleury, Lea Ward, Jen Little