

Lower School Parent Association Meeting
October 5, 2017

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

Director of Parent Relations: Ann Fleming

Guest Speakers:

Nancy Fleury, Associate Head of Lower School & Malika DeLancey, Associate Head of Lower School

Malika DeLancey announced the new Director of Equity and Inclusion, Dr. Lana Bates. Dr. Bates will come to activities this month and she will present at this month's assembly.

This month's Learning for Living book is *Stella Luna*. Talk to you kids about the theme to develop the home connection to embrace the ideals

Visual and Performing Arts classes for 3rd and 4th grades. The students choose from 6 activities such as Chorus, Drama, Roots Farm etc. The classes meet once a week. Each student chooses an activity that will run now through January and then they choose another activity that will start after winter break and run through May.

Dr. Dan Wagner, School Counselor

Dr. Dan Wagner, School Counselor for the lower school, is a psychologist who focuses on the social-emotional learning of our children. He goes into classrooms and leads activities for social-emotional learning and mindfulness. He not only teaches social-emotional development, he collaborates with teachers on a general level. The children get to know him. He also works with individual students as a resource in this challenging and competitive academic environment. He is there to provide extra support for managing bumps in the road as an advocate, cheerleader, and strategist. In addition to academic support, he provides social support and validation to help our children navigate friendships and bullying by facilitating small groups and open discussions. Can also work with outside therapists. Dr. Dan actively works to reduce the stigma of going to the school counselor within the student body. He is present in the classrooms and developing relationships to normalize his position in the school as a resource for support.

Parents, feel free to reach out to Dr. Dan for advice and strategies or to schedule counseling.

See the October 3rd Parent News to get support for how to talk to your kids about tragic events.

All School Committees:

Charleston Wrap Fundraiser: Stacey Mannes, Chair
Don't miss the chance to support the one and only fundraiser for the MPA. Place orders online (www.charlestonwrap.com school code 11218) or by order form by Monday October, 16th.

MPA New York Trip: Shanae Walker
Seats still available for this fun bus trip to New York on November 15th. Just \$55 pp.
Contact Shanae Walker at 443-273-4607 or walkershanae5@gmail.com to reserve your seat. Open to the public.

Lower School Committees:

Parent Get Togethers:

Erin Kaufman, Chair

Please check Parent News for the dates of the parent get togethers for each grade and join in to meet and greet other parents in your child's grade. **Please note: We still need a host family for Pre-First. If interested, please contact Erin Kaufman at erindds@comcast.net.**

Faculty Free Fridays (FFF):

Nina Basu & Cristina Ginsburg, Co-Chairs

The parent signup sheet has gone out for the entire year of FFFs. Come have lunch with your child and their classmates and then chaperone their recess. If there is a day you want to come that looks full, you can still come- the more the merrier!

Original Works:

Jen Borz, Chair

Your child's original artwork will be featured on pre-view magnets that will be going out on October 30th. Note: The preview magnets are not free. You will get order forms to order other items or you can buy the magnet. Money that is raised will go to the Learning for Living library. Items that you order will be delivered by December 14-in time for the holidays.

Bake Sale:

Cindy Emerson

There will be a bake sale on November 2nd. Look for the signup sheet to contribute baked goods and/or to volunteers to help on the day of the bake sale. We always need allergen free treat options for the bake sale.

Conference Day Luncheon:

Kaylie George & Meg Sheetz, Co-Chairs

The parent signup sheet has gone out for parents to contribute food/drinks for the luncheon.

Parent-Teacher Conferences: If you have not signed up for conferences on October 13th, please do so now.

Note: PE teachers will be in the lower school dining room so you don't have to walk all the way to the gym to meet with them.

Upcoming Events:

- **October 6:** Faculty Free Friday
- **October 6:** Founder's Day (special dress)
- **October 9-13** Lower School Book Fair
- **October 13:** Conferences (no school); Uniform Exchange
- **October 19:** Make-up Picture Day
- **October 31:** Halloween Celebration
- **November 2:** Bake Sale
- **November 3:** Faculty Free Friday

Next Meeting November 9, 2017 in Mullan Board Room