

Lower School Parent Association Meeting

September 7, 2017

Welcome & Introductions:

Regan La Testa, LSPA Chair
Janine Stewart, LSPA Vice Chair

Director of Parent Relations:

Ann Fleming

Guest Speakers:

Barbara Robins, Head of Lower School

Opening Remarks: We have had a smooth and calm beginning of the school year.

New Changes: Malika Delancey is now full time in the lower school. In previous years, Malika split her role between Director of Diversity and Associate Director of the Lower School. Teachers have moved to different classrooms and grade levels. Classrooms have been rearranged so that first grade classrooms are together which prompted other room moves for teachers. There are a few new teachers. The lower school schedule has changed in order to fit in quality experiences without the day feeling hurried. This was accomplished by consolidating a lot of the special subject periods. In addition, lunch periods have changed. Every 4th grade homeroom will have Band. 3rd and 4th graders will have keyboarding in 2- 6-week blocks.

Aquapalooza is tomorrow. Free dress with white shoes.

Nancy Fleury, Associate Head of Lower School

Bus Buddy program: Over 80 new students in the lower school. About 60 are in pre-K and K. Bus Buddies sit with them on the bus and walk them to their classroom. In the afternoon, the bus Buddies help the younger child to find their bus out of a total of 26 busses. Around the third week of school, many of the younger children are usually comfortable and may no longer rely on their bus buddy.

Malika DeLancey, Associate Head of Lower School

Learning for Living: McDonogh acknowledges the social emotional piece is as equally important as the academic piece of a child's development. Over the summer, our teachers designed a Learning for Living program for 2017-2018. They have identified areas of that are crucial for our children's development. Monthly, classes will read a book that highlights the principal. There will be Chapel every month and a monthly assembly that focusses on the principal.

Charlie Britton, Headmaster

Overview of new construction: Construction has begun on Lamborn Road Chapel Hill neighborhood to build 38 new townhomes with a farmhouse motif thanks to a \$6 million gift to the school. Campus Housing allows us to attract the most talented faculty and staff.

The Feder Building for robotics will start construction before the beginning of the year.

The new Finney Middle School Building will begin construction. It is a \$28mill project.

The History House and Museum is planned to capture the long extended history of this institution. It is a multi-million dollar project.

Fund raising is a priority for these initiatives.

Lea Ward, Director of Parent Giving

Fund Raising: The McDonogh Fund goal is to get 75%v of parents to make a gift by the 75th day of school. Expect to hear more about this in the very near future.

All School Committees:

Charleston Wrap Fundraiser:

Stacey Mannes, Chair

Online ordering opened on September 11th. Packet should have already come home. For parents with multiple children, the packet (large white envelope) was sent home with the youngest child. If you are not doing online ordering, you must return paper order forms and payment directly to Stacey Mannes. Items will come in before Thanksgiving.

Parenting Education:

Judy Yu, Chair

Parenting education seminars provide tools for parents to help you navigate parenting challenges. This year, childcare and dinner will be served at the parenting education events. Look for these opportunities in parent news.

New York Trip:

Shanae Walker

Wednesday, November 16 \$55pp. Open to the public- the more the merrier!

Lower School Committees:

Parent Get Togethers:

Erin Kaufman, Chair

A few grades still need hosts for their get togethers- see email updates.

Faculty Free Fridays:

Nina Basu & Cristina Ginsburg, Chairs

On Faculty Free Fridays, parents give teachers and faculty much needed time to prepare for their students. Come have lunch with your child then supervise their class for recess. Look for emails for signup sheets coming in an email soon.

Uniform Exchange:

Anita McComas & Jamie Swann, Chairs

We are stocked with lots of uniform items. Tables will be set up for back to school night in the lower school building and on tables in front of Dudley Hall for pre-K and K.

Remember to put names on everything. We make attempts to get lost items back to the child and having names on the items is a big help.

Box Tops/Giant Bonus Bucks:

Christine Tamaddon

Goal this year is to get more involvement. So many of us have box tops sitting in our homes and find it a challenge to get them to the school and into the proper hands. Box top collection boxes will be placed in each classroom. Other creative solutions such as collection sheets for kids to cut and paste box tops are planned. Our goal this year is to raise \$500 from Box Tops.

Giant Food: if you have a shopper's card, you can set McDonough school as the beneficiary of bonus bucks. This should only need to be done once and it will be set so that you contribute every time you shop.

We are researching other similar programs to benefit our school. Look for emails to learn how to enroll in these programs.

Upcoming Events:

- **September 7:** Back to School Night/Uniform Exchange

- **September 8:** Aquapalooza
- **September 13, 14:** Picture Day
- **September 21:** School Closed for Rosh Hashanah
- **September 22:** Honey of a Jam Fest

Randi Hyatt- President of the MPA

The MPA is motivated and driven by parents and the needs of our children. Parents are encouraged to participate any way they can. That can include actively listening at meetings, participating in programs and volunteering for activities. Honey of a Jam Fest is Friday, September 22. Starts at 3:30 at Roots Farm. It's our all-school back to school celebration. Fun for all ages. Please come and enjoy!

Erika Seth Davies- Vice president of the MPA. (Also serves on the alumni board)

Encourages everyone to lend their support in any way they can.

Susan Ahn- VP of the middle school parent association

Honey of a Jam Fest volunteers needed! Sign up when you see the volunteer email.

Next Meeting October 5, 2017 in Mullan Board Room