

MSMPA Meeting Minutes
April 19, 2018

Elise Kurlander's Update on MSMPA

Elise welcomed parents and talked about changes made this year. Upon consultation with Darren Ford, Faculty Free Fridays were eliminated. So much is asked of parent volunteers, and they collectively made the decision to eliminate this event.

Another change for this year was the separation of the 5th and 6th grade events, which historically had been one event for both grades. This year's 6th grade event held in the Fall at Roots Farm was a huge hit. Most of the 6th graders attended that event. On March 23rd, the 5th grade class held a Cake Wars Event. Chair of the event, Judith Tortora described the new event for students in March. Students worked in randomly-assigned teams to decorate cakes that were judged and winners were determined. One of the judging criterion was how clean the students' stations were. Students ate pizza and had cake for dessert. 47 students attended. Darren would like to see this happen again.

The 7th Grade "Glow in the Dark" Dance, was a new event this year. There was a lot of enthusiasm for the dance, and kids danced, ate snacks and desserts and got along great. Chaperones were plentiful. Should considering repeating this event with perhaps an added station for "glow painting."

NEXT YEAR'S CHAIRS ANNOUNCED: Judith Tortora will be the Chair of the MS next year, and Karima Carrington will be the Vice-Chair next year. There will be a new event to be held within the MS next year, geared towards the Middle school community and parents.

EVENTS TO CLOSE OUT THE YEAR:

May 2, 2018 at 8:30 a.m. in the 1873 Aarsand Room: MPA Volunteer breakfast for all parents. All parents are welcome.

May 23, 2018 The Middle School Teacher Appreciation lunch. Will need 10 volunteers to help with students to allow teachers to appreciate their lunch. Joan Royals is chairing this event. More information to follow.



We did it!

Join the McDonogh Parents Association on Wednesday, May 2 at 8:30 a.m. for breakfast in the Aarsand 1873 Room of the Edward St. John Student Center as we celebrate a successful school year.

Guests are encouraged to join in the fun of the all-school Art Pop-Up Day. After breakfast at 9:15 a.m., we'll adjourn to the black top outside the Horn Theatre and partake in chalk murals and button-making with the theme, "Make the World Kinder with Art."

*The MPA welcomes all parents to join us for this celebratory event.
We hope to see you there!*

Head of Middle School Report by Darren Ford

Darren extended his thanks to all parents for their support. He appreciated Elise and Sharon's leadership this year.

Kids received a Step It Up email yesterday – happens every spring – to finish strong. They should be mindful of devices and reduction of their use. The students know their responsibilities.

Darren had a team leader meeting – events calendar for next year. Very excited for the things faculty are initiating. This is why we're "doing school really well." Including, but not limited to, a talent show, visits to Gettysburg and Toby's Theatre, Battle of the Books, 6th grade Triathlon, stream study, helping with LS math explosion day, band concert, oratories, Evening of Dance, spring recognition assembly, end-of-year activities, i.e. Hershey Park. There are so many great things for our students. It is vibrant and energetic.

Darren is proud of his faculty and their energy.

Jen Little described the 88 in 88 Challenge going on with The McDonogh Fund. Henry Rosenberg '48

Elise spoke about the importance of participation that is so important. Faculty support is the highest participation percentage, and Elise hopes parent participation will be that high.

Special Guest

Jon Aaron spoke to the group on the topic: From Hill to Home.

November 23, 1873 21 boys arrived with nothing to do on campus. They came from the city, were orphans and were destitute and ran around, exploring campus.