

MCDONOGH

PARENTS ASSOCIATION

Middle School Parent Association Meeting Minutes January 18, 2018

Welcome to MSPA September Meeting (Elise Kurlander)

15 in attendance

Middle School Update: Darren Ford

Happy New Year. Hard to get traction because of snow.

Day back is day to reunite. Kids are each talking at same time to the other because of their excitement. Excitement also because of things like geography bee.

Last Thursday was the real full day. But we do have extra week built in so we're ok.

Cyber school (on snow days) - not great but way to progress ahead.

Kids should be checking assignments at 9, noon, and 3. Meaningful assignments not just busy work. Advisors talked to kids about this after 2nd snow day.

Advisor reports are starting to come in. Due on Sunday at noon. Mr. Ford will read them then he will send them out. This is a check-in with parent to let them know where they see your child. It may include something about their conversation with your child about their goals and how they're going to improve as a student, a learner, and a person. This is part of partnership of MS with parents.

Ann Fleming, parent liaison:

***Newsletter clarification and coordinating tables for upcoming Glow in the Dark event.**

***The Parent only McDonogh wide event will take place on March 24 at 7:30 pm Saturday in the Upper School Dining Hall. It will be a catered event with horderves. Please talk it up.**

Trish Seaman: perhaps reach out to room parents for this.

Ann: delayed start because of changes in date. Email Ann with more suggestions for the event.

Ann asked and those in attendance agreed that being able to see who's coming would be better.

Washington Talent will donate a band. Will be a free event. Casual event. Looking to have in future years - a signature event for parents. We need parents to sign up to set up and clean up, etc.

Suggestion: perhaps have a headliner speaker to get people there. I.e. Get the new head master to come.

Ann has worked with David Farace '87. She would name him "Mr. McDonogh".

Suggestion: Have easels of Campus Development Project.

Tables with Grades so people can congregate there.

Multiple prints of pictures that parents can see and take

Ann: Photographers and videographers will be there

Suggestion: signature dress color i.e.

Signature drink too.

Email Ann best way to contact her.

*March 2 is Multi-cultural night

*Some parenting education coming up in March.

Elise Kurlander

Thanked Helen Doyle and Kirsten Lockyer for coffee and treats.

Speaker: Wendy Samet, Executive Director of Middle Grades Partnership and Willie Little, the McDonogh coordinator for the partnership.

Mr. Little: has been involved with MGP since he was at Calvert School. This year, MGP has a partnering with Center Stage. McD partners with Baltimore City schools to bring middle schoolers together for different opportunities such as Center Stage classes.

Opening up summer program to McD. Great program. Academics and enrichment. Baltimore City students will come to McDonogh for great classes such as Spanish culture immersion, Rock shop camp. 5 week program. Breakfast, lunch, and snack and it's free. 9 partnerships. Signups will be forthcoming for interested McDonogh middle school students.

Kids see by being with other schools, that they have so much in common. Private school kids see that city school kids in this program are able to get into great city schools like Poly, etc and realize they have much in common.

Wendy started professional life as a painting conservator. In 1996 she led the multi-racial economically diverse coalition that established Midtown Academy, one of Baltimore's most successful and sought-after charter schools.

VP of Goldsmith family foundation. Oversaw distribution of 1m

In 4 yrs expanded programs and children served.

Wendy Samet:

MGP started in 2005 as project of Tom Wilcox

Program to reach out to city schools through academics and enrichment and possibly recruit.

Wilcox wanted a true partnership. Research and thinking. 2005 started first partnership.

Schools are paired up. McD with Mt Royal. Head of school and principal appoint a director who recruits students and hires teachers.

Usually pre and post testing. Cookie cutter. But didn't work

Broad goals. 78 percent retention rate.

Want public school kids to be able to write 5 page essay, read. Ready for algebra in high school or 8th grade. On par with highest city schools -

Recruited students from public schools are not cream of the crop. They are middle level. Those who get lost in the middle with potential. The idea is with a little help and attention, they can be pushed up to expectations. Successful with this.

With out MGP, 19 percent of Baltimore City middle school students make it to the top academic high schools in the city. Contrast that with those students in MGP. 91-percent of these students make it to top high schools in the city... this really changes their lives for college and beyond.

MGP brings kids to private schools and there's never a behavioral issue.

Mr. Little: in 13 years have had 1 incident. Boy whose brother was jailed in the morning.

Recruit the best teachers. Kids seem equal on many levels.

Independent school parents wanted their kids to attend. Thought initially that kids from different schools would be on different levels academically but not true.

Kids come together and instantly become friends. McD and Mt Royal kids started out writing snail mail. They have Rock Shop together.

Enriching summer for kids from both schools. During school year, with Center Stage, they learn storytelling with teaching artist. Almost 500 students in 9 partnerships.

Mr. Little: First year choosing students. 5 per grade. Students will apply.

For rising 6,7,and 8th graders.

Summer internships are already closed for this summer. College students help out the summer camp. Will be posted on summer camps listings soon.

All day camp. Academic enrichment.

5 weeks end of june thru about the end of July

Elise Kurlander:

*MPA purchased \$200 of snacks and drinks for ski trip. 80 8th graders

*7th event - glow event. Included in parent news. Mary Snowden - 7-9pm wear white for glow in the dark.

3 items being paid for: DJ. Ice cream. Black lights. Photo booth.

Water jugs by Sage

1 parent volunteer per 10 kids at least

Upcoming events:

Kristin McCarthy:

February 13 is bake sale. Need bakers. Sign up form is forthcoming.

5th grade event Cake Wars. Teachers judge on teamwork and creativity. Pizza will be served.

Karima Carrington:

TGITHursdays steady participation

School wide events:

March 24 Saturday: Mix, Mingle, McDonogh

Next Middle School MPA Meeting: Thursday, February 15, 2018 8:30am Mullan Board Room

Adjournment

###