

McDonogh Parents Association
Middle School Meeting Agenda
November 16, 2017 8:30 am

Welcome and Introductions: Elise Kurlander, Chair

15 in attendance

Middle School Update: Darren Ford

- School wide survey in January about what MPA is doing and not doing to help connect families, please give feedback about volunteerism; The survey will close on Friday, December 15 at 9:00 p.m. If you have already submitted your answers, thank you for helping us be a better MPA.
- Thanked parents for their support throughout the year.
- Darren addressed a service hours question and said that service hours are handled in Middle school at each grade level. For example, the 6th grade class had a water project. He went on to say that the Upper School has 40 hours requirement when starts the summer before 9th grade and finishes the summer before 12th grade.
- Darren spent some time speaking about the coding curriculum. He said that 6th and 7th grade classes have one trimester of a visual arts rotation and the 8th grade class has a robotics rotation.
- Darren Introduced the guest speakers.

Guest Speakers: Kathryn O’Neil and Beth Popp, Middle School Learning Center

- McDonogh has learning specialists and case managers as all students need academic support at different times and in different way throughout their education.
- The learning center goal is to assist students in becoming independent and to have them own their learning strengths and challenges.
- 20% of each class has learning differences.
- The resource center is in the Finney building.
- There are specialists for the lower, middle and upper school students. These specialists work with the teachers and students to come up with an intervention plan for the students that need assistance.

Parent Relations: Ann Fleming, Director of Advancement Services and Parent Relations
“Screenagers” for all parents from 4th grade and up “Understanding Gender and Expression”
Alex Meyer on Nov 21st with conversation before and after.

Middle School Committee Chair Updates:

- 5th Grade Class Event: Judith Tortora – the 5th grade will be having a Cake War themed event on March 23rd 4pm – 7pm in the Lower School Dining Hall.

- 6th Grade Class Event: Trish Seaman - the 6th grade Barn Bash was held on Friday November 3rd and was a big hit. 92 sixth graders attended.
- 7th Grade Class Event: Mary Snowden and Amy Stanziale – the 7th grade will be having a dance with a glow party theme on February 2nd from 7pm-9pm in Esther Ann Hall with a DJ and a Photo Booth.
- 8th Grade: will have a dance that is coordinated through the school.
- Bake Sales: Kristin McCarthy- Had a bake sale on Oct 1st and it was very successful. All the students remembered to bring money and they made \$309.50. This money goes to Darren to use for things such as end of year snacks.
- Conference Day and Teacher Appreciation Lunch: Joan Royals – had a good turnout.
- TGIThursdays: Karmina Carrington – please sign up to volunteer.
- 8th Grade Bay Trip: Courtney Gonzales and Mindi Jocelyn – there is a question about if this event will happen in the future due to logistics.

All School Committees:

- Parent Education: Judy Yu – Next event is Dan Ellerman - Diversity & Inclusion - A Workplace or Life Issue? Monday March 5th at 7pm in the Klein Lyceum.
- Charleston Wrap: Stacey Mannes is complete and was successful.

Upcoming Events, Reminders and Save the Dates:

- November 16 at 7pm Screenagers: Growing up in the Digital Age in the Klein Lyceum.
- November 17 Fall Recognition Assembly – special dress.
- November 18 at 9:30am Roots clean up and pot luck lunch.
- November 21 Report cards delivered.
- November 27th at 7pm Understanding Gender Identity and Expression.
- November 22 – 27 Thanksgiving Break.
- December 1 and 8 7th grade play at 12:10pm in the Klein Lyceum.
- December 7 Middle school band concert.
- December 13 and 14 Middle school vocal music open studio choral concert at the Tagart Memorial Church 2:15pm.
- December 15 Due date for 27th annual Holiday Project. Cash donations due by December 11.
- December 15 All-School Holiday Assembly - On the morning of Friday, December 15, the entire student body will gather in the Lamborn Alumni Memorial Field House to celebrate the season. Students are invited to wear school-appropriate, casual dress. Holiday-themed clothing and accessories are welcome! Lower School students are asked to wear regular dress code shoes to school on this day for PE class and recess play.
- December 17 Carillon Concert featuring traditional and popular music Tagart Memorial Chapel, 3:00 p.m.
- December 19 Wrapping Up the Holiday Project - Thanks to your efforts, Tuesday, December 19, we will deliver boxes of toys, books, clothes, and Giant Food gift cards to 131 families in need, including 377 children.

- December 21st Please give or pledge to the annual fund and help McDonogh achieve the 75% challenge.

There will be not December Middle School MPA Meeting. The next Middle School MPA meeting is Thursday, January 18, 2018 at 8:30 a.m. in the Mullan Board Room on the main level of the Edward St. John Student Center. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Thank you.

Adjournment

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