

**March 7, 2023**

**8:45 – 9:45 AM via MS Teams**

**1. PA President (Katharine Pike)**

**Recent PA-Facilitated Events:**

- Winter Celebration was January 19th
  - Very well-attended; one of our best events ever
  - Great to see the LPC finished!
  - What a difference from two years ago when we had to meet online
  
- Faculty and Staff Appreciation
  - Parents pitched in to purchase items and help assemble. We have a wonderful problem that volunteer sign-ups fill up quickly!
  - Holiday and Valentine’s “Italian Dinner” gift baskets were greatly appreciated
  
- Athletics
  - Leela Rao coordinates
  - 3 hr parent commitment
  - We have excellent parent engagement
  - Arts: Tami Cheung
  - Upper school play had incredible support (decorations, food, etc.)
  
- Class Reps
  - Class Rep and Volunteer Social happened
  - Winter Parent Coffee Meetings were informative; Senior panel discussed what it’s like to be a Senior at EPS
  - Upcoming Socials (March 15 – April 6)
  - Upcoming Events – see table below
  
- 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration + Dr. Macaluso’s Farewell: Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup> 11:30 – 2 PM. This is an ALL SCHOOL celebration which is rare. Save the date! PA Events Team is busy planning this.

**Volunteer Opportunities:** For a full list, go to the EPS website => Current Families => Parent Association => Scroll down to Click Here.

- Athletics Support: Still need team parents for a variety of Spring sports including Ultimate, Rowing, Track & Field and Soccer. Contact Leela Rao ([lerao7577@gmail.com](mailto:lerao7577@gmail.com))
- Arts Support: Spring Musical needs volunteers. Contact [tamicheung@gmail.com](mailto:tamicheung@gmail.com).
- Teacher Appreciation Week May 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>: Need volunteers for the various events, flowers, etc.
- All School Celebration May 20<sup>th</sup>: Stay tuned for more info.

- Bigger roles such as PA Exec officers will be posted on the Parent Association section of the EPS web site.

**2. Head of School (Sam Uzwick, Terry Macaluso)**

- Expressed gratitude to the volunteers and families
- **Admissions season** is well underway
  - Another record-breaking year with over 800 applications received across all grades
  - Our best marketing vehicle is our current families
  - We’ve extended offers for upper schools and are in the process of finalizing middle school decisions this week
  - We have far more qualified applicants than we do spots, unfortunately
  - We look closely at neurodiversity and student interests
  - We endeavor to create a balanced class of interesting humans who will collaborate as a team
  - After March 17<sup>th</sup>, we’ll focus on welcoming new families and students. We don’t just transition the student – we transition the whole family.
- **Endowment:** We’re planning to hold small group meetings to launch a fundraising effort. An endowment will afford us the ability to grant more financial aid and secure needed resources.
- **La Quinta** Permanent Supportive Housing
  - We continue to make strong progress with both the City of Kirkland and King County
  - Sam attended the City Council meeting in January and voiced our need for resident screening given our border location
  - Upcoming meeting will review changes the County and City have made to the agreements
  - We’re now in communication with the County in a similar way we have been with the City
  - We had a site visit with eight members of the county several weeks ago
  - City is working through operational details
  - Meeting this Thursday with the program owners to continue to push for screening and agreement changes
  - We expect the City to finalize the agreements this month. Then, the permitting process will begin. Renovations will be extensive and include adding a kitchen to each room. We’re not anticipating occupants for many months (perhaps up to a year).
  - During the renovations, we will take the opportunity to fortify our security procedures and align our expectations with the operator once hired

**3. Upcoming Events**

*Please note that onsite parking is very limited.*

<b>Date &amp; Time</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Audience / Details</b>
March 10 <sup>th</sup>	End of Winter Term and finals	All
March 13 <sup>th</sup>	PDD Day: NO SCHOOL	All
March 15 <sup>th</sup> 8:30 – 10 AM	7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Coffee Social	7 <sup>th</sup> Grade families

EPS PA GENERAL MEETING

<b>Date &amp; Time</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Audience / Details</b>
March 16 <sup>th</sup>	Upper School Course Selection	Grades 9 – 12 students
March 21 <sup>st</sup> 7:30 – 8:30 PM	EBC Info Night	All Parents/Guardians
March 29 <sup>th</sup> 8:30 – 9:30 AM*	Book Club discussion with author Michelle Icard ( <u>14 Talks by Age 14</u> )	All Parents/Guardians
March 30 <sup>th</sup> 8:30 – 9:30 AM	9 <sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Coffee Social	9 <sup>th</sup> Grade Parents/Guardians
March 30 <sup>th</sup> 8:30 – 9:30 AM	Book Club discussion with author Michelle Icard ( <u>14 Talks by Age 14</u> )	All
March 31 <sup>st</sup> 8:45 – 11 AM	12 <sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Coffee Social	12 <sup>th</sup> Grade Parents/Guardians
May 2 <sup>nd</sup> in the afternoon	11 <sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Coffee Social	11 <sup>th</sup> Grade Parents/Guardians
April 6 <sup>th</sup> Timing TBD	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Coffee Social	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Parents/Guardians
April 10 <sup>th</sup> – April 14 <sup>th</sup>	EBC Week	All
April 17 <sup>th</sup> – April 24 <sup>th</sup>	Spring Break: NO SCHOOL	All
April 25 <sup>th</sup>	Classes Resume	All
April 28 <sup>th</sup>	Student-led Conferences	All
May 4 <sup>th</sup> 6 – 7:30 PM	New Family Welcome Event	New Middle School families and EPS volunteers
May 7 <sup>th</sup> – 13 <sup>th</sup>	Teacher Appreciation Week	Faculty, staff and EPS volunteers
May 11 <sup>th</sup> – 13 <sup>th</sup>	All School Spring Musical	All
May 20 <sup>th</sup> 11:30 AM - 2 PM	20 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration BBQ	All
May 23 <sup>rd</sup> AM	Volunteer Appreciation Day Breakfast	Volunteers
May 26 <sup>th</sup> – 28 <sup>th</sup>	Memorial Day Holiday: NO SCHOOL	All
May 30 <sup>th</sup>	Arts Spring Fest	All
May 31 <sup>st</sup>	Upper School Sports Banquet	Upper School Athletes

**4. Q&A**

- **Question: Are we getting a strong enrollment response from the upper school families we accepted? Are we receiving questions about La Quinta?**
  - a. Sam: Yes, strong response. Don't have exact numbers. Had a new family meeting last week with high attendance. We're now moving to the wait pool, but we don't anticipate much movement there. Regarding La Quinta, Sam has been asked about it once or twice. Does not seem to have impacted the level of interest in our school given we had over 800 applications.
  - b. Vickie: We created an FAQ we presented to applicants so we were transparent about the project and potential impacts.

- **Question: Is there anything we should know about Finals or the Final Schedule?**
  - a. Sam: 3 classes on one day, 2 classes the next. We've been prepping the kids. John has been working with teachers to ensure that the focus that week is on exams and not other assignments. Maintaining the same schedule we've had the past few years.
- **Question: Is there a way to schedule finals such that they don't conflict with SATs and ACTs?**
  - a. Sam: We can look at it, but it's hard to coordinate this. Students can work with their advisors on their individual schedules.
- **Question: What have our learnings been thus far with ChatGPT?**
  - a. Sam: We aren't demonizing ChatGPT. We are experimenting and trying to figure out how to leverage its positive aspects rather than to resist it. Is this something that can help students and teachers with their craft? Students actually raised this issue to Dr. Stegeman and the school has responded.
- **Question: Was there a reason why reading school days were replaced with regular?**
  - a. Sam: I believe these are still on the books for Spring trimester.
- **Question: What were the major take-aways on the School Assembly yesterday?**
  - a. Sam was in an Admissions meeting. He will follow up with Dr. Stegeman.
- **Question: How many new students will join the existing 9<sup>th</sup> grade class? Why does it seem like there are a lot of open spots in 9<sup>th</sup> right now?**
  - a. Sam: We have 54 8<sup>th</sup> graders each year. We usually see four to five 8<sup>th</sup> graders attrit each year. This is a very low number. We add a significant number of new students in 9<sup>th</sup> because the social scene gets too familiar. We plan to add 25-30 new 9<sup>th</sup> graders. Target is 80 to 85 students in each upper school grade level. We have 83 9<sup>th</sup> graders, so there aren't many open spots if any. It is a critical balancing act. We also add a couple of 10<sup>th</sup> graders and perhaps one 11<sup>th</sup> grader if there is attrition.
- **Question: Do we ever bring students in mid-year?**
  - a. Vickie: We have in the past, but recently we haven't had any open spots. It's evaluated on a case-by-case basis.
- **Question: What experiences can we cook up for the May 20<sup>th</sup> all-school celebration?**
  - a. Vickie: There will be opportunities to create memories for Terry Macaluso! No dunk tank or bouncy house!
- **Question: To reduce student stress, there has been discussion about changing our grading model. What is the status of this?**
  - a. Sam: This may make its way into our strategic plan. Right now, it's difficult to talk about shifting our grading model without first defining our current practices and aligning on our overarching philosophy. We must ensure our grading practices are unified and rooted in EPS's overall mission and philosophy. Are grades a bell curve? Are they about setting a standard and achieving it? Is our culture about chasing a letter grade? Should a grade represent mastery of the skills and content of the discipline, or also reflect ancillary skills like turning things in on time? Are we sending the right message to our students with our current grading system, or are we simply telling them to do more? The other dimension is how we interface externally with colleges and universities, and what their expectations are.
- **Question: Does EPS have an interest in providing life skill preparation to students who are preparing to transition to college (financial management, note-taking, laundry, etc.)?**
  - a. Sam: We have opportunities during Senior Spring to explore this and what we can do to help facilitate students' transition to independent living.

Feel free to email Terry, Sam and/or Vickie with any questions. Our next PA General meeting may be in person. Stay tuned!