

March 5, 2024

8:45 – 9:45 AM via MS Teams

1. APG Activities (Katharine Pike, President)

- Winter Celebration was a huge success! Katharine presented pictures of the events.
- APG organized procurement and assembled gift boxes for Faculty and Staff Appreciation (Holiday, Valentine's)
- Winter Sports team parents provide snacks for games and student support. Leela Rao recruits and coordinates with all team parents.
- Arts support: Radium Girls play was incredible. Tami Cheung organizes two lunches for rehearsals and a banquet on performance days.
- Class rep coordinators help families stay informed and connected to the EPS community. They manage key communications and organize social events such as happy hours, book clubs and coffee gatherings.
- Upcoming dates:
 - o Socials
 - 8th Grade on Thursday, March 7th 5:30 – 7 PM
 - 12th Grade on Friday, April 19th 9-11 AM
 - 5th – 6th Grade and 7th – 8th Grade on Thursday, May 23rd
 - Socials for other grades are in planning; stay tuned for date announcements
 - o EPS Rocks music concert tonight
 - o Finals 3/6 – 3/8
 - o Last ski bus 3/16
 - o EBC Info Night 3/19
 - o EBC Week 4/1 – 4/5 (for most experiences)
 - o Spring Break 4/8 – 4/15 no school
 - o Student-led conferences: 4/26 no school
 - o Spring hike 5/4
 - o Musical (Adams Family) 5/9 – 5/11
 - o Author talk with Michelle Icard 5/15
 - o Senior retreat 5/19 – 5/21
 - o APG general meeting 5/20 In person
 - o Memorial Day holiday 5/24 – 5/27 no school
 - o Upper school sports banquet 5/29
 - o Prom 6/1

Volunteer Opportunities: For a full list, visit the EPS website => Current Families => Parent Association => Scroll down to Click Here. Here are our immediate needs:

- Sports team parents: Contact Leela Rao at lerao7577@gmail.com
 - o 5/6: Boys Ultimate (Blue), Girls Ultimate (Blue)
 - o 7/8: Girls Ultimate, Boys Ultimate D1 and D2
 - o US: Girls Varsity Tennis, Boys Varsity Soccer, Boys JV Soccer, Girls JV Ultimate
- Arts: Stay tuned for an email from Tami Cheung at tamicheung@gmail.com

- **Question:** When will APG officers be chosen?
 - o APG officers and class reps will be finalized in May of this year. Katharine and Vickie drive this effort.
 - o If you're interested in volunteering, reach out to Katharine at katharinepike@hotmail.com.

- 2. Admissions and Re-Enrollment (Cheryl Schenk Miller, Director of Enrollment)**
 - Still in the thick of it!
 - Once again, we've had a record number of applications to EPS. >700 completed apps across all grades is a historic high. This excludes incomplete apps and expressions of interest.
 - We saw high growth in 5th and 6th grade apps especially
 - Middle school decisions announce soon. Upper school released in mid-Feb.
 - Current family sibling applicants: In late Sept/early Oct, we'll host a current family information event. Current families may directly schedule with someone from the EPS Admissions team in October and November of 2024.
 - Re-enrollment retention: Set another record high! Higher than usual retention in 8th and 9th.
 - **Question:** Do we have space for parents to join the admissions committee?
 - o The admissions committee includes members of EPS's employee community including Learning Support, Faculty, Administration and the Admissions team. To protect applicant privacy / confidentiality, we don't include parents or alums in these discussions.
 - **Question:** Do you have positions for parent ambassadors to address new families' questions?
 - o Parents can get involved in welcoming new families if interested. Cheryl will update the web page.
 - o APG officers will reach out to new families as well at least twice to answer any questions and help them integrate into the community
 - **Question:** Are you expecting Rainier Scholars to join the next school year?
 - o Yes, Rainier Scholars will join us in the 6th grade. We set another record high for Rainier Scholars enrollment this year. Rainier Scholars are supported through middle and high-school and during college as well. They are a diverse, highly-capable group of individuals who are often awarded financial aid. See <https://www.rainierscholars.org/> for more info.

- 3. EBC Week (Paul Hagen, Director of Student Well-Being)**
 - A little over a month away
 - Some experiences leave a little early or late (e.g. international trips for upper schoolers), but generally they will take place April 1 – 5
 - 21 experiences in total spanning the gamut from local blacksmithing to international travel
 - Just over 600 students, faculty and staff will participate
 - David Kelly Hendrick (an English MS teacher) is an experiential coordinator who's working hard to manage trips and plan with chaperones
 - Project to offset carbon emissions for EBC travel is underway. EPS has offset nearly 25% of carbon emissions resulting from these trips. Students are actively participating.
 - EBC Family Info night: Parents/guardians can join their student in a remote meeting on 3/19 from 7 – 8 PM
 - EPS will offer on-campus notary services on 3/13-14 from 8:30 – 9:30 AM in Tali 108. International travel requires form(s) to be notarized.

- Please keep an eye on email requests to sign forms and waivers and return in a timely manner
- **Question:** Can you please speak to how students get placed in EBC groups?
 - o Grades 5 – 7 are in trips that include the entire grade
 - o 8th and above: Students select their top four choices. Then, we work by seniority starting with seniors since it's their last year.
 - o Placement is initially blind, but as we begin to solidify the list, we look at students' prior experiences. For example, if a student got their first choice last year or travelled internationally, they may not this year if space is limited.
 - o Unfortunately, 23 seniors didn't get their first choice this year. The Japan trip was extremely popular and we didn't have enough space for everyone.
 - o We look at gender as this affects rooming assignments
 - o We maintain a wait list. We moved 20 students around this year, so there is a shuffle after the initial placement. However, we cannot always accommodate requests.
 - o We have many conversations with students about their placement and reaction to it
 - o By design, we don't always place friends together as we want kids to forge new connections
- **Question:** Will the EBC meeting be recorded in case we have multiple kids?
 - o If you can't make the meeting, let your trip lead know and we'll make sure you get the necessary information

4. Head of School (Sam Uzwick)

- Gave a shout out to Katharine, Vickie and Katie for the APG's tremendous support of EPS
- Gave a shout out to Cheryl for leading our complex enrollment efforts. We're proud of our progress in bringing in an ever-more diverse population both geographically and socio-economically. It's very challenging to say no to students who could be successful here.
- Gave a shout out to Paul "EBC" Hagen. Not every school sends all students out at once because the logistics are like a game of Tetris. The most important thing is that the program is safe, well-staffed and resourced, and Paul makes this happen. We hear every year of the profound effects of these trips on the students. They learn what it means to be part of a global society. It's experiential education outside of the classroom.
- Sam's been in the Head of School role for about a year now. He's extremely appreciative of the support he's received from students, faculty and the broader community.
- A few highlights Sam wanted to underscore:
 - o Sam was more moved by the recent Radium Girls performance than he has been at his 15 years at EPS
 - o Sam loved the way the boys' basketball team came to support the girls in the play-off match at Bush. EPS was the loudest contingent in the Bush gym!
 - o Culture Night: The LPC was packed. Displays and performances were incredible. Siblings performed together, as did students and their families. It was an incredible way to celebrate diverse cultures and communities.
 - o Marine Science Club: Students spearheaded this club. There is a salmon tank in the school to grow eggs and release them in Lake Washington.
 - o Carbon offsets is also a student initiative that is gaining momentum
 - o Students are working to rehab the stream that runs through the Linbrook office park
 - o The City of Kirkland visited our campus twice to talk to our students. City council members said our students are more polished than many adults they meet.
- La Quinta Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) Update:

- Dr. Macaluso strongly believed we need to have a seat at the table to influence outcomes. As we move forward, this remains our strategy. We want to be in the midst of the planning and process.
- We've hosted two meetings for our Linbrook neighbors. We're taking an active leadership role. We learned in meeting one that our neighbors weren't up to speed on the PSH plan.
- We have a Board Member who is a land use attorney and has been instrumental in helping us navigate this process
- Per Vickie, the most recent update is that the County issued an RFP and awarded the bid to a construction company. Construction is happening at the various PSH sites in order of priority. La Quinta is on that list, but not at the top because sites with existing residents have a higher priority.
- The County also issued an RFP for an Operator and is working to select the Operator in April. We continue to request a say in the selection of the Operator, but this has not yet been granted.
- Once the Operator is selected, we will begin to tackle logistics and property changes such as fencing, screening, enhanced security, etc.
- We do have a seat at the table with respect to the communication and safety plan as well as the resident code of conduct. We're able to provide direct feedback.
- Permits are planned for submission in May. Every room at La Quinta needs a kitchenette. The building has been vacant for two years, so considerable renovation work is needed. Floors are rotting and no sprinklers exist. The plan is for construction to begin in Fall of 2024 with a 2025 opening target. This is very aggressive, however.
- 65% of residents will be from the eastside
- **Question:** Given how important this Permanent Housing conversation is, is there any thought given to community learning to build compassion and understanding about our local unhoused neighbors?
 - When the dust settles, we'll have an incredible learning opportunity for our community about the complexities of the homeless crisis, housing solutions and the continuum of care that help people achieve ultimate independence. First, though, we need to focus on safety and protocol.
 - It's very difficult to get sober or to maintain a job when you're unhoused
 - Having supportive housing helps to prevent homelessness from happening. Many people are on the cusp of becoming unhoused – a paycheck away.
- **Question:** Last year, there was a presentation from a King County representative that gave a great context around the PSH initiative. Perhaps we could do this again?
 - Excellent idea, yes. Sam and Vickie will look into this.
- **Question:** Any update on the building EPS acquired earlier this year?
 - We are still leasing it back to the preschool
 - Concurrently, we are in the feasibility planning and design phase. For example, we're working to understand the setback from the creek and how it impacts the building's future footprint.
 - We're also examining potential uses of the space. Sam has a whiteboard of ideas in his office including becoming a conduit between EPS and the greater community, a gathering space, environmental exploration and senior-specific needs.
- **Question:** Which building(s) will the Pacific Science Center summer camps use?

- Pacific Science Center will take over our MS building for three weeks this summer. This is a pilot for us (e.g. is this a potential revenue stream?). Pacific Science Center has been hosting these camps for 47 years, so it's not a pilot for them.
- We have a lot of planning and preparation we need to undertake each summer to prepare for the upcoming school year, so three weeks is the limit