

**Sept 6, 2023**

**8:45 – 9:45 AM via MS Teams**

### **1. APG President (Katharine Pike)**

- Discussed name change from PA to Association of Parents and Guardians (APG) to be more inclusive for all.
- Introduced APG Exec Team members and Class Parents
- This is Katharine’s third and final year as APG President as her son is a senior

#### **APG-facilitated fall activities:**

- New Family Welcome picnics
- Class Rep communications (WhatsApp moderation, emails)
- Ice cream social on first day of school
- Teacher/Staff Appreciation coffee cart
- Upcoming:
  - New Family welcome outreach
  - Fall Harvest celebration “New Beginnings”: Please RSVP!
  - Teacher/Staff Appreciation events
  - Arts and Athletics events
  - Class Rep-hosted coffee chats with parents and guardians

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

- Arts Support Parent Volunteers (Play and Music events): Play auditions happening this week for Phantom Toll Booth
- Fall Harvest (September 29<sup>th</sup>): Set-up and clean-up
- Photo Retake Day (October 12<sup>th</sup>): Checking in students

### **2. Head of Middle School: Sarah Peeden**

- Co-authored an article on restorative practices with Dr. Stegeman. Read it in the *Inspire* magazine coming out 10/1
- This is about creating a community ethos based on respecting one another and our space. Collaborating to solve problems in a natural way. We are working to build a culture of support, trust and cohesion.
- Establishing strong advisory groups
- Ensuring that students are aware of what it means to be an EPS student and how to respect the space and community
- MS Handbook: Includes why we have rules and what the ideal day looks like for students
- Students should feel comfortable, safe and engaged here
- Sets the tone for the year

- Also heavily focused on digital wellness in the Middle School. How do we use our devices in a healthy way? What does it mean to have a phone or a laptop? Using laptops is a major transition for many middle-school students

### 3. Head of Upper School: Dr. John Stegeman

- He has been here five years
- In the Upper School, focus heavily on relationship and community-building
- This work has been especially important as we've emerged from our period of isolation
- Fall Retreats center around building connections and community
- 9<sup>th</sup> Grade: A lot of work happens to integrate new students to the EPS community
- Students are more likely to take risks and ask questions when they feel safe and secure
- Much evidence exists in the academic realm around the importance of relationship-building
- Integration: We want to avoid falling into academic silos. We ensure our classes are integrated and communicating with one another.
- Restorative Practices: What happens when things break down? How do we respond and course-correct? Rather than implementing purely retributive measures (e.g., detention, demerits), we want to have open conversations to foster learning and healing.
- When a rule is breached, we will help the student understand why the rule exists, the consequence of breaching the rule and how to repair the trust and hurt that resulted from the student's actions
- Leaves room for students to learn and grow
- Barriers: Shame felt by the student who broke the rule. Pain felt by the affected community members.
- We'll discuss this more during the Upper School coffee chats

### 4. Head of School (Sam Uzwick)

- o Spoke about getting back into a rhythm at school and how it will soon settle down
- o Thank you to our volunteers and reps for their commitment to our community
- o Discussed pillars of Relationship, Partnership, Growth and Integration
- o We are setting students up to develop socially, academically and physically
- o Strong partnerships between home and school and between adults and students have an amplifying effect
- o We want to teach students how to develop internally rather than imposing a large body of codified rules
- o We're off to a wonderful start! Orientations were fantastic.
- o Sam had breakfast with the seniors. Seniors then greeted the 5<sup>th</sup> graders with posters and showed them around the school.
- o Sam also went to a baseball game in Tacoma with 7/8 graders
- o These experiences set the tone that we do school together. Through collaboration, we can achieve more.
- o Our theme for the year is **Engagement**
- o Our 3-5 year priorities set by the Board are outlined in *Inspire* magazine coming out 10/1
- o Heads Table meeting invitations are upcoming – Stay tuned for your chance to meet
- o Please reach out to your student's advisor and Sam, Sarah and/or John with any questions or concerns you may have

**5. Upcoming Events**

*Please note that onsite parking is very limited.*

Date	Time	Event	Location
9/21	6:30 – 8:30 PM	Back to School Night (MS and US)	EPS
9/27	8:30 – 9:30 AM	9-10 Parent Coffee Meeting 1	MS Teams
9/28	8:30 – 9:30 AM	11-12 Parent Coffee Meeting 1	MS Teams
9/29	6:30 PM	Fall Harvest “New Beginnings”	EPS
10/3	8:30 – 9:30 AM	9-10 Parent Coffee Meeting 2	In-person TBD
10/3	2:30 – 3:30 PM	11-12 Parent Coffee Meeting 2	In-person TBD
10/3	4:00 – 6:00 PM	Homecoming Games: Boys Ultimate and Girls Soccer	TBD
10/4	8:30 – 9:30 AM	11-12 Parent Coffee Meeting 3	In-person TBD
10/5	2:30 – 3:30 PM	9-10 Parent-Coffee Meeting 3	In-person TBD
10/5	4:00 – 6:00 PM	Homecoming Game: Girls Volleyball	In-person TBD
10/7	7:00 – 10:00 PM	Homecoming Dance (US Only)	EPS
10/11	6:30 – 8:00 PM	5-6 Parent Coffee Meeting 1	TBD
10/11	6:30 – 8:00 PM	7-8 Parent Coffee Meeting 1	TBD
10/18	6:30 – 8:00 PM	5-6 Parent Coffee Meeting 2	TBD
10/27	TBD	Fall Halloween Socials (5-6, 7-8)	EPS
11/2-4	TBD	Middle School Fall Play: Phantom Toll Booth	EPS TALI Theater
11/30	6:00 – 8:00 PM	Movie Night (US Only)	EPS TALI Theater

**6. Q&A**

- **Question: Where is the strategic plan available to read?**
  - a. Vickie: See page 12 of the *Inspire* magazine coming out on 10/1
- **Question: Would you please discuss changes to the Upper School Advisory Model?**
  - a. John: For the past few years, we’ve had combined advisory groups for grades 11 – 12. This year, we’ve separated them into two discrete groups so we can focus more intently on the needs of each class. Seniors have different needs than Juniors. Second, we used to keep students in the same advisory group in grades 9 – 10. We found that in trying to build the advisory community and culture that new advisors in 10<sup>th</sup> grade had to adopt the mores established in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade vs. being able to forum their own.
- **Question: Would you talk about the switch from overnight orientations to day-only for some grades this year?**
  - a. Sam: We moved to overnights for grades 6 and 9 a few years ago because these were the grades where we experienced a blending of new students. Seniors also have overnights for rafting trips, etc. Day events allow us to customize programming for each individual grade (e.g., baseball game, glassblowing, YMCA ropes course).
- **Question: Any update on the new buildings we purchased?**
  - a. Sam: We are leasing back these buildings to the preschool for the next 6-12 months. Affords us time in which to determine how to best utilize the space moving forward. We were very pleased with how quickly we were able to move in partnership with

the Board to acquire these buildings. EPS is now a majority owner in the Linbrook Office Park complex which allows us greater control. These buildings are a great asset and opportunity for us. They come with parking spaces as well.

- b. We will tie the usage of these buildings to our strategic priorities. Stay tuned for more information!
- **Question: Will the deck and recording from this meeting be shared?**
  - a. Vickie: Yes, we will include the links in our EPS Weekly email this Friday.