



SCA HS/MS JOINT PARENT COUNCIL MEETING

Friday, October 22, 2021

10:00am - District Community Room

- 1. Welcome** - Markella Maliagros, MS SCA President
Rachel Harley, HS SCA President

High School President's report - Rachel Harley

Things have been busy up at the Secondary School!

We had a wonderful Homecoming with a spirited parade! Many thanks to Laurie Lauria and all the class advisors and our Grade Level chairs for making it a terrific day for our students!

High School Open House went off without a hitch. Many thanks to our hard-working teachers, and their very quiet and patient families, for their successful home zooms.

Grade 7-11 photo days took place on September 23rd and 24th and we had retakes on October 14th. Thanks again to Nancy Schlaefer and her team of volunteers for running this event once again. We also had Senior Portrait retakes on October 15th.

Speaking of Seniors, Senior parents have been busy adhering to all their many deadlines for the Senior Yearbook and the Senior Banquet. Valerie Bebber, our Banquet chair, is working very hard to make this a memorable evening. We have over 450 attendees so far, and the deadline to RSVP is this Sunday. Our auction chairs, Joy Sargent, Jeanne Sylvia and Sabrina Roszko are still accepting donations so please contact them if you wish to contribute.

Since we last met, we also had our 12th grade Parent Night, our guidance financial aid night, and our 9th grade parent night. We also held our first Frolic meeting of the year, in person, which was very well attended. Thank you to Linda Gurino for taking on this beast!

And finally, Manhasset hosted the PSAT up at the Secondary School on October 16th.

Looking Ahead....

Senior Banquet! Monday, November 1st at 6:30 PM at Leonards Palazzo.

Our 11th grade Parent Night will be on November 9th.

First marking period ends November 12th.

Teacher Reacher opens on Tuesday, November 16th at 7 PM to schedule parent conferences.

Our next Parent Council meeting will be on **Friday, November 19th at 10AM** and we hope to see everyone there!

Middle School President's Report – Markella Maliagros

Middle School Welcome Back Outdoor Dance Party

The Middle School SCA hosted a Welcome Back Outdoor Dance Party on Friday, September 17th, 2021 from 7:30-9:30 outside on the Girl's Turf. The party was a big success with over 300 Middle School Students attending. Thank you to our Chair Liz Collard, to Principal Schlanger, Vice Principal Oppenheimer, Peter Vercessi and all the teachers who attended and supported the event. Thank you also to all the 50 or so parent volunteers who made monetary donations or volunteered that evening. The students enjoyed a DJ with giveaways, in addition to, an inflatable obstacle course, and carnival and lawn games. We will also provide Pizza, refreshments, and candy station.

Photo Day

Photo Day for the MS was Thursday and Friday, September 23rd & 24th. Thank you to Blanca McKenna for chairing this Day and for organizing the over 20 volunteers who signed to help (into slots) to check-in the students for their photos. The 8th Grade Class was also able to take their photo on the bleachers this year on 10/23, which we were not able to do last year due to covid restrictions.

Middle School Open House (Reschedule from September 14)

MS Open House was on Zoom again this year on Tuesday, September 28, 7pm. Teachers zoomed from their homes due to the network disruption. Everything seemed to go smoothly. Thank you to Dr. Schlanger for offering to open the school to new parents to do a self-guided building tour prior to the open house. Many parents were very grateful to have the opportunity to see the inside of the building.

Directory

Michele Longobardi has begun collecting parent information for the Directory. An email went out to all incoming 7th Graders to fill out the form. Deadline is in November. We will also be sending out the 8th grade families as well for those who have new address.

Halloween Celebration

Is scheduled for Friday, October 29th 7:30-9:30 at the Girls' Outdoor Turf. We will have it outdoors as long as temperature stay above 50 degrees. We will move it indoors if rain or cold. It will be moved to 8-10pm if indoors due to sports conflict. We were able to have pizza, waters, chips and candy donated. We have volunteers to help with DJ, inflatables, Arcade games, Ping Pong, and more. We are hoping for a fun night for the 7th and 8th graders. Costumes are optional for the students.

2. Superintendent's Report- Dr. Gaurav Passi, Acting Superintendent, Manhasset School District

Tenure ceremony at most recent board meeting– 18 faculty, staff, administrators – great celebration

Board meeting prior – recognized national merit semi finalists

At the next board meeting, we will be recognizing 2 All-state musicians.

I would like to address the network disruption. Several weeks ago, criminals encrypted the district's computer system with ransomware. This caused us to take our network offline – this has been an incredibly difficult time – especially for the teachers and staff. The teachers really stepped up and made it work. The event itself is upsetting, and it is concerning that data was stolen and posted to the dark web. It's a concern to all of our school community. The intrusion into our network was deep, the files were voluminous. A number of sensitive files were put on the dark web – student and employee data found there. We have been working with law enforcement, Homeland security, and the FBI. We now need to review the files so that we can understand what is there and whose information is in them. As stated earlier, we don't maintain a database of social security numbers, but it's possible that information was provided for some reason other than registration. We didn't know what was stolen from us until information appeared on the dark web. Last night the board approved several agreements with our experts (legal counsel, cyber security, network engineers) that we have been using. We are relying on the top experts in the field. Our IT dept. has followed all of the recommendations that have been given to them by the experts. Because of this, we have been able to restore our computer systems and we did not need to pay ransom to decrypt our system. Why didn't the district pay the ransom? Even if we had paid, we would have not received any assurances that they would have deleted the data and also that there was a possibility that they would re-extort us. If you believe that you may have provided the district with personal identifiable information, you can take some steps such as reviewing your credit report, placing fraud alerts on your accounts. Some students obtained some confidential info that was found on the dark web and they circulated it. There will be a letter sent out to parents to discuss this with children. This information was embarrassing and perpetuates the crime. Ransomware attacks are so prolific that there are law firms, cyber firms, and a unit of Homeland security that are dedicated to these crimes.

3. Principal's Report - Dr. Dean Schlanger, Principal, Secondary School

Halloween party this Friday
Senior banquet on Monday
Progress report last Friday
End of quarter is nov 12

4. Guidance Update & Counseling Update

Dr. Joy-Anne D'Anca, Director of Guidance /Counseling Grades 7-12

Seniors: big deadline for college applications is Nov 1 and Nov 15
Records release forms should have already been submitted to HS counseling office and also green teacher recommendation forms.
Network disruption had little to no effect on the college application process. All student transcripts were uploaded to Naviance and counselors and teachers had the chance to upload their letters of recommendation by the first deadline (Oct 15).
World Unity Day – this past Wednesday - students and teachers wore orange to unite against bullying and to promote unity and kindness.
Thanks to STAR club for their help with Unity Day
High school counselors will begin to meet with 9th graders in Nov
MS counselors have been meeting with 7th graders to make sure transition has been smooth
Save the date:
Nov 3 – standardized testing overview
Nov 9 – 11th grade student – parent night

5. Interim District Director of Physical Education, Health & Interscholastic Athletics Introduction and Update

Thomas Howard

Has had numerous interim jobs around Nassau County since retiring from Farmingdale school district in 2003.

Elementary health program began in Manhasset this year. 1 of only 4 schools in the state to have this program. Perfect time to do it. Very excited about this program.

Athletics – playoffs have begun, Middle school sports $\frac{3}{4}$ way through. Sign up for MS winter 1 sports now and Varsity/JV sports too.

6. CASA Update

Jen Desena, Executive Director; Connie Bruno, Project Director

We presented to the parents at both elementary schools – overall parenting programs – attendance has been phenomenal.

Want to continue these programs – but now that we are back in person, some speakers aren't available in person – or cost is prohibitive – but we want to continue with the parenting programs along with Dr D'Anca– called Parent University.

Red Ribbon Week – We have changed the focus of Red Ribbon week over time – it started back in the '80s – a DEA agent on an undercover operation was kidnapped and murdered by a Mexican drug cartel. His community started wearing red ribbons to honor him.

Now focused on character building. This year, it will be more of a community event. Parents can scan QR code on posters to get a history of Red Ribbon Week.

The health teachers in the Middle School will give out red ribbons to the 8th graders.

Tuesday, Oct 26 - 9:30am in Munsey Park Auditorium– Marijuana presentation – what has changed, what do I tell my kids? Marijuana is much more potent than it used to be.

Thursday, Oct 28 - director from LICAD speaking to 5th and 6th graders on healthy choices – and how healthy choices make healthy communities

Thursday, Oct 28 - 7pm HS auditorium– the Sullivans – Chris Sullivan was a NE Patriot – became addicted to opioids due to sports injury and lost everything.

Kathy Sullivan's daughter – underage binge drinking, her daughter left the group – her daughter died.

Last year did survey on what the community would like to see: Parenting programs

11/2 (via zoom)– study skills presentation – targeted toward 6-9th graders – how to study less, learn more, especially around test taking. Tips and tricks to make learning work for you.

Parent session that evening – identify learning style for your child

New advisors for SALT club– Hunter Brocale, Carolyn Murphy – 1st meeting was today

SET connect club – self-care Sundays – kids post how they take care of themselves for the purpose of reducing stress and anxiety.

Educational Initiative around gambling -online gambling legalized in NY. Prior to the pandemic, 30% of students reported gambling prior to the pandemic. Past 30 day alcohol and drug abuse higher for teens who gamble. Teens more likely to gamble – because they like things that are high excitement, low effort. Teens 2x more likely to have a gambling problem than adults.

College 101 (seniors take this in June) covers drinking, some drugs, relationship issues and abuse.

NY has legalized marijuana. The town of North Hempstead has the chance to opt out of retail stores and consumption lounges in our community. There is a petition.

7. Board of Education Update

Pat Aitken, President; Christine Monterosso, Vice President

Facilities – financial presentation in Dec. Left over money from reserves – may be dedicated for athletic facilities. The work would be done next summer.

2014 was the last bond issue. We may issue more debt as that rolls off.

Wellness learning center will open shortly. We would like to do something similar for the High School students.

8. SCA Reminders

- Collection of SCA membership dues
- Senior Banquet, November 1st at 6:30, Leonards Palazzo
- Be on the lookout for a directory form
- The Manhasset SCA is having its 2nd annual Winter Greenery Fundraiser. Please enjoy the convenience of purchasing your winter garnishments while supporting the SCA. All orders must be submitted by Saturday, November 6. Greenery will be available for pickup in Manhasset sometime soon after Thanksgiving.
- Middle School Halloween Party – Friday, 10/29, 7:30 PM-9:30 PM

Our next HS/MS Joint Parent Council Meeting will be on Friday, 11/19 at 10 AM