

Parent Association Meeting March 14

PA Leadership (PACT)

PA Chair- Jen Diamond

Communications Chair -Stephanie Vuolo

Bulletin Board Coordinator - Melissa Lang Lytle and Rizza Rawcliffe

******PA Treasurer-** manages the budget, reports to PA as needed, supports process of implementing PA “dues.”

Parent Education Chair- Shelly Gerson

Elevating Conversations of Diversity and Inclusion- attend committee meetings and report back to PA,- Jen Diamond

Volunteer Coordinators-Kim Gonzalez and Sandra Hinsley-

8:20-8:30 **Coffee and get settled**

8:30-8:35 **Welcome and Thank you!!**

The meeting was very well attended!! Thank you so much to all who came to the meeting. We appreciate your support and commitment.

8:35-8:45 **Parent Event Feedback -**

Boys Alive: Shelly Gerson

Feedback

positive by people who attended

some wished more focus on Waldorf classrooms and themes

possibly bring her back to work with faculty

Shelly also shared about the book, *A Gift of Wonder*, a book that was insightful about a Waldorf teacher and her class, as well as how Waldorf looks at education.

"In today's predominant educational environment, where high-stakes testing and anxiety reign, it's clear that the goal, though implicit, is to fill buckets. Kim Allsup would like us to start lighting fires—to stop treating children like empty buckets. She sees that the vital essence of education has been sucked out of most schools today; that we must strive, above all, to bring it back; and that the situation is indeed urgent. Yet this book contains no arguments—it is not a change-of-policy proposal, nor is it a polemical treatise.

Kim Allsup is a teacher and a teller of stories, and so this book, to look only at the surface, tells the story of the six years a teacher spent with her class. However, it does much more than that. Funny, poignant, moving, relatable, and finally, life-affirming, and hopeful, this memoir gently shows the way to an educational approach that is worthy of childhood—*one rooted in wonder*."

(Shelly wrote a book review for the author and is will be sharing these books to new families) <https://www.amazon.com/Gift-Wonder-Showing-School-Should/dp/1584209542>

Red Tent Fundraiser Planning- (Melissa Lang Lytle melissalanglytle@gmail.com)-
Feedback
Positive for connecting community
space a bit big, possibly next time in smaller room or ensure warmer/cozier space
maybe two, beginning of the year/end of the year
raised over \$200
need to create space for men/dads

All women are welcome to a private, special event. That will hopefully deepen our experience with one another. We are creating a circle; this could move and shake our spirit to create a sense of community.

8:45-8:50 **Stop the Bleed** (rizzarawcliffe@gmail.com)

Rizza shared some proactive and positive trauma/emergency training directed toward faculty and parents proposed by BWWS parent Elina Quiroga. Continue conversation to see if this is appropriate.

<http://depts.washington.edu/hiprc/stop-the-bleed-washington/>

8:50-9:00 **Diversity and Inclusion Committee Update**- (Jen Diamond jendiamond@diamondfamily.org) and date selection survey for event.

9:00-9:20 **Bryan McGriff and Self Study**- work with PA 3-5 questions that come from the parents

Bryan shared that he is going to be creating a survey for parents and looking for insight and input for questions we as parents/community might like to see. The survey will have some yes/no and reflection based answers ideas for questions. What questions do YOU want to see?

- how do parents relate with or honor service to school, (individual classes, school functions, personal)
- communication, website
- jobs or roles within classroom
- possibly ways to connect better with newer families as well as retention
- this is not a fix it survey, but a feedback and how do we feel survey

ideas for distributing as well as high response rate
Francisca shared ideas about creating an invite
possibly a volunteer at a table encouraging parents to fill out
stay engaged in conversation

Principle 5 of the 7 Core Principles (AWSNA Principles for Waldorf Schools)

See for the Entire

https://waldorfeducation.org/Customized/Uploads/ByDate/2016/August_2016/August_16th_2016/3a_School_Principles11507.pdf

5. The conscious development of human relationships fosters individual and community health. Enduring human relationships between students and their teachers and among the children themselves are at the heart of Waldorf Education. The teacher's task is to work with the developing individuality of each student and with each class as a whole within the context of the entire school. These relationships gain in depth and stability when they are cultivated over multiple years. Healthy human relationships with and among parents and colleagues are essential to the well-being of the school. Members of the community are invited to join in developing meaningful, collaborative, transparent forms for working together. Each individual's self-development is encouraged since it is key to the well-being of the whole.

The discussion we aim to have at the next PA meeting will focus on the Self Study and discuss the following:

Where does this live for you?

What is the reality and practicality of this at our school?

Where are we right now?

Parents have experienced some growth as a part of being in this community?

Engage in this question

Caesar Chavez celebration March 30th 2:05-2:50 grades 4-8
would parents please bring grapes

9:20-9:25 Parent Association Representative Roles- Please forward the notes via email- if you aren't going to do that let me know so I can.

- Promoting parent involvement/attendance in and at school events
- Attending Parent Association Meetings
- Participating in the work of the PA
- Sharing the notes from the PA via email to you class, sharing relevant information at class meetings

9:25-9:30 Gala Update-Buy your Tickets! Buy a Table!!!

4/25 6:30 pm- This may change pending scheduling Diversity and Inclusion event for parents.

5/9 8:30 am

Mark Your Calendars!!! For the Parent Association recognition brunch

6/6 8:30 am

Stitch and Enrich! (jen@diamondfamily.org) Fridays in the Sky Room 8:15-10:00am
Topics for next Meeting, Questions, Feedback- please email jen@diamondfamily.org

Statement of Purpose

Our purpose is to incorporate parents into Bright Water Waldorf School's committed, thriving community, and to help them build and maintain the success of the school. The Parent Association helps facilitate socially inclusive relationships through shared conversations, events, and community-building. Moreover, the PA is dedicated to making these experiences positive for all staff, parents, and students. We believe strongly in the unifying power of dialogue and community.

We are here to connect parents with one another, and to share in discussion, development, and social bonding. All parents with children enrolled in BWWS are members of the PA. The PA leadership consists of the Parent Association Coordinating Team (PACT). The PACT is comprised of 3-5 parent volunteers who provide leadership to the PA.

***Our meetings will be conducted in a friendly and gracious way that honors and respects that we are all volunteering our time and energy in the effort of supporting our school and community. We will honor and respect everyone in the room, including any children who are attending. We will have our speaking be respectful of everyone in attendance at the meeting and consistent with an educational environment.