

WNS PARENT ASSOCIATION MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, MAY 4, 2016

INTRODUCTION

Introduction and welcome from Ali Karshan and Jade McLachlan, Co-Presidents of the WNS Parent Association.

SCHOOL SPIRIT AND MERCHANDISE UPDATE

Sarah Mangerson updated the PA that the merchandise for this year with the new owl design should be available for sale within two weeks, both online and at the PA Inclusivity Family Table Event if possible.

INCLUSIVITY FAMILY TABLE EVENT

This will take place on Friday 20th May, from 5.30 p.m. to 8.30 p.m. in the gym at the N 5th School Building. The committee and tasks are all assigned. There are students from a photography non-profit attending to take candid photos for use on the school and PA websites, and they will create a digital album of the event that will be shared.

Organizers asked that more fabric be donated for the large tablecloth that is being made for the event.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

(1) Events and Fundraising. No updates.

(2) Inclusivity. See above.

(3) Food, Health and Wellness. Some discussion of the Little Green Gourmets lunch service that is being trialed at present. Parents reported that the children are enjoying the food and that after an initial portion-size issue (Monday's lunch was very small), LGG has increased portion sizes across the board and have been very responsive to feedback. The PA will request that Tara Mastin re-send the sign-up link in her next newsletter for those parents who missed it.

Ryan Fishman has been talking with Whole Foods about providing organic snacks for the school, which they can do, so the school has gone back to its current contracted provider to find out their ability to provide organic versions of the snacks they currently serve, and to find out a price comparison. Ryan suggested some way for parents to be engaged on this issue might be a survey that the PA could take to the school. It was decided that when the school hears back from the current distributor, the PA will be in a position to consider the next steps.

(1) Communications. Merchandise updated above. There was a call for photographs from the gala — including candid moments from the night plus pictures of the class baskets so that new parents can see what's been done previously.

UPCOMING EVENTS / MEETINGS.

Family Table Event on Friday May 20th at 5.30 p.m. in the N 5th building.

Next PA meeting is Wednesday June 1st, at 7 p.m.

OPEN FLOOR / NEW ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

On June 4th between 12 noon and 4 p.m. New York Martial Arts are hosting a Kick-A-Thon and street party for charity on N 8th street. They've been a big supporter of the PA, so if families want to go along and find out more about what they do, turn up at their HQ.

The Graduating 5th Great Class is having a graduation event on an upcoming Tuesday, for which the PA is donating flowers. The PA is proposing to purchase a congratulations banner too, for future PA leaders to use if they would like in years to come for graduating classes.

Teacher appreciation day was a success and was most appreciated by everyone.

Paige Connell suggested that classes contribute some of their cash collection to a fund that could share some appreciation with support teachers who are otherwise missed in the teacher appreciation days. Parents thought this was a good idea.

A new "SCHOOL" sign has been added on Meeker Avenue, as one of the first steps toward increasing safety in that dangerous stretch of road.

Brent Adams is continuing his Family Soccer Sundays — the next one will be May 15th outdoors at East River State Park between 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. All welcome, bring a picnic.

Suggestion that ITC parents could be invited to tours of the Preschool and Lower School by the PA, and discussion that the PA could set up an event or mixer where parents with children in older grades can discuss their experience. There was a lot of positive feeling for the PA acting as ambassadors and doing outreach to keep some of the younger families within the school community with initiatives such as this.

Online reviews and ratings were also mentioned: the PA encouraged all parents to get online in the next week and write a review of WNS on either Great Schools or YELP!

OFFICER ELECTIONS FOR 2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR

Co-President — Brooke Ushkow and Shannon Clare

Treasurer — No nominations — the PA will solicit a candidate

Secretary — Christina Porter

Class Parent Coordinator — Erica Bletsoe

Fundraising and Events Committee — no nominations — the PA will solicit a candidate

Communications Committee — Sarah Mangerson and Pamela Schwilk

Food, Health and Wellness Committee — Ryan Fishman, Andrea Freud and Marissa Buick

Inclusivity and Diversity Committee — Gabriel Grippo and Kattia Bossola

Lower School Head — Andrea Freund

Preschool Division Head — Kattia Bossola (to co-chair with someone TBD)

ITC Division Head — Paige Connell

SAVE THE DATE

The next PA meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 1st, at 7:00p.m. This will be the final meeting for the school year when Jade and Ali will officially hand over to new Co-Presidents Brooke and Shannon. The PA will go for drinks afterwards to celebrate its accomplishments over the last year. All welcome!

