

ULS Parent Association Meeting
September 15, 2015

• **Welcome to Parents Association!**

Welcome everyone to Parents' Association this year! Attending meetings is a great opportunity to meet new parents from different parts of campus.

Leadership Team: Ron Smyczek (Head of School), Tim Horner (Associate Head of School), Jenni Becker (Marketing), Chelsea Rosenheimer (Advancement), Jen Costa (Communications), Deb Smith (Admissions), Adri Hollenbeck (Head of Lower School), Liz McSorley and Joe Hardgrove (Middle School Deans)

Financial Statement: Each month in the minutes we will have financial statement updates. Our first update will be at the October meeting. Part of this will include updates about the spending of the activity fee already paid, which was part of the tuition bill this year. The activity fee goes towards things like the teacher gifts, so we don't have to ask for money multiple times during the year for these events.

Structure of the Parents' Association:

Division reps – There is a division rep for Pre-Primary and Lower, Middle School, and Upper school. They rally the leaders and volunteers for events.

Class representatives – There are typically two per grade or class. The class reps welcome new families and answer their questions, attend parent association meetings and bring friends, distribute the important news to the class, coordinate parents association and class activities, and support class teachers with communication and volunteer activities (homecoming, auction, class and parent parties).

Events (SIGN-UP GENIUS):

Homecoming, spring field day picnic

Fundraisers: Innisbrook sale, labels and boxtops

Teacher conference dinners (in fall and spring) – these are around parent/teacher conference to provide dinner for the teachers during this busy time. The parents help coordinate and pick a theme.

Pumpkin pie event – This is a fundraiser for the lower school students.

WCCCC Holiday toy drive – The money raised from the pumpkin pie event helps sponsor families in the toy drive

- **Appreciations**

Summer arts repairs and program: We have a new roof on the art building, and the building was painted and cleaned up. The theatre department is very excited about this, and the kids will be excited too.

All-School Assembly: We had our first assembly last week. The seniors were able to pull this together in 3 weeks and did a great job.

New teachers: Courtney Hudson in the middle school is our new English and Social Studies teacher. Nicole Skowronski is our new 7th-12th grade choir teacher. Mary Larson is doing 7th grade math. She started here in 1993 and has been a part-time teacher and tutor. Our new middle school Spanish teacher is Barbara Landa. She is a native Chilean and we are working on immigration issues with her. We have some fill-in help for her until she is able to be here.

- **Deb Smith - Admissions**

Deb Smith is on a well-earned vacation this week. We opened the year with 280 students, which is a 30-student increase over last year. We got in the front of the newspaper about our enrollment update!

- **Fall Activities**

Athletics: We have soccer and field hockey starting already. The Google Calendar is the most up-to-date place to find information about athletic games.

Leadership camps: 9th grade is at Camp Manitowish. 10th grade is canoeing up north for most of the week, and the 11th graders are hiking for the week. They learn group dynamics and leadership skills while doing that.

- **Chelsea Rosenheimer: Advancement**

Gifts and Achievements: We run our fiscal year July 1- June 30. We had a really good year last year with fundraising and participation.

Barn Sale: This is our fundraiser rummage sale that we hold the first weekend in October. We shortened it a day this year – just Friday and Saturday this year. Sunday was a long day and this is a big push as it is, so we extended the hours on Saturday rather than being open on Sunday. We are open noon-6 on Friday and 9-5 on Saturday. There will be a big email sent this week with detailed information about the open hours of the barn this week and the ways that you can get involved over the course of the barn week.

There will a sign-up on Sign-Up Genius with 175 slots that are filled by parents, alumni parents, students, and faculty and staff. Middle school students can volunteer and high school students are required to volunteer. We ask that every family participate. If you are out of town, [please drop off an apple crisp](#). If you are in town, please volunteer for a shift.

Barn is open every Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday morning until noon. There is a great group of volunteers, and they would love parents to stop by for an hour or two after drop off to help organize and sort.

The last day for drop offs is this Saturday. If there's anything you can drop off this week, that would be great. There is a tent outside of the barn for drop off as well. There may be Green and White drop off days next week after we organize what is here.

Family prep day is Saturday, September 26. Lunch is served around 11 or 11:30. We can find a job for everyone that day, even if you only have an hour to give. Kids are welcome. At this point a lot of the tents will be up and we can move furniture (there is a ton of furniture this year!). There is no sign-up for this day – just come!

- **Jen Costa: Communications**

Jen is primarily responsible for parent communications like newsletters and emails.

ULS Newsletter: This is our master communication every week, so everything that we want you to know is in the newsletter. We will be posting past versions on the parent portal for parents to refer back to, rather than keeping them in your inbox.

Google calendar: We recommend that you subscribe to the Google calendar for updates. This includes sports and other events, and it will give you the latest dates for all activities.

Parent reps: Thanks to everyone who has signed up to be a parent rep. We are pretty full except for 12th grade. Our first big event is homecoming, which is **next Friday**. The Sign-Up Geniuses are running for the [chili cook-off](#) and [other volunteers](#) for decorating, building floats, and other activities. All of the sports teams play this day. Jen is the point person as the volunteer coordinator for the parent reps.

- **Jenni Becker, Marketing**

Jenni's job is to communicate the ULS story.

ULS App: Over the summer a senior student Collin Goldbach partnered with Jenni to create an app for handheld devices to connect with ULS. He did the brain work and Jenni made sure it looked a certain way.

The Board had asked for the marketing department for an “elevator speech” – a 2 minute speech about why to choose ULS. Jenni thought that we needed a tool to help us communicate the ULS story. This is a tool for parents to pull out when they wanted to talk about ULS, and to help busy parents. It contains:

- “Why ULS?” portion with a viewbook and short Power point presentation.
- Hot link to the calendar
- ULS website
- ULS videos

- ULS phone numbers
- In the News – this includes the entire ad campaign
- Parent portal
- Photos – this will be updated throughout the year with photos
- Messages – this will be a back-up way of communicating messages

This will be rolled out in a week to 10 days once we get some technical details rolled out. This is a private app that is available to the people who receive the email. We will be continuing to update this through the year, including Sign-Up Genius.

Yard sign contest: There will be a Green and White contest the week of homecoming with signs to schedule a personal tour at ULS. If you take a picture of the sign in your yard and text or email it to Jenni, your team gets a point. The team with the most signs in their yard gets 10 points. Have fun with this and your pictures!

Radio show: Jenni needs help coordinating with a radio show to broadcast from the barn on the Saturday of barn sale weekend. Please let Jenni know if you have a contact with a student-appropriate radio station.

- **Booster Club – John Doherty**

John is the athletic director with Pam Bisbee.

This group supports athletics both varsity and lower levels. What the group is trying to get back to is having a team parent for all of the teams. The coaches are going to be asking for point people for all of the teams. They will be helping with things like volunteer bake sales. We did this last week for the volleyball team, but we're hoping with more parents involved we can get more publicity for these types of events.

Our big upcoming events are field day next Thursday and Homecoming next Friday.

Booster club runs concession stands, and we need parents to volunteer to run this. The kids need to eat, particularly from the visiting team. These concession stands are very helpful to the away team kids and coaches to get food. We are going to run a smaller schedule for the fall and winter this year. There will be a Sign-Up Genius for this. For the winter games, we will have a few big nights, and the other days we will have more simple food.

- **Fine Arts Society – David Bielot, Laura Smyczek**

Next meeting is Tuesday, September 22 at 3:30 in the Upper School Green Room. We would love more parents to come and get involved. We have monthly meetings usually the week after the PA meeting.

Last year we hosted visiting artists like a potter, and we hosted Tony Memmel. We helped fund the installation of the glass fusion studio. We also support the students in the concerts and plays. We had a gallery night last April, which was a huge success.

Fall play: Our Town, November 12-14

The winter musical is Wizard of Oz

- **Upcoming Events**

September 14-18: Upper School leadership camps and senior service. No school Friday for 9-11th grades

Listening conferences: Lower School and Middle School. These are for you to tell us about your student.

September 21-25: Spirit Week and Homecoming.

Friday, September 25: Parade in Delafield at 2 pm, Athletics/Chili dinner/bonfire 4-9 pm. There will be soccer and volleyball.

October 2-3: Barn Sale

October 29: Lower School Trunk or Treat. We are looking for two parents per grade to decorate their trunk and provide a treat. The kids will trick or treat in the parking lot. We will coordinate this with the parent reps.

October 29: Parent/teacher conferences middle & upper school

There will be an opportunity for child care for the days that the school is closed. The rates are the same as Stay and Play, and it will be bring your own snack and lunch. We need to know the level of interest for this.

November 11: Parent/teacher conferences lower school

November 12-14: Fall play – Our Town

rSchool Today tab: This will have the updated athletics schedule

Attendance

Ron Smyczek

Theodore Bryant-Nanz

Kelly Noyes

Heidi Grunewald

Katie Newcomb

Kristen Pankow

Nique Hosteler

Sue Beranek

Tracy Sanicola

Becky Soley

Angela Eisenhut

Nancy Ryan

Cindy Lewin

Jill Kane

McKenna Bryant

Traci VanOoyen

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Eric Lau

Laura Smyczek

Jeanne Jaskolski

David Banks

Holly Banks

Pam Stoesz

Jenifer Hilander

Tracy Dallen

Elizabeth Himmerich

Donna Gmur

Jenn Mazza

Heidi von Hagke

Molly Ricks

Angie Hull

Lyndsey Glasener

Lisa Nelson Brandon

Jen Costa

Next meeting: Tuesday, October 13