



**October 2, 2017, 7:30 PM
Parent Council Minutes**

1. MOMENT OF SILENCE

2. INTRODUCTIONS Everyone at the meeting introduced themselves (approx. 2 dozen people in attendance)

3. Eric Pfeiffer gave out calendars to room parents in attendance to give to homeroom teachers.

4. PARENT COUNCIL (PC). What is Parent Council? How can you get involved? Parent Council's mission is to contribute to: *fundraising, building community, and service* to others. *Everyone* is welcome and encouraged to join in, participate, share ideas, and have fun!

- Such a great turnout this evening! PC will begin to alternate meetings from our traditional First Monday of the Month evenings (7PM) to First Monday of the Month mornings (8:30 AM) to be inclusive for different schedules. **NEXT MEETING will be Monday, November 6th, 8:30 AM-9:15 AM in 6th grade lounge.**
- **Dues structure:** Each WFS family contributes PC dues at the beginning of each year. One payment per family. Class dues are paid per child to each child's respective class. Class dues grow and accumulate with each class. By 8th grade, the class has substantial funds for trips, graduation party, etc. Pay dues promptly in the beginning of the year. If you haven't paid yet, please do so.
- **School Calendars** (featuring each class on the first day of school) are available for sale \$15. each or 2 for \$25. Great way to learn the faces and names of your child's schoolmates!
Great job, Beth Carroll for creating this year's calendar! Advertising opportunities are available each summer for the coming year's calendar.
- **ALL SCHOOL YEARBOOK** Exciting change this year! Instead of an 8th grade yearbook, WFS is having an ALL SCHOOL yearbook! Headed by Senor Di Claudio, and featured as an elective and after-school activity, students will be creating their own yearbook this year, available to purchase at the end of the school year. Any parents who would like to offer expertise and skills in any way (photography, design, etc.) please feel free to come forward to contribute your skills to this endeavor!

4. UPCOMING EVENTS *Mark your Calendars!*

- **Cinnaminson Day, October 15th 12-3PM, Wood Park. Free day of food and fun!** Come early and help represent WFS! We will have a presence there. Wear your gear. Contact Jillian Stanton if you'd like to help out at our table.
- **Harvest Festival, Sunday, October 22nd** Autumn Fun hosted by the 8th graders with help from the 7th graders! Bake Sale, pumpkin painting, face painting, build a scarecrow, music, games. Fun for all, big and small! Sign up ahead of time -flyers sent home in students' backpacks. Free to prospective families considering enrolling their child(ren) at WFS--register with Jillian Stanton in advance!
- **Halloween Guessing! A Westfield Favorite!** What is it? On Halloween day, your child(ren) arrive to school dressed in their costumes. The entire school congregates in the auditorium where, class by class, the students go onstage to be identified, individually, by their schoolmates. It sounds like it would be mayhem, but it is an exciting morning of mystery, laughter, stumping, and fun. Dr. Hall is the MC, all the students civilly take turns guessing by raising their hands, and the teachers work their magic too, as always. Parents, if you have the chance to attend, do not miss it!
- **Barnes & Noble Book Fair November 16th** at the Barnes & Noble on Eastgate Drive in Moorestown. Spearheaded by Meghan Quinn, it's a great chance to tackle some holiday shopping! A percentage of your B&N purchase goes to WFS. Also, that evening, dinner out at Bertucci's with proceeds to benefit WFS. More information to follow!
- **Poinsettia Sale!** From previous years, all agree, the most gorgeous poinsettias! Volunteer needed to take orders for poinsettias at our Thanksgiving performance (and through take-home order form) Poinsettias arrive to our school for pick up in early December.
- **Holiday Market/Cookie Walk** Two great December traditions! **The Holiday Shoppe** is open to lower school children to shop for their families in preparation for Christmas and Hannukah (Information is given out in December.) Contact Tricia Cranmer or Brandi Thurber if you'd like to help out. **The Cookie Walk** takes place the morning of the Christmas Program (December 20th). In December, sign up to bring in your signature homemade cookie or candy. At Cookie Walk, everyone who attends may purchase a Chinese food container and walk around filling their box with goodies, all homemade from our community. Coffee, camaraderie, and copious amounts of sugar make it perfect to enjoy the Christmas Program and feel warm and toasty for the season. Not to be missed!

- **Wine & Cheese Gathering** What is it? Typically hosted in September (but we can also make it in October) the Wine and Cheese is a great way to kick off the year. Hosted by a WFS family in their home, the Wine and Cheese gathers WFS parents, faculty, and staff for a relaxing, nice evening; a chance to catch up, meet new people in our school community, and relax. Provisions for the Wine and Cheese are provided by PC. PC also aids in helping set up and cleaning up that evening. *Interested in hosting next year?* Contact Sharla or Eric (contact info at end of notes.)

**Due to a crammed schedule and time slipping away, we will forgo the Wine & Cheese this year. Please keep it in mind for hosting or attending next year.*

5. SERVICE PROJECTS Parent Council will place a greater focus on Service Projects.

The Quaker SPICES (Simplicity, Peace, Integrity, Community, Equality, and Stewardship) is one of the biggest reasons we choose to be part of this school.

- **Sandwich Making and Distribution to Homeless** 3rd Friday/Saturday of each month. Coordinating for students to make Turkey & Cheese sandwiches on Friday, which get distributed to homeless on Saturday in Center City Philadelphia, in partnership with “One Kind Act a Month” and with the oversight and protection of the Philadelphia Police.

With the help and enthusiasm of Miss Hoffman, the 1st grade students, as well as various WFS families, sandwiches were made and bagged with snacks and water on Friday, September 22nd and distributed to homeless in Center City on Saturday September 23rd. All involved reported the preparation and service was wonderfully rewarding and appreciated by the recipients. Extra donations were given to “Cathedral Kitchen” in Camden, an organization that provides 8500 meals per month to those in need in Camden. This month, we will be participating again, in addition to sandwiches, recipients also appreciate: hygiene products (toothbrushes, toothpaste, tissues, handiwipes, travel-size toiletries. Perhaps different classes can contribute different items...

October 27th/28th is the next date we can prepare sandwiches and distribute. Room Parents, please find out if any homeroom teachers would like to jump on board this month. Contact Eric Pfeiffer if interested.

“New Visions” (555 Atlantic Avenue) another worthy facility serving Camden, also offers laundry facilities, showers, job training, and help. A day shelter, they provide breakfast and give lunches. Opportunities exist so classes may tour and serve and assist in many ways. Mr. Reed will look into ways they need help and report back to us.

- **Park Cleanup!** Come out **November 4th, 9 AM to Amico Island in Delran**, along the Delaware river. Organized by the Burlington County Parks Service, all gloves, bags, and

tools are provided. A great way to care for our environment and work together. All students, all ages can easily participate! Fresh air and fun!

- **Riverview Estates** Kristin Hoffman is looking into service at Riverview Estates...either performing, adopting a grandparent, artwork, etc.
- **Fall Coat Drive (November)** Put aside gently worn coats for men, women, children and infants and donate in November during our Annual Coat Drive. It's easy to do: simply drop off your coat(s) when you drop off your student(s) in the AM on the designated days. Warm some bodies and hearts this winter! **Volunteer is needed to help with this endeavor. Contact Sharla Floyd for details.** Jillian Stanton will also help promote and guide.
- **Jeans For Teens** collect gently used jeans to give for teens and kids in need
- **Ronald McDonald House** in Camden offers opportunities for families/small groups to make dinner and interact with families and children. Also, there may be opportunity for Upper School kids to renovate bedrooms, etc. Painting and so forth. Tricia Cranmer has contacted the executive director to learn what service they need. A representative will be coming in November to speak to the students.
- **ECO-School** Proactive interactions with our environment. By feeding birds and studying them on our campus, students can learn more about local wildlife and the environment. In addition, Tracey Steele in connection with Cedar Run, wrote a book and donated to our students regarding Wildlife, Rescue, and Rehabilitation.
- **Refugee Project** Christine shared the information about an initiative through Trinity Church in Moorestown, on certain Sundays (October 15th, November 19th, and December 17th), 1-3 PM, families get together with Iraqi and Syrian refugees to relax, socialize, eat, and play games. Tutoring and homework help is also needed for the refugee children. May be a great opportunity for our middle school kids to help. A link will be posted on fb. Stephanie Judson, a WF Meeting Board Member, also has an initiative to work with refugee families. More information to follow.
- Jason Reed spoke about a fantastic **PEACE initiative** that he's involved with between families in Bosnia-Herzegovina and the US. The project builds peace through an annual 2 week trip at the end of June. Home teams (working here) and travel teams (who go and help) make, gather, and contribute items to aid in refugee work and children's programs in the mission of strengthening the bonds between people resolving conflict and living in post-conflict settings. Reconciliation and peace work through programs, penpals, art projects. Jason can coordinate to have speakers come and address our students and community about this initiative. Any teachers and students who would like to get involved can develop experience and reach out into a global community.

- **Virtua Voorhees Pediatrics ICU:** Kathleen Servello spoke to Virtua's child-life specialist to coordinate outreach. Before the holidays, they have a lot of help, so we'll be reaching out at Valentine's Day to do something "heartwarming"!
- **Magistra Rinck is collecting clean Halloween costumes** to give to a Women's Shelter in Philadelphia. All size costumes (and accessories) are appreciated! A great way to clean out your Halloween tupperware box in the basement! Also: she will also collect toiletries and feminine products. Just send items to her classroom ASAP.
- **Food Banks & Distribution**

PC and WFS are open to all suggestions for additional service projects. IDEAS?

6. TREASURER'S REPORT, David Shields Some families still owe PC and Class Dues, an email will be sent. Get it in ASAP. He's waiting to receive AD sales from the Calendar. Currently, there is \$16,000.00 in the PC General Fund. Each class has their own fund.

PC reimburses \$75. toward staff breakfasts each month -when your class does it, save receipts for submission.

7. WESTFIELD FRIENDS GEAR Forget Chanel, Yves Saint Laurent, and Marc Jacobs! WFS has the *coolest gear around*. Outfit your student and family with t-shirts, sweatshirts, hats, beanies, and even WFS notecards. The T-shirts and sweatshirts are fantastic to wear in school, on school trips, during service projects and a fashion must while representing your family's designated color (**Garnet vs. Blue**) on **Field Day** in the spring! Nice quality WFS gear will be offered to purchase at the Harvest Festival and orders will be taken a couple times this year. Proceeds portion goes to WFS PC. Items are on display in window. Any questions, email Deidre Kemp: wfsgear@gmail.com

QUESTION: HOW DO I KNOW IF MY CHILD IS GARNET or BLUE? Christine Fennell in the athletic department designates new students their color in order to keep balance in the numbers (if a family member attended or attends WFS, you automatically keep your family color.) Ask Christine Fennell or Deidre Kemp. Both have list. On Field Day, your child will want to wear his/her color.

8. WAYS TO SUPPORT WESTFIELD FRIENDS SCHOOL

- **Amazon Smile** while online shopping (doesn't work on app), link your account to the "Philadelphia Monthly Meeting". A percentage of your purchase benefits our school!
- **BOXTOPS** keep on collecting these easy, **little pink Boxtop logos** on so many packages in your pantry. Boxtops are collected and money is sent to our school. *****Volunteer needed to head up this initiative.** Pizza party offered to class who brings in the most boxtops.
- **TIN CAN TABS** Save for the Pre-k collection

9. SOCIAL MEDIA -LIKE, Follow, and SHARE!

- Westfield Friends School has a presence on fb, Instagram, Twitter, and (coming soon) Pinterest. Great to read postings and get a glimpse of the exciting things students are doing during their days.
- Westfield Friends Parent Council fb page is a private community (click to join) Which provides fantastic updates and reminders. It's worthwhile to stay in the loop.
- Westfield Friends Alumni fb page which keeps all members of WFS in the loop. Also, interesting photos from the archives are shared. Join and tell other WFS alum about the page.
- WFS New Website will be up and running in the next couple weeks. Exciting new features include online enrollment and forms!

10. Uniform Survey Results: 30% Yes
 53% No
 Remaining % were on the fence.

11. INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL PC is in *early* stages of hatching the plan for an International Festival to take place at WFS in the Spring. Soon, a call for involvement will be put forth for anyone who would like to make suggestions and contribute to the event.

12. Moment of Silence

Suggestions, questions, or a desire to volunteer?

Contact 2017-18 PC Officers:

- Sharla Floyd, co-Clerk (215-266-7272, floydsharla@gmail.com)
- Eric Pfeiffer, co-Clerk (610-304-4896, epfeif59@gmail.com)
- David Shields, Treasurer (856-313-5689, david.c.shields@gmail.com)
- Lisa Matera Harder, Secretary (856-905-2522, lisa.harder@comcast.net)
- Erika Gehringer, Room Parent Coordinator (609-206-1018 kiki_gehringer@yahoo.com)