

General Parents Association Meeting Notes

- I. Principal Update with Lori O'Mara
 - a. Wonderful things happening at school this year so far and many special events coming up
 - i. October 5, 7, 8 & 9 – Senior portraits
 - ii. October 7 - Stomp out bullying day
 - iii. October 8 @ 6:30 p.m. – 10th & 11th Grade Parent meeting
 - iv. October 9, 16 & 30 @ 9:00 a.m. – Fifth Grade parent tours
 - v. October 12 – school closed for Columbus Day
 - vi. October 14 – PSAT Tests for 10th & 11th Grades (11th Graders will take the SAT for Free in Spring 2015) – guidance counselors will attend all ELA classes this week to talk about the testing, forms to be filled out, etc.
 - vii. October 14 from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. – RKA College Fair (60 colleges will be attending)
 - viii. October 21 @ 2:45 p.m. – SLT meeting
 - ix. October 22 @ 6:30 p.m. – 5th Grade parent meeting and student panel
 - x. October 24 – SSHAT exams
 - xi. October 28 – Mix it Up Day
 - xii. October 29 from 7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. – High School Halloween Dance
 - xiii. Breast cancer awareness day/fundraiser for "Fighting Pretty" organization – raised about \$1500 last year. Selling T's for \$10.00 each and will do a bake sale.
 - xiv. 7th Grade & 8th Grade field trip forms sent out. 6th Grade forms being sent out soon.
 - xv. The "Beat the Street" campaign has been put on hold for now.
 - xvi. School picture order forms with individual logins being sent out this week.
 - xvii. 8th Grade meeting held for high school application process
- II. No Parent Coordinator Report tonight as Julie Prince was unable to attend the meeting.
- III. Special Guests from the Riverdale Neighborhood House: Rob Adelman and Caitylyn Porscia
 - a. Rob Adelman– review of Health & Harmony programs geared towards adults and the community (kids too). Wellness programs. Fees for these programs and times vary. Program information available online at www.riverdaleonline.org or you can email Rob Adelman at radelman@riverdaleonline.org
 - b. Caityln Porscia – review of new programs recently launched for middle & high school. She is also the college directions coordinator, providing early college awareness, advise, preparation, essay writing, application assistance, etc. There is a new academic resource center, daily from 3:30–6:00 p.m. for high school students. The program provides free extra help for regular & AP classes. They will be hosting a college admissions panel on October 29.

They are also offering a free sonic STEM middle school program. Homework help, robotics, dance, edible science, trips and other programs offered as well. The name will be changing to STEAM (adding in the "A" for Art). RNH also has computers and printers available too. Everything takes place in the new teen center. For high schoolers to attend, they just need to fill out a teen application for the academic program.
- IV. Safety Concern
 - a. Crossing Guard situation (overseen by the NYPD). The crossing guard was removed from 237th St. The PA sent out emails to local politicians, police dept., community board, etc. We quickly got a crossing guard from 237th St., but it was the same one from 236th St., not a new one, there is still a serious need for another crossing guard. The Riverdale Press is doing an investigative report/story on it.

Suggestion of creating a "traffic lane" during certain times...turning lanes, etc. Serious parent

concern about the traffic, double/triple parked cars, etc.

- V. Car Wash Fund Raiser on September 26, 2015
 - a. Low attendance and low traffic
 - b. Issue with parking signs which were apparently "unenforceable" yet provided by the 50th precinct
 - c. Neighborhood complaint from car owner who didn't move and stated a scratch on car as result from car wash
 - d. Sold RKA merchandise
 - e. Profited about \$1000.00 plus about \$400.00 in clothing sales (includes generous donations -- about 30-40 cars).

- VI. Future Fundraisers
 - a. Serious "call to action" for parent volunteers and involvement at fundraising activities and events.
 - b. Suggestion to do an abbreviated RKArnival in the Spring, with a Car Wash, BBQ, Basketball Games, Bounce House and Dunk Tank.
 - c. Presale of "car wash vouchers" for Spring Car Wash
 - d. Low turnout of volunteers makes it unsustainable and difficult to plan and manage at this time.
 - e. Future fundraising ideas include:
 - i. Auction (Farrah Rubin will provide an update at the next PA meeting)
 - ii. Pep-rally
 - iii. Cookbook
 - iv. Movie night
 - f. Additional merchandise to be reviewed and ordered
 - i. Sweatpants
 - ii. Flannel pajama pants
 - iii. Professional shirt request for an embroidered RKA shirt (collared polo & performance) – price will be \$20.00 per shirt, \$5.00 additional to add a name
 - iv. Winter Beanie Hats and Pom-Pom Hats

- VII. School Events
 - a. PA Meetings - Poor turnout – how do we get more parents to attend?
 - b. Back to School Night – Poor turnout from high school parents
 - c. SLT – to provide concerns and feedback to the Principal
 - d. Coffee with the Principal – one Friday per month – highly recommended to attend

- VIII. Finance
 - a. Budget - may not be accurate - may be over in the direct appeal, but doing well and everything is on par - spent a bit more on merchandise as well
 - b. Treasurers report - no copies available right now. Direct appeal is doing well. We are around budget (approximately \$7,000.00) and hoping to surpass it. 6th grade orientation projected \$1,000.00, but it raise approximately \$2,000.00-- back to school night, sold items and also at the car wash. RCC registration night brought in \$445.00 (budget is for \$1,000.00 for the year, so currently ahead of pace).

- IX. Conclusion of the General PA Meeting

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