



PARENTS ASSOCIATION

Welcoming Families. Building Community.

**Parents Association Executive Committee
December 14, 2021
Meeting Minutes**

Kit Ballenger, President, called the in-person meeting to order at 9:10 AM

In Attendance

Kit Ballenger, Chris Bolger, Stephanie Goldfine, Diana Allen, Claire Farver, Denise Prince, Imani Edwards, Johanna Howe, Tashia Sean-Jones, Sam Mason, Laura Schifter, LaMeka Short, Katharine Reishman, Whitney Rosenthal

Welcome and President's Report

Kit thanked all in attendance for volunteering and joining our in-person meeting. We are so grateful for the collaborative work of the entire St. Patrick's community.

Upcoming community events are the **Wine Party** for the IDEALS Auction on January 19 and a **Skating Morning** on January 29, so mark the calendars for those dates.

Environmental Action Team Report

Laura Schifter is pleased that the National Wildlife Federation's Eco-Schools USA program recognized St. Patrick's for exceptional achievement for integrating sustainability into our curriculum and on school grounds. Laura is also pleased that St. Patrick's has become the fifth school in Washington, D.C. to achieve Silver Award status, and we are on our way to the Green Flag Award. The Day School's work focuses on the four areas of Waste/Consumption, Schoolyard Habitat, Sustainable Food, and Healthy Living. We are pleased that St. Patrick's has successfully integrated these best-management practices and thrilled to be sharing them with our community across all three school divisions.

St. Patrick's strives to shape engaged citizens who live with integrity, empathy, and purpose, in part by involving our community in the stewardship of the planet. If you have any questions or ideas to share, please reach out to our Environment Action Team to discuss further.

Faculty & Staff Appreciation

We remain grateful to our stellar faculty and staff as we move through these winter months again facing the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. Thank you for being such supportive partners and supporters of our faculty and staff, which allows our kids to continue to learn and play on campus.

Additional ways to support the Parents Association include ordering flowers with Poppy Flowers, <https://www.poppyflowers.com>. St. Patrick's receives a portion of sales going back to our Parent

Association and our St. Patrick's community, and it's a great way to share beauty and let someone know you are thinking of them and give back to our beloved school.

Head of School Report

Peter Barrett reported on several initiatives to draw current and prospective parents onto campus in ways that would be consistent with existing COVID-19 protocols. Kindergarten and Grade 3 parents were invited to campus for curriculum-based activities—a Holidays of Light lantern-building project for the former and the States Project for the latter. Also planned are Saturday facilities tours for current parents and applicant parents. Peter reviewed the plans for the Christmas Pageants and for return-to-school testing following Winter Break.

Respectfully Submitted,

Katharine Reishman
Recording Secretary