

## **MS Council Meeting 9.20.22**

### **President, Deirdre Doheny**

- Introduced MS Executive Council - Vice Chair, Wendy Fahy, Secretary, Joyce Barnes & Treasurer, Lindy Deveraux

### **7th Grade Update, Jen Heathwood**

- Introduction of Grade Chairs: Nicole Velucci, Rosie Amodio, Lisa Ryan, Jennifer Heathwood
- Chairs serve as intermediary between parents/kids and administration
- Williamsburg Trip is on - will be a Tues-Friday
- 3 Teen Centers this year
- This will be the students' first year with year end finals

### **8th Grade Update, Michelle Antonini**

- Grade Chairs: Michelle Antonini, Amy Brown Collatrella, Alanna Leavell
- Goal is to return to a normal 8th grade schedule
  - Fall Teen Center - hopefully early October
  - Snowflake Ball in December at the Field Club
  - Graduation party
- Working closely with Mr. Mecora to have a great trip for the kids

### **6th Grade Update, Denise Mulvihill**

- Grade Chairs: Denise Mulvihill, Zahabia Brainch
- 1st event coming up - Pumpkin Decorating Contest

### **Teen Center**

- Led by Lauren Busker, Deya Warren, Gina Lodi, Melissa Kelly
- More information to come

### **Other introductions:**

Arts Council, Jenny Jacquette

B\*Well, Anabelle Davis

Michelle Spillane, BOLD

Sara Kenny, Modified Sports

Caroline Dimitri, Health and Safety

### **BASC Update, Carolyn Mattson**

- Invited new families to visit [BronxvilleAfterSchool.org](http://BronxvilleAfterSchool.org) for more information
- Some classes are still open for registration

### **Character & Community, Denise Mulhivill**

- Led by Carolyn Mattson, Denise Mulvihill and Amy Brown Collatrella

- Create and find community service activities for middle school students and their family e.g community gardening
- First event: *Saturday Oct 1 at Alfredo Field (Bronxville Dog Park)* - weeding and planting with other community groups
  - Signup here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B4AAFAA23A4F58-mscc>
- Mr. Mecora's Friday update will include Signup Geniuses for future activities
- Encouraging students to volunteer 2 hours per semester

### **PTA Update, Deirdre Doheny**

- Please join/renew your membership in Membership Toolkit
- Sign up for text messages to stay connected
- Please complete the survey sent by Deirdre on 9/15
- MS Social is the biggest fundraiser of the year - thanks for the Smith, Herman, O'Mara families for hosting

### **Interim Superintendent effective Jan 1, Dr. Rachel Kelly**

- Dr. Montesanto is Superintendent until Dec. 31st
- Please welcome Mr. Mercora as Middle School Principal, Ms. Adams ES Principal, Mr. Vaglica Asst. ES Principal
- Keep an eye out for Friday District Newsletter
  - Christina Dowd - promoted to Assistant Special Education
- Back to School Night is in person
- US Department of Education has named Bronxville School ES as a Blue Ribbon School
- No Covid updates!
- Homecoming week this week, culminating with Saturday's celebrations
  - Keep an eye out for the Centennial celebration
    - 11am alum interviews
    - New alma mater composed by Pam Simpson

### **Internet Safety, Brad Ashley - Director of Technology**

- Cyber security and digital citizenship for everyone
- Digital citizenship is different with each grade, but general themes are: empathy, how the internet works, understanding user data, practicing digital literacy and wellness
  - Follows Sanmar framework in classrooms - if you're just substituting screen for something that can be done on paper, don't do that. Have students write on paper
  - Google tool to help find a balance with technology - visit Wellbeing.google.
- Helpful tips
  - Parents - you're the greatest filter
    - We use Lightspeed at school and on Chromebook to filter.
  - Charge devices in central location
  - Establish rules for emails/work for the whole household
  - Carve out low-tech/no-tech times to reconnect

- Subscribe to Common Sense Media - [commonsensemedia.org](http://commonsensemedia.org)
- Recommended Reading:
  - iRules by Janelle Burley Hofmann
  - How to Breakup with Your Phone, by Catherine Price
  - Program or Be Programmed: Douglas Rushkoff
- Classlink - new single sign on for students to logon to all their software

### **Bronxville Foundation, Wendy Fahy**

- Thank you for everyone who supported the Foundation last year
- Mission - to support and enhance the quality of education by supplementing initiatives not covered by school budget
- Centennial Celebration - collaboration between Foundation, PTA, Community and School Board, Village Trustees and Mayor Marvin, Historical Society. Please take part
  - Visit historical photography display in the Atrium
  - School Tours run by Foundation
  - Speaker series on Saturday
  - Artwork donated by Bill Dowling - watercolor of the school - on display in the Atrium outside the Auditorium

### **Principal's update, Mr. Mercora**

- Every day, encouraging the kids to live the Bronxville Promise - through service and simple kind acts, think critically, be leaders
  - Respect everyone including yourself
  - Creating a culture of kindness towards each other
  - Push yourself everyday to be the best person you can be
- Back to School Night Sept 29 7pm - in person
  - Keep an eye out for email
  - Your student will prepare your schedule for that evening
- Trips are back! 7th Gr Williamsburg trip - Nov 2022
  - Mr. Agnello - trip master

Please visit the Food Trucks this Thursday Night!