

MS Council Zoom Meeting  
9.20.21

## **Dr Montesanto Update**

### Hurricane Ida

- Ida caused \$1mm in damage to the school
- Absent pumps, we would have had 5 ft of damage. Had 8" on 1st floor A/B wing; 1" by the gyms. Largest sustained damage in the blue and main gyms. Mid-Nov back online in time for basketball
- Most classrooms back online. Innovation Center - 2-3 weeks out
- MPR and South Playroom will take time to get back online
- Industrial hygienist did air and swipe samples - all safe.

### Covid update

- NYS law: Mask mandate for anyone in school regardless of vaccination status.
- Quarantining rules changed - if exposed and vaxxed or wearing a mask no need to quarantine. Not much by way of positive covid within the school.
- State requires testing. Working with Mt Sinai hospital for saliva PCR tests. Need parental consent to test children. Will try to test everyone, then randomly testing of 20% of in-school population (staff, students) on a weekly basis. Will get at-home test kit with results in 24 hours.
- Westchester update: # covid cases seems to have hit a plateau/slightly decreasing

### Membership Toolkit and PTA Update

- Reinforced importance of signing up for Membership Toolkit to get PTA updates, contact database
- PTA dues fund a number of initiatives so please support and join

### BOLD - Michelle Spillane

- Inclusion and support for families who fall under special education umbrella
- Visit BOLD website for links to resources within school and outside
- 3 open BOLD Council meetings
- Keep an eye out for survey going out to community - what topics/issues are you interested in

### PTA President's Update

- Homecoming - week of 9/27
  - List of events coming out soon
  - Apparel sale
  - Bronco barn and grill open
  - MS get a BBQ during Thursday lunch to celebrate Homecoming
  - Wed 9/29 parade and bonfire - HS only. Middle schoolers on JV/Varsity are asked to keep the parade/bonfire to HS-ers

- Oct 2 - unveiling dedicated benches from money raised during Memorial Day
- Covid time capsule - window display in new HS atrium; unveiling on Oct 2
- Fall Socials - 1 event for MS parents. Details to come. Theme is Oktoberfest.
  - Outdoor only for vaccinated adults only - attest status when purchasing ticket
  - Covid safe - drinks, no food/passed hors d'oeuvres

#### Teen Center Update - Nora Nazarro

- 1st event for 8th graders - Oct 1 - 7-9pm Chambers Field
  - Need volunteers!
  - Details to come

#### Apparel Sale - Mariana Mingo

- Information going out tonight. Volunteers needed! Lookout for Signup Genius
- Sale times:
  - Front lawn starting 9/29 - 10/1 11am-4pm
  - Th 9/30 4:30-7:30; Sat 10/2 2-9pm

#### Bronxville Foundation Update - Katie Shah

- 30th anniversary of the Bronxville Foundation - \$11.5mm in funds since inception
- Annual campaign kicks off late October with goal of 100% participation
- Learn more via Instagram, Facebook, website

#### Guidance & Advisory

- Aaron Kind, Director of Guidance, introduced Jim Agnello and Lisa DiSanto
- Role of MS Counselor
  - 6/7/8 teams meet weekly with Jim, Lisa and school psychologist
  - If a child wants to see their counselor - can email or just walk in
  - Parents can reach out: Social dynamics, struggling with a teacher
- Lisa DeSanto x3801 - Guided Seminar Class. Exploratory class taken by all 6th graders during 1 quarter
  - Self reflection via journal work
  - Goal - comfortable, fun learning environment to share thoughts on various topics, e.g. stress management, friendships, decision-making
  - Graded on participation, projects and classwork. No homework.
- Jim Agnello - Middle School Advisory
  - Small group based; 9 advisories per grade level.
  - Meet 2X during a 6-day cycle.
  - Grade level themes:
    - 8th grade: mini-courses. Transitioning to High School
    - 7th grade: interpersonal relationships and team building
    - 6th grade: starting to advocate for yourself, integrity, study skills
  - Stay together as a group through the year

#### Dr. Wilson - Principal's Letter

- B110 - flooded. Needs to be recarpeted.
  - Shared by Shonenstein (8th grade algebra) and Kaplan (Latin) - moved classrooms
- Mr. Mitchell taking family medical lead for Quarter 1. Ms Oliveri taking Mr. Mitchell's classes. Ms Oliveri's sections covered by Sean Williams (leave replacement). Mr. Williams background: Pearl School/Roosevelt School in Yonkers/Teach for America.
  - After Q1, Ms Oliveri will go back to 7H. Mr. Mitchell will take algebra + 1 section 7H.
- Off-campus - 7/ 8 graders allowed to go out to lunch if signed consent form
  - Parents please reinforce proper etiquette and behavior in public.
- Phones
  - No issues so far this year
  - MS actively works to help navigate through this; HSers as resources; navigating social media for parents and kids
  - Reminder that parents own the phones. OK to call another parent if you see some ugly behavior on the phone. Help your kids make good choices
- Grade 6 math - teachers will start offering option to take advanced math. Weekly packets, required extra help attendance, journal, assessment. Must complete this to be eligible for math honors in 7
- Grade 8 - students get to choose which math course they want to take - Math8 or Algebra 1.
- Chromebooks - brand new this year but several have broken. If misused, parents responsible for repair/replacement