

Great Hearts Monte Vista PSO Meeting
Wednesday, May 25, 2015 from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Room 106 at the Upper School

Notes from the Meeting

Outline

1. Recap 2015-16 activities
2. Treasurer's report
3. Lower School for 2016-17
4. Upper School for 2016-17

Recap 2015-16 Activities

The PSO held two major events, the Mile Run (led by Mark and Hillary Ross, in coordination with GHNO) and the Spring Carnival (chaired by Cori Kyle and co-chaired by Cassi Diaz). The PSO also coordinated smaller, community-building events like meetups at playgrounds and trampoline parks. At the Lower School, through volunteer coordinator Dawn Greer, the room parents assisted the teachers and hosted events such as end-of-quarter parties that tied in with the curriculum. Barbara Tavares managed the collection and sale of used uniforms, which raised money for the PSO and saved families money on buying uniforms. Kim Scott managed the production of a new batch of spirit wear, which raises money for the PSO and also provides students with T-shirts to wear on spirit days. Jennifer Osborn worked with the students who prepared the yearbook and helped market the yearbooks to families. The Helping Hands committee, led by Tiffany Hartnett at the Lower School and Neesha Grubbs at the Upper School, planned meal calendars for faculty who welcomed new babies, and coordinated gifts, meals, and decorations for Teacher Appreciation Week. Volunteers helped stock the teachers' lounges, led by Nancy Sheridan at the Lower School and Neesha Grubbs. Upper School volunteers helped with meals and refreshments at events, including the symposium and the sports banquet. Diana Chase scheduled several Coffee with the Headmaster meetings to promote dialogue between parents and school leaders. Volunteers participated in a park cleanup at San Pedro Springs Park. Gail Carrasco collected Box Tops to raise money.

Treasurer's Report

The PSO's bylaws provide that, at the end of the year (end of May/beginning of June), 80 percent of the funds in the PSO's bank account will be swept into a general Great Hearts Texas account. So, every year the PSO strives to raise funds and then spend them before the end of the year.

In 2015-16, the Mile Run raised funds for athletics. It was a joint event with Great Hearts Northern Oaks. The funds from the Mile Run, plus additional PSO money, was used to purchase strength conditioning equipment for the Upper School, including weights, bars, plates, kettlebells, and mats. Upper School students and faculty are using this equipment regularly. The athletics department will offer a strength conditioning camp this summer. The equipment is portable and can move with the school when it finds a permanent location.

The primary goal of the Second Annual Spring Carnival in May 2016 was to provide a fun event for families and faculty to come together and make memories; fundraising was a secondary goal. Also, the carnival was designed to put less of a burden on the volunteers coordinating it; for example, the length of the carnival was cut from four hours to three hours. As it turned out, the 2016 carnival raised just as much money as the year before, while providing a good time for the hundreds of families who turned out.

Money from the Spring Carnival is being used for several purposes. Part of the money is being used to create an inventory of spirit wear to be sold at 2016-17 events, including Back-to-School Night. (Since the bank account will get cleaned out in June, the PSO need to purchase the inventory now.) Also, the PSO is purchasing shelves and tote boxes to help organize the inventory of used uniforms and spirit wear that is being stored in the PSO closet on the ground floor of the Upper School.

The PSO, in coordination with the Headmasters, is using Spring Carnival money to buy special items for both campuses. At the Upper School, a navy-and-white ping pong table has arrived, and it will have school logo decals. The Upper School will be investing in Loeb Library volumes. At the Lower School, the PSO will purchase additional books for classrooms, plus toys and recess items for the students to play with at recess and during PE classes.

Plans for 2016-17

As you may be aware, Great Hearts Monte Vista recently changed its leadership structure. Peter Crawford, formerly Headmaster of the entire school, is now Headmaster of the Upper School. Mandi Cannon, formerly Assistant Headmaster of the Lower School, is now Headmaster of the Lower School. In 2016-17, the PSO will function separately at each campus, and may have separate bank accounts as well.

Lower School for 2016-17

Here are the officers and board members for the Lower School PSO:

President: Inga Cotton

Treasurer: Raquel Zapata

Volunteer Coordinator: Dawn Greer

Board members: Clayton Diedrichs, Cori Kyle, Mark Ross, Kim Scott

Events to watch for in 2016-17:

1. Back to School Night, in August, before school starts. Spirit wear and used uniforms will be for sale, and we hope to have signups room parents and committees
2. 5K Run and Fun Run—see below (Upper School). Fun Run will raise money for the Lower School, perhaps for more classroom books
3. Teacher Appreciation Week, tentatively scheduled for the last week of March
4. Third Annual Spring Carnival, tentatively scheduled for May 5, 2017

The Lower School PSO is collecting ideas and planning the calendar for 2016-17; please email your ideas to Inga Cotton at inga.cotton@gmail.com.

If you are interested in serving as a Room Parent in 2016-17, please email Dawn Greer at dmrgreer@gmail.com.

Upper School for 2016-17

Here are the officers and board members for the Upper School PSO:

President: Neesha Grubbs

Treasurer: Sarah Rushing

Volunteer Coordinator: Jennifer Osborn

Board members: Kristin Bengoechea, Cori Kyle, Mark Ross, Rachel Rountree, Barbara Tavares

Events to watch for in 2016-17

1. 5K Run and Fun Run, tentative date October 15 or 16. Led by the Upper School, the 5K Run will be an athletics fundraiser, likely for gym padding. Sponsorships will cover the cost of the timing company. Parent volunteers will be needed for tasks like handing out water.
2. Spring Carnival will be a joint event with the Lower School, and funds raised will be split 50/50
3. Dances
4. Teacher Appreciation events

For Upper School committee signups, please see the attached pages, or email Neesha Grubbs at neesha@localcoffeesa.com. The Upper School PSO will meet in September to finalize committees.

Conclusion

The PSO is deeply grateful for all the efforts of parent volunteers in 2015-16, and for all the little things that parents do to care for their children and awaken their love of learning. The officers, board members, committee chairs, and other PSO leaders have worked hard this year, but had a lot of fun doing it, and plan to put our experience to good use in the future. For 2016-17, we are looking forward to more institutional stability and the opportunity for each campus to develop its own character.

UPPER SCHOOL PSO COMMITTEES

PRESIDENT – NEESHA GRUBBS

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR – JENNIFER OSBORN

TREASURER – SARAH RUSHING

PSO COMMITTEES

SPORTS (*VOLUPTATES*) COMMITTEE:

CHAIR – OPEN

CO-CHAIR - OPEN

DUTIES –

- SPORTS BANQUET
- DECORATE LOCKERS (each sport)
- FALL FIELD DAY (1/2 day Friday)
- 5K & FUN RUN
- SELL SPORTS/SPIRIT WEAR (will need rep for each sport)
 - a. EVENTS – CHOIR CONCERTS, SPORTS BANQUET, COFFEE W/ HEADMASTER. ETC...
 - b. FOOTBALL
 - c. VOLLEYBALL
 - d. CROSS COUNTRY
 - e. SWIMMING
 - f. BASKETBALL
 - g. SOCCER
 - h. TRACK
 - i. BASEBALL
 - j. SOFTBALL

CARE (*CURA*) COMMITTEE:

CHAIR – OPEN

CO-CHAIR - OPEN

DUTIES –

- TEACHERS – NEW BABIES/FAMILY EMERGENCIES
- CHOIR CONCERTS (1X BOTH SEMESTERS)
- THANKSGIVING LUNCHEON (NOVEMBER)
- SYMPOSIUM (9TH-11TH) (JANUARY)
- TEACHER APPRECIATION (MARCH)

COMMUNITY (*COMMUNITAS*) COMMITTEE:

CHAIR – OPEN

CO-CHAIR - OPEN

DUTIES:

- UPPER SCHOOL COMMUNITY EVENTS (ALL GRADE LEVELS) (1X EACH SEMESTER)
- TEACHERS LOUNGE (MONTHLY)

CARNIVAL (*FESTUM*) COMMITTEE

CHAIR – CORI KYLE

CO-CHAIR – CASSI DIAZ (LOWER SCHOOL)

DUTIES –

- ALL THINGS CARNIVAL

MISC COMMITTEES

USED UPPER SCHOOL CLOTHING STORE (*VESTIMENTUM*):

CHAIR – BARBARA TAVARES

CO-CHAIR - OPEN

MISCELLANEOUS VOLUNTEERS:

OFFICE ADMIN

STAAR TESTING – BATHROOM MONITORS

PICTURE DAYS

UPPER SCHOOL INTEREST VOLUNTEER LIST

	NAME	CELL PHONE
SPORTS CHAIR		
SPORTS CO-CHAIR		
GENERAL VOLUNTEER		
GENERAL VOLUNTEER		
GENERAL VOLUNTEER		
GENERAL VOLUNTEER		
GENERAL VOLUNTEER		
EVENTS VOLUNTEER		
EVENTS VOLUNTEER		
EVENTS VOLUNTEER		
FOOTBALL REP VOLUNTEER		
VOLLEYBALL REP VOLUNTEER		
CROSS COUNTRY REP VOLUNTEER		
SWIMMING REP VOLUNTEER		
BASKETBALL REP VOLUNTEER		
SOCCER REP VOLUNTEER		
TRACK REP VOLUNTEER		
BASEBALL REP VOLUNTEER		
SOFTBALL REP VOLUNTEER		

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USED CLOTHING CO-CHAIR		
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5K RUN (potential mid Oct)

LEAD VOLUNTEER

LEAD VOLUNTEER

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