

Park Day Post

Park Day School • Thursday, Jan 28 at 6:05 PM



Dear Park Day Families,

Even against the topsy-turvy backdrop of navigating the pandemic, our school team has been working hard to ensure a bright future for our community. This week we want to provide you with updates around key areas of our community: Admissions and Enrollment and Strategic Planning.

Admissions & Enrollment Update from Josie AG Shapiro

What a year it has been! As you can imagine, it has been incredibly busy in the admissions office ever since last summer. Applications are up by more than 30% over last year (which was itself a strong year). Since early fall our team has been hosting 2-3 admissions events every week ranging from virtual open houses to alumni panels, to socially distanced tours of campus after the school day has wrapped up and all students and faculty have gone home.

If you'd like a peek at the virtual tour we show during many of these events, here is the link to our **[Video Tour led by student tour guides](#)**. Big thanks to Dylan (3), Nia (3), River (1), Zora (5), Dexter (8), Kekoa (8), Marianne (8), and Sylvia (8) for leading the tour, and to parents Tim Kerns and Sage Kahn and Digital Media Manager Amalia Bob-Waksberg for the movie magic. Big thanks also to our faculty who made their own classroom snapshot videos for the new **[Video Lesson Library](#)** to help bring our classes to life for prospective families in this very unusual, virtual environment.

Perhaps you are asking yourself, how can I help support our school's admissions efforts during this crazy year? Well, we have an answer--please

UPCOMING EVENTS

1/28

- **[Signups for Curative COVID-19 Testing on Sunday Open](#)**

1/31

- **[Curative COVID-19 Testing](#)**

2/4

- **[Signups for Curative COVID-19 Testing on Sunday Open](#)**

2/9

- **[DJA Meeting](#)** with Special Guest Presenter **[Gill Sotu](#)**

2/11

- **[Signups for Curative COVID-19 Testing on Sunday Open](#)**

join the **Admissions Volunteer Group** on ParentSquare! We will reach out to volunteers who are comfortable talking to families (social distancing rules apply) on campus at a date in March to be determined, and/or to be on our all important Parent Call List once admissions decisions are sent out on March 18.

Strategic Planning Update

We wanted to provide you with a quick update on our ongoing strategic planning process that we started earlier this year. Thank you to everyone in our community who contributed to the strategic planning survey in December. Your insights were invaluable and the depth of what you value about our school and your ideas and hopes for our collective future are both inspirational and actionable. Thank You!

I also want to thank our hard-working Task Force who are dedicating their time to processing ideas and developing themes and areas for research as we move into our next phase of work from collecting ideas to starting to brainstorm about the future. Since we just wrapped up our input collection phase, we thought you might want to see an update on our progress and see the emerging themes based on community input.

2/14

- **Curative COVID-19 Testing**

2/15

- **No School - Presidents' Day**

2/16 - 2/19

- **No School - February Break**

2/18

- **Signups for Curative COVID-19 Testing on Sunday Open**

2/21

- **Curative COVID-19 Testing**

2/22 - 26

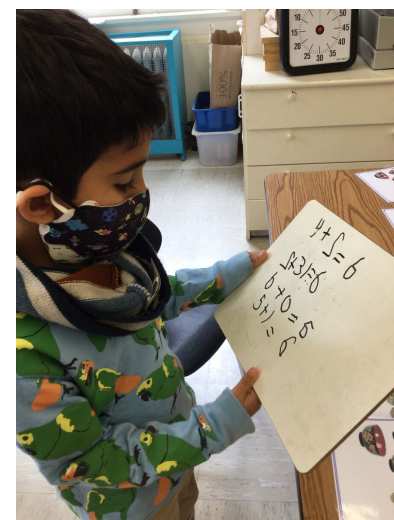
- **K-8 Distance Learning Week**

2/25

- **Signups for Curative COVID-19 Testing on Sunday Open**

2/28

- **Curative COVID-19 Testing**



Thank You to Our Volunteer Task Force 2020-2021 Strategic Planning Team



Here are the highlights:

What Has Been Done So Far?

- We officially kicked off our strategic planning journey in November 2020.
- We've formed a strategic planning Task Force made up of 11 members including parents, trustees, alumni, and community members.
- We've collected input from the community through a survey and ongoing conversations.
- We have consolidated all of this collected feedback to create 4 emerging themes that will help us to organize next steps and form working teams around

each of the areas listed below for research and development of ideas and possible initiatives.

• We have had Board members engage with the 4 emerging themes and pose deep and probing questions that will help to guide our work.

Examples of Areas for Task Force Research based on Community Input



What's Next?

- Begin to research and develop ideas to consider around the 4 areas of possible strategic focus identified from community input as we think about ways to improve and invest in our:
 - Core Program
 - Inclusive Culture
 - Faculty & Staff
 - Systems & Financials

Please stay tuned for a survey and focus groups in February to gather more detailed perspectives on these specific themes as we move forward to craft our vision for the future of Park Day. Thank you for your continued support, engagement, and inspirational ideas for this important work.

Be well.
Angela



REMINDERS

Customize your **ParentSquare notification settings** so you get information the way that suits you best!

Check out all the **Opt-In Community Groups** on ParentSquare and find folks with similar interests!

Navigate school-related tech issues on the school's **Technology & Tips** section of the website.



SCHOOL NEWS

A Message from the Committee on Trustees

The Park Day Board of Trustees is seeking YOUR input and nominations for new board members who will serve on the Park Day Board beginning July 1, 2021 (term is three years). If you know of someone in the Park Day community (parent, teacher, alumni, alumni parent, professional with relevant expertise) who deeply values Park Day School, understands its mission, and is committed to ensuring the school thrives over the long-term, **[please click here to complete the nominating form by Feb 18.](#)**

Board members are the fiduciaries who steer Park Day towards a sustainable future by adopting sound, ethical, and legal governance and financial management policies, as well as by making sure our school has adequate resources to advance its mission. If you are interested in serving on the board yourself, we encourage you to **[read more information here and submit an application by March 8.](#)** Typically families in their first year at the school who may be interested in board service are invited to join a board committee before serving as a trustee. That said, we welcome all board applications.

The Committee on Trustees will review all nominations and board applications in the coming weeks, and will contact applicants and those nominated. **[Please contact any of us with questions.](#)**

Sincerely, members of the Committee on Trustees,
Andrea Franchett (Chair), Hasain Rasheed, Josie AG Shapiro, Linda Udall,
Dina Wolkoff



A Message From the Park Day Parent Stewardship Group

With Valentine's Day as our inspiration, let's spread the love around our wonderful staff the week before February break! We would like to feature an act / gift of appreciation each day from Monday 2/8 through Friday 2/12, and **we need your teamwork** to create something really special. Here's our game plan:

- **Sunday 2/7** - CHALK ART AROUND CAMPUS
- **Monday 2/8** - APPRECIATIONS / LOVE NOTES
- **Tuesday 2/9** - BACKYARD BOUQUETS
- **Wednesday 2/10** - LOVE POEMS
- **Thursday 2/11** - PANETTO KITCHEN TREATS
- **Friday 2/12** - FAMILY-MADE COOKIES, LAVENDER SACHETS, GIFT CARDS

Please sign up to join in on the fun, and donate funds to help us make it all happen! Donations of any amount are greatly appreciated and may be submitted by Saturday, February 6 with the label "for PDS gift cards".

Venmo is preferred at @Shannon-Prokup (last 4 digits of phone number are 8400), and Paypal is also an option at: **oonasera@hotmail.com** Thank you for coming together with us to share some appreciation with our teachers and staff! Please direct any questions or suggestions to **parkschoolfamilies@gmail.com**



SPECIAL NOTES

A Message from the Diversity and Justice Alliance:

We are honored and excited to welcome two time Grand Slam Poetry Champion, two time Raw Performing artist of the year, and three time TEDx presenter, **Gill Sotu** as our Special Guest Presenter at the DJA meeting on **Tuesday February 9 at 6:45 pm** via Zoom. **Click here for more info!**



A Huge Thank You To Our Volunteers

We are so appreciative of the way our community rallied to help clean up and reset after the recent windstorm leveled our outdoor learning spaces! And a heartfelt THANK YOU to everyone who has signed up to volunteer at drop-off and pick-up, too! We'll continue to post signups two weeks in advance. We're filled with gratitude at this community's generosity of spirit!



Annual Fund Campaign

This year's **Annual Fund** campaign is all about meeting the current moment to build for the future together through resilience and innovation, and so many of you have rallied around the cause already! Thank you to those who've answered the call, stretched, and dug deep to make an impact--our whole school community appreciates your generosity and dedication!

If you haven't made a gift to the Annual Fund yet, we invite you to join us in giving. **Click here for information on how to make your gift or pledge.** Together we can do great things! Thank you for your partnership!

