

December 10, 2024

8:45 – 9:45 AM via MS Teams with over 70 attendees

1. APG Activities (Bengu Bostanci – APG President)

- Sept 13th: “Bagels and High Fives” breakfast welcomed faculty and staff back to school
- Sept 13th: APG also hosted an ice cream social for students
- Sept 27th: The Fall Harvest celebration for the EPS community was a fantastic event with a photo booth, festive decorations and great food. Hosted by the APG Hospitality and EPS Culinary teams.
- Fall Sports: Ayesha Affan identifies sports team parents to provide snacks for games and the end-of-season coach gifts, banquet
- Arts: Tami Chung and Brenda Bown deliver snacks and flowers for performers. Ramona Quimby was the Fall middle school play and the upper school play will be As You Like It.
- Class reps organized Fall coffee meetings with EPS faculty members and took notes. They will do the same for the upcoming winter coffee meetings. Class reps have also been instrumental in communicating key information to families and responding to questions in WhatsApp.
- Upcoming Events:
 - o Chamber Music Concert: Dec 12th 5-6:30 PM in TALI Theater
 - o Holiday Giving Tree: Extended to Dec 13th
 - o Winter Break: Dec 20th through Jan 5th
 - o Senior Parent Guardian Reception: Jan 8th 6 – 8 PM
 - o Parent Socials and Happy Hours:
 - Dec 13th 8:15 AM: G10
 - Jan 10th 8:30 AM: G7, Happy Hour G5
 - Jan 31st 8:30 AM: G9
 - Feb 6th 6:30 PM: G6
 - o 10th Grade College Counseling Update: Jan 14th 7 – 8:15 PM
 - o EPS Winter Social: Jan 24th 5:15 – 6:45 PM MS, 7-8:30 PM US at the Sno King Ice Rink
 - o Upper School Play “As You Like It”: Feb 6 – 8th in TALI Theater
 - o Mid-Winter Break: Feb 14th – 24th
- Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities:
 - o As You Like It (Upper School) play support: Stay tuned for an email from Tami and Brenda
 - o Faculty & Staff Appreciation Valentines’ Treats: Stay tuned for announcements in January
 - o Check out the EPS website, click on current families => parent association => scroll down to click here to learn about more volunteer opportunities

2. Strategic Priorities (Sarah Peeden and Dr. John Stegeman)

- Strategic priorities for 2023-2028:
 - o 2.2: Expand independent education capacity and options for juniors and seniors to modernize the senior year experience
 - o 2.4: Reimagine student assessment practices to ensure mission alignment and promote student well-being (grading philosophy)

- Upcoming parent coffee meetings will focus on these two topics as we wish to respect people's time. Please attend if you'd like to provide input on these priorities and how they are implemented. Note that the schedule for these meetings has changed:
 - o Grading & Assessment:
 - Jan 28th (All US grades): 11:30 – 12:30 online
 - Feb 6th (All US grades): 11:30 – 12:30 in person, 2:00 – 3:00 PM in-person
 - o 11th/12th Grade Experience:
 - Jan 30th (All US grades): 11:30 – 12:30 online
 - Feb 7th (All US grades): 8:30 – 9:30 AM in-person, 11:30 – 12:30 in-person
 - o Middle School Listening Sessions:
 - Jan 29th (G5-6): 12:00 – 1:00 PM online
 - Feb 5th (G7-8): 12:00 – 1:00 PM online
- Our founder, Dr. Macaluso, once posed the question: Why do 18-year-olds have the same experience and schedule as 10-year-olds?
- EPS has been examining this question, seeking opportunities to evolve our program to best prepare students for life in college and beyond
- The college landscape is changing. It is an expectation now that students have an internship experience during undergrad.
- Part of re-imagining our 11th/12th grade programs includes the independent curriculum as well as experiential learning out in the community (e.g. start-up company, lab at the UW)
- We will have inclusive conversations with students as well as families as we embark upon these initiatives
- Sarah and John co-authored an article on grading and assessment that was published in "Inspire". We will include a link to this article with the invitations to the listening sessions.

3. Head of School Update (Sam Uzwick)

- We are in the midst of another busy admissions season!
- Sam underscored the critical importance of the family/school partnership
- Everything we do at EPS centers around maximizing and optimizing the student experience
- When home and school are aligned, students do better and feel supported to take academic risks
- Sam now has a 6th grade student at the school, so he can also relate as a parent
- Topics Sam covered today:
 - o Gratitude:
 - Thank you for the care you showed toward one another during the November Bomb Cyclone storm. Families had varying experiences, some of which were severe. Thank you for your flexibility in enabling us to shift our finals schedule to post-Thanksgiving. We understand that this was difficult for many students and families.
 - o Partnerships:
 - Our first 20 years were about building a school that would persist long into the future
 - Our next step is to create a network of individuals within our community (past and present) who have domain-level expertise
 - We want to allow students to take what they are learning in school and apply it in an area about which they are passionate
 - There are opportunities to partner with UW in the AI arena
 - We're excited to pilot a social entrepreneurship program with Penn that will allow students to manage a long-term project

- Campus Development:
 - We have acquired several buildings in the Linbrook complex
 - We're now studying our programmatic needs and wants, both short and long-term
 - We are exploring space use options (e.g. centralized environmental studies center, athletic field, expanded parking, space for partners to set up shop as we implement changes to our 11-12 program, senior spaces, etc.)
 - Stream Restoration: We are very proud of our efforts to date. We're working with King Conservation District to secure plans for the next three years of work. This is an example of civic engagement and community partnership.
- Belonging:
 - Are you able to bring your authentic self when you engage with EPS?
 - Listening groups are occurring this week with students to understand their current sense of belonging. There will be later opportunities for families to get involved.
 - Authentic Connections: wellness survey we conduct annually as a health check on our student community
 - Family Involvement and Connection: We want to show, not tell, how vital connection is at our school. Parents and guardians will have an opportunity to provide input to a number of subjects (belonging, AI, grading and assessment, 11th/12th experience).
 - If any members of our communities have expertise in these areas, please let us know
 - Civil discourse: It is a critical skill to be able to have open dialog that is respectful and inclusive. From ambiguity springs new ideas. Professional Development Day will include a speaker to educate faculty and staff about this.
- Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH): La Quinta
 - We are hosting monthly meetings with the City, County and Public Housing. Vickie and Sam are heavily engaged and have assumed a leadership role to ensure we have a seat at the table.
 - Participation from our neighbors at these meetings has increased
 - We are meeting with Plymouth to understand how they will operate the facility day-to-day
 - 4 major documents will govern how the facility is managed: Good Neighbor, Security, Code of Conduct and Community Engagement Plan
 - We are excited to have input into all four of these documents
 - Timeline: Work is slated to begin in December with small occupancy planned this summer followed by full occupancy in late Fall '25
 - PSH will have 103 units with kitchenettes plus three units for staff. The property will be staffed 24x7.
 - Plymouth has told us there will be a weapons ban
 - Units will have privacy film on windows facing EPS sport court
 - We have their design plans and understand how they will control access to their facility. PSH will be fully fenced with controlled gated entry.
 - Last night, Vickie attended the Houghton Neighborhood Association Meeting which discussed various things affecting Kirkland residents. A PSH update was given during this meeting.

4. Q&A

- Will privacy film at the PSH prevent residents from seeing any of our students?
Vickie will follow up to confirm.
- When will EBC assignments be released?
Paul Hagen said these will be released by this Friday at the latest. They will roll out in the next few days this week.
- Is there a map on the EPS web site that shows which buildings we now own?
Not yet. We now own buildings 1, 2, 10, 12 and 6 with more to come. Some of these are tenant-occupied.
- When will Fall term grades be released?
This Friday at 4 PM. Seniors may have been given early access for college apps.