

March 4, 2025

8:45 – 9:45 AM via MS Teams with 90 attendees online

1. APG Activities (Bengu Bostanci)

- Recent Highlights:

- Faculty and Staff Appreciation:
 - Holiday gift bags were well-received by recipients and many volunteers assisted. Popcorn makers were a huge hit!
 - FSA team also hosted a Valentine's Day coffee cart and Krispy Kreme donuts along with festive decorations
- Athletics: Ayesha works to identify team parents who provide post-practice/game snacks to athletes
- Arts: "As You Like It" Upper School play was fantastic. Arts team volunteers provided posters, decorations, stickers, lunches and snacks for kids who often rehearse all day on the weekends. Thanks to Tami and Brenda on the APG team for leading this effort!
- Class Reps: Class reps have hosted both morning and evening social events (coffee socials, happy hour, etc.). Fun photos were shared with the audience.

- Upcoming Events:

- EPS Rocks music performance: Today from 4 – 5
- Finals: March 5 – 7
- Snowshoeing: March 8
- No School: March 10
- Last Ski Bus: March 15
- EBC Information Night: March 18
- EBC Week: April 7 – 11
- Spring Break + PDD day: April 14 – 21
- Student-led Conferences: May 2
- Senior Prom: May 3
- Spring Social G9-10: May 10
- Matilda Musical: May 15 -17
- Senior Retreat: May 21-22
- APG General Final Meeting: May 21 (in person at TALI)
- Memorial Day holiday + PDD: May 23-26
- All School Picnic: May 31

- Spring Volunteer Opportunities:

- Athletics: Please contact Ayesha Affan (ayeshaaffan17@gmail.com) to sign up as a sports team parent. We need spring team parents for 5-6 Ultimate, 7-8 Ultimate, US Girls Tennis, US Boys Soccer and US Girls Ultimate
- We need also need volunteers to support our Arts team for "Matilda". Stay tuned for more information from Tami and Brenda.
- Faculty & Staff appreciation week May 5 – 9: We'll also need volunteers and donations. Stay tuned for future announcements and a Signup Genius.
- Contact Bengu if you're interested in class rep or APG roles next school year

2. Admissions Update (Cheryl Schenk)

- We've had another record-breaking year of applications with over 800 completed apps submitted for under 100 spots in total. Depending on the grade, we admit approximately one student for every 6 – 7 applications received.
- We had phenomenal success with the inclusion of parent ambassadors and volunteers in admissions events. Feedback from applicant families throughout the admissions process was extremely positive about their interactions with parents.
- Upper school decisions went out in February and we're currently working through our wait pool
- Thursday March 13th: Course selection event for rising upper schoolers. This will include our current 8th graders and incoming 9th graders. We'll also have a parent guardian social in the LPC that evening. We'll ensure the reminder for this event has gone out.
- March 21st: MS decisions release with a response deadline of March 28th.

3. EBC Week (Paul Hagen)

- Cheryl will be an EBC lead taking a group of upper school students on a canyoneering trip to Utah
- We have 21 trips and experiences all over the world
- We have 82 EPS chaperones participating
- We're building strong bonds within our community during EBC. Our students are growing and learning together.
- We often pair students who don't know one another well to help them forge new connections
- EBC is typically a major highlight for our students!
- Asks of parents and guardians:
 1. **Maintain positivity** and encourage your children. Some of the younger students may be nervous about leaving home, and even upper schoolers may not have travelled without family members. Understand that EBC week content can be both physically challenging (kayaking in Baja, canyon hiking) and emotionally challenging (history of slavery and racism in Georgia). Talk to your kids.
 2. **Please fill out requisite forms** on time and read the information your trip leads share. For example, Washington State Law requires that we obtain physician approval to administer OTC and/or prescription medications to any minor under the age of 18. It is very important for EBC Week to ensure that students can be treated while they're away. If you have not already submitted this, please do so prior to EBC. Be sure to include any medications they may need day or night. If you submitted this last summer, there is no need to re-submit as we have it on file.
 3. **Attend EBC Information Night** on March 18th from 6:30 – 7:30. We don't record these meetings. Stay tuned for an MS Teams invite from your trip leader. EBC Info Night for 5th and 6th graders as well as any international travel trips will be hosted on campus in-person.
 4. **Discuss the tech policy** with your child. We will have a "low tech" experience reducing the amount of device usage so students can be present and fully engaged. Some experiences will permit phone usage for safety and communication purposes. Others will be in tech-free centers. We have received positive feedback from students who underwent a "phone detox" during EBC Week in that it changed their perspective on how to interact socially with one another. Last year, the Florida student group voted to extend their cell-phone pause.

5. **Get your documents notarized** if travelling internationally. Tomorrow morning, Tina will be available in conference room 108 of the TALI building from 8:30 – 9:30 AM to notarize. Both parents must be present for notarization.
6. **Ensure vaccinations are completed** if required. Sam highly recommends Passport Health on Bel Red Road. They walk you through vaccinations, hydration, political status, etc. and provide a travel kit. Other options include UW Medicine Travel Clinic, Virginia Mason Travel Clinic and Bartell Drugs. Pediatric offices may not provide specialty travel vaccinations.

4. Head of School Update (Sam Uzwick)

- Gratitude:

- Sam expressed appreciation to the APG and parent volunteers for the FSA efforts, hosting social events, supporting our admissions team, and advocating for our school.
- Student achievement must have a strong partnership between home and school. This is a core pillar at EPS.

- Director of EICL Job Posting:

- We posted our inaugural Director of EICL (Equity, Inclusion and Compassionate Leadership) position last month
- Students do their best work when they feel a sense of belonging
- Our EICL efforts began eight years ago in response to student feedback
- We have decided that organizationally, it makes sense to hire a leader at the leadership level. This is a strategic position that will focus on ensuring equity and inclusion in all aspects of our school including our programs, policies and hiring practices.
- The EICL panel is chaired by Bart Gummere and will convene tomorrow. It includes faculty and staff as well as parents and guardians.
- We announced this in the “EPS Weekly” a few weeks ago

- Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH):

- From the outset, we’ve assumed a leadership role in this process to ensure the ongoing safety of our students
- We enjoy excellent partnership with the County, City of Kirkland and the provider Plymouth Housing
- We believe we can help the PSH be a success with the aid of our compassionate leadership and engagement
- Huge thanks to Vickie Baldwin for her outstanding leadership
- Linbrook businesses, Kitchen and Market and Burgermaster neighbors have attended meetings we’ve hosted
- We’re actively reviewing and providing input to key documents that will govern how the facility is managed (e.g. code of conduct, safety plan, community engagement plan)
- We’re discussing fencing and landscaping as well as traffic management
- Paccar across the street will fence in their entire property
- Code of Conduct will include things like background checks and weapons bans
- PSH will not be an emergency shelter. Its tenants will be required to sign leases. Residents will be screened and meet the criteria needed to live independently. 65% will come from Kirkland and its surrounding areas.
- PSH will be staffed and monitored 24x7
- The site will be fully fenced in and there will be entrance/exit gates monitored 24x7 that require those entering to buzz in
- King County Sheriff will run background checks to ensure applicants are permitted to live near a school.

- Timeline: We are in year three. The original plan was to hire a contractor in 2024 with construction beginning the first quarter of 2025. They are at least three months behind schedule as they have not yet hired a contractor, although they do have bids. A revised schedule has not been published, so we don't yet know when residents will move in.
- All windows on the site will be replaced. Every room will have a kitchenette and sprinklers will be added.
- We have reviewed their plans for fencing and traffic management and have offered feedback.
- We will continue to team closely with these groups and update the EPS community transparently as soon as new developments occur.
- Sam and Vickie visited the Plymouth Crossing site no 190 Eastgate. They toured the PSH and spoke to the operator to get a better feel for how things will work.
- PSH will provide mental health support services as well
- Drug screening: The County's approach is to meet the immediate housing need and then provide counseling and support once residents move in to help them overcome addiction. Being drug-free is not a pre-requisite to live at the PSH, but illegal drugs and activities will be disallowed as they are everywhere else. This is called out in the Code of Conduct document.
- We'll review the latest version of the Code of Conduct during our March meeting with the County. We should receive a preview of the doc mid-March.
- Many of our prior recommendations have been incorporated, such as the screening process. The County is very eager to partner with us.
- **Program and Campus Development:**
 - How can we prepare our students to make a difference right away when they leave EPS? What can we teach them so they can hit the ground running?
 - We are thinking through how to build durable skills that will transcend AI technological advancements. These include civil discourse, project management, collaboration, empathy, kindness and curiosity.
 - As a result, we are focused on secondary school innovation
 - Sam presented a map of the Linbrook complex. Buildings we own include 1 and 2 (Avocado Preschool), 10 and 12 (to be leased out), and 5 and 6 along the creek.
 - Building 5 is the most user-ready. This will become the home of our G11-12 program around independent studies and inter-disciplinary impact projects.
 - In-residence program: This will provide our students with hands-on experience in a field or industry. We're close to inking a deal with a start-up in the AI space to office in their building. Our students would learn what it's like to work in the real-world in the AI space.
 - What is it like to be a novelist? How can kids learn this first-hand before graduation?
 - Creek Restoration Project: This is a three-year effort. We will build a Field lab in Bldg 6 that our environmental practices and science classes can utilize. This will be similar to our Makers Space where any student can sign up to use it.
 - We want to get kids thinking hard about sustainability and environmental practices. Let's have these big picture, complex conversations with them.
 - We are so excited to introduce bold and innovative programming aimed at maximizing student impact in society!