Grandparents’ Committee Meeting - September 18, 2019

Grandparents attending:

Catherine Berger, Elizabeth Bernardi, Barry Bernstein, Karen Blackwell, Emilie Blake, Ann Blewitt, Janet Bray, Robin Cooper, Miriam Enright, Saul Freedman, Ruth Furst, Sharyn Gertz, Walter Gertz, Sandy Gray, Stu Gray, Leslie Horowitz, Elizabeth Jolley, Mel Kosasky, Claire Kosasky, Dianne Lord, Judy Mistry, Barbara Mizrahi, Saba Moor-Doucette, Patricia Ortiz, JoAnn Rand, Peter Palmer, Rose Parrish, Elaine Phillips, Sandra Reiner, Lori Rousso, Phyllis Schwarz, Ilene Sraberg, Nurit Wilde

Meeting began at 11:00 am

Annual Fund was discussed...3.2 million raised last year with the generosity of both the community within Campbell Hall and outside. The theme this year will be “Possibilities”...In November, a letter will be mailed about Annual Fund.

There are two ways to help include people to give of their time to Campbell Hall:

1) Be a Campbell Hall volunteer
2) Write thank you cards at end of the year

Reverend Hull spoke about helping students connect to grandparents thru taking a biblical scripture from their religion to understand and be close to their older generation...teaching how to keep relationships...explaining how important grandparents are to children. He has used this model of learning with 6th to 8th graders at Campbell Hall. Reverend Hull said that "we are a fabric“ in creating family, safety and love and that GRANDPARENTS are truly the foundation.

Tracey Settel, Special Events Manager (Bagpipers Ball and Golf & Tennis Classic) and Daphne Carr, Associate Director of Advancement spoke:

Upcoming special events will be Bagpipers Ball, Golf & Tennis Classic, Party Book Events. Tracy, the Special Events Manager, shares the office with Faith Marshall, Constituent Events Manager..her number is 818 505 2427...

Merry Mailers was discussed where volunteers are asked to stuff mailers to be sent out to Campbell Hall Community...meets in boardroom. If there is any interest in being a part of this group, please call Faith.

The new Alumni Courtyard was discussed...a beautiful area in the high school quad with courtyard stones. You may purchase a stone engraved with your grandchild’s or family's name. Proceeds go towards the Alumni Legacy Scholarship (provides financial aid to children of alumni whose families might not otherwise be able to afford a CH education). Contact Aubrey Rakoski for more information. Ribbon cutting ceremony will take place on Saturday, December 14. Paperless Post invitation to follow in November.

New Members introduction
Secondary Faculty Appreciation Luncheon was discussed...Grandparents’ Committee is in charge of the dessert table...all middle school and high school teachers and employees are invited. First luncheon will be on Tuesday, November 5.

Homecoming Football & Carnival is on Saturday, October 5, at Campbell Hall. Rides...games with prizes...Grandparents run the Bingo Booth...everything is free except the food trucks and food booths...Jo Schiff head of bingo booth...volunteer sheet sent around...handicap can park in garage...

Faith Marshall speaking: Sign in on our roster sheet today...including email please. Faith discussed other events:

Senior Key Chapel especially for graduating seniors and their family, including a lovely luncheon served after chapel;
Golf and Tennis Classic on Nov. 4;
Grandparents’ and Grandfriends’ Day for 7th grade ...grandparents get to sit in an advisory group of their grandchild ...this year it is Tuesday, November 19, from 11am to 1pm;
Cookie Day for upper school students when cookies are offered for free to students from the Grandparents’ Committee;
Family-Friendly Escape Room Event....solving puzzles to advance to next room...not expensive...on Friday, December 20, which is first day of your grandchild’s winter break;
Sunday, January 26, free Art Activity Dreamscape with your grandchild.
Friday, March 27, Elementary Grandparents’ Day
Bagpiper's Ball...our annual major dinner charity Ball held on Friday, May 1

Voting was held to decide if the time of our meetings should be at 10am or 11am..11am was the majority at 19 votes but was tabled to vote again at next meeting. Valet closes at 11:15am for grandparents who parked using this mode...keys will be taken to main lobby. Any questions contact Pamela Director of Operations

Elevator in main building where we meet is broken...If you need help walking from the parking garage to the meeting in the boardroom, there is availability for golf cart help...call ahead to Faith for this service.

Sign up sheets were passed out for first grade reading for grandparents...where there is an opportunity to read to children for ten minutes in their class. This is offered every other week.

Faith was asked if grandparents who have grandchildren in theatrical productions can go to a rehearsal if they can’t make coming to the show. Yes, contact Megan Adell the Performing Arts Dept. Director at AdellM@campbellhall.org.

Security...if you are on campus a lot, you should put a decal on your window so security doesn’t keep stopping you at the gate. Ask your child (the CH parents) to request one for you from the Operations Department since they will have to issue you the same decal number as your child.

CH administration is still in discussion whether to employ an armed guard...must be a person who knows student body well...it is a lengthy and sensitive process to decide on
something like this...pros and cons. Campbell Hall has increased their security to eight guards during school hours...classroom doors lock from the inside and there are emergency drills held almost every month on campus with different scenarios (fire, earthquake, lockdown, etc).

Faith was asked if there is an anti-bullying program at CH. Yes, all three divisions have age-appropriate programs and resources (human development programs, parent ed speakers, chapels, toolbox, etc.) to help counter bullying. Statistics show that bullying all across the country has risen dramatically in recent years.

The usual meeting room for our group is the board room...we had to meet in the Carsey Gallery today because of the broken elevator. Faith discussed our grandparent support group...our fellow grandparents’ committee member Barbara Zax, a trained psychotherapist, runs a group discussion for grandparents where we can go to a safe meeting place and discuss problems with family, children, grandchildren. All present must sign a waiver that everything said is private. Meetings are on chosen Wednesdays. If interested in having a meeting in your home please get a hold of Faith.

Viking Care:
A few years ago, the Parents’ Association started a committee called Viking Care. Phyllis Schwarz is head of the grandparents subgroup of Viking Care. A Campbell Hall family who is going thru a life crisis or problem contacts the parent volunteer who runs Viking Care. That parent also contacts Phyllis at Phyllis@dukester.com so grandparents can help too...if a family needs a ride to a doctor, food, or simply a caring card, they contact Viking Care. If interested in joining this wonderful committee, please contact Phyllis.

Sadly, we lost two CH students over the summer due to drunk drivers; Viking Care was alerted about Hart Campbell (9th grader) and Noah Benardout (recent graduate), who both were killed from drunk drivers only months apart from each other.

The Trevor Project and The Noah Benardout Foundation were discussed. These two non-profit groups were chosen by Hart and Noah’s families as a way for families to make donations in memory of their children. The Grandparents’ Committee voted to donate $300.00 from their funds to the Trevor Project and another $300.00 to The Noah Benardout Foundation. Faith to facilitate these donations with Elaine Phillips.

At the request of Stephen White, a CH grandparent, Faith spoke about The Breakfast Club. Stephen started working with the children of Uganda after seeing a PBS special. He started the Breakfast Club to help feed breakfast and lunch to children in Uganda as they attend school. Please contact Faith if you would like to help with this cause.

Meeting concluded at 12 pm
Next Meeting is Wednesday, October 16, 2019
Minutes by Ilene Sraberg