

PTSA Parent Meeting

February 25, 2020

6:30p

Lloyd Library

PTSA Announcements

- **Upcoming Event for Parents – “The Talk”**
 - Please mark your calendars for **Monday, March 9th at 7pm in the HHS Auditorium**. The PTSA is hosting a presentation by Sharon Maxwell, PhD and Chelsea Maxwell Ed.M. **about raising healthy, responsible kids in a hypersexualized culture**. Please note, this event is for **parents only**.
 - This mother-daughter team offers a comprehensive and positive way to begin and sustain a conversation with children about sex and sexuality. Educators, health professionals, and parents are using this innovative approach to prepare kids for a hypersexualized world and lay the foundation for ethical sexual behavior that will guide our children from elementary school through college.
 - The Maxwells are making themselves available to meet with **all district faculty** and staff on March 9th at 3:15pm in the Blue Lecture Room.
- **Used Book Fair**
 - The annual **PTSA Used Book Fair** is coming up on **March 4-7 at Hillside**.
 - **Please donate used books, games and DVDs** for this event. Donations can be dropped off through this Saturday, February 29th in the Hillside lobby anytime between 8a-6p each day.
 - If you cannot get to Hillside during those hours, **the PTSA will arrange to pick up your books. Volunteers will pick up boxed donations left outside your home Wednesday, 2/26, from 4-6p!** Slots are limited! Sign up using the following link: docs.google.com/spreadsheets. Please indicate on the sign-up where the boxes of books will be located. (Porch, front steps, back, ring the doorbell, etc.) Be careful not to overfill boxes so that one volunteer can lift each box on her own.
 - **This Saturday, February 29th is The Big Sort. We need volunteers** to help sort on Saturday and also for fair itself. This is a wonderful community event that cannot happen without the support of volunteers. Please come for any amount of time. To volunteer, sign up here: docs.google.com/spreadsheets.

- There is a **Mini-Used Book Fair** in the Lloyd Library at FMS/HHS from **Monday, March 9th – Tuesday March 10th**. This event will raise money for the 8th Grade Graduation Party. Volunteers are also needed for this event.
- The PTSA will also be selling **Logowear** at both Book Fairs. **Volunteers are needed** to help with this effort as well. Please sign up here: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1D0OH4pAHIFZZ5u_49PfWSsxnBWK0C0gvQz_-R3nbuE/edit#gid=79057034
- **PTSA Monthly Newsletter**
 - The PTSA sends out a monthly e-newsletter. It is a really comprehensive look at what's happening in the district and all the ways the PTSA is working to support our schools - please check it out.
- **Greenburgh Eleven–**
 - The PTSA is working to continue our relationship with Greenburgh Eleven, which is the public school attached to Children's Village, our neighbors in Dobbs Ferry. Children's Village is a program for at-risk children, including those in need of foster care. They have both a residential and day program. These students are often in need of many basics such as clothing and backpacks.
 - **The PTSA is currently collecting new or very gently used coats and other winter gear (hats, gloves, etc.) for boys in sizes Children's L, XL, up to Men's XXL and everything in between.** Many students are also in need of clothing basics such as underwear, socks, etc. The students are boys but many have siblings also in need – so we are collecting clothes for both boys and girls. **We are only collecting clothes that are new or barely used. If it is within your means, please consider purchasing something for this effort.** Contact fmsvp3@ptsahastings.org or fmsvp2@ptsahastings.org and **we can arrange pickup at your home.** We will also have a backpack drive in the fall – please look out for information about that.
- **Traffic Safety –**
 - As many of you already know, the District and the PTSA Traffic Safety Committee have created a **drop-off and pick-up zone** located in the driveway in front of FMS. This zone allows kids to enter and exit their cars at the curb safely, gives them a place to unload and load musical instruments and projects, and helps traffic move along safely.

- Please read through this explanation of how best to use this zone; it has been recently revised as we have watched the drop-off and pick-up zone in use over the past few weeks. And please share this information with your babysitters and other drivers in your household! In order to make this drop-off and pick-up zone as safe as possible for our children, we ask that you:
 - Pull into the three curbside spaces (located right before you get to the crosswalk) from 7:30-9:00am and from 2:00-5:00pm to drop-off and/or pick-up your children. **Curbside drop-off and pick-up are safest.**
 - Please do not park in these spaces from 7:30-9:00am and from 2:00-5:00pm. Signs clearly state that there is no parking during these hours.
 - Please **move all the way to the front** of the drop-off / pick-up zone so that cars can enter the zone behind you.
 - The lane to the left of the drop-off / pick-up zone is a thru lane. **Please resist the urge to drop off your child in this thru lane**; use the safer curbside drop-off / pick-up zone instead.
 - Please be considerate of cars that are exiting the drop-off zone and moving into the thru lane.
 - If you arrive for pick-up before 2:45pm, you may sit and wait in your car in the drop-off / pick-up zone. After 2:45, we ask that you do not linger more than 2 minutes. Please circle around the block and re-enter the driveway. Remember that the Village has passed a new ordinance that prohibits idling for more than 1 minute.
 - **Please do not drop-off, pick-up, or sit in your car and wait for your kids on Hillside Avenue.** In fact, you will notice “No Parking and Standing” signs on Hillside Avenue. Hillside is far too narrow, visibility is poor near the crosswalk that leads to Reynolds field, and cars are frequently stopping too close to the crosswalk at Farragut Ave which creates dangerous conditions for our kids. Continue driving and then re-enter the drop-off / pick-up zone in front of FMS.
 - Please have your children **WALK to school if they can do so safely. Reducing the number of cars around the FMS/HHS complex is the real solution here.**
- As we learn more about how parents use this drop-off and pick-up zone, we will continue to make adjustments. We are actively reviewing traffic patterns around

FMS/HHS with the District to make sure that children get to and from school safely.

- Please feel free to email us at trafficsafetycommittee@ptsahastings.org.
- **Bicycle Workshop and Rodeo –**
 - Join the PTSA Traffic Safety Committee, the Hastings Bicycle Safety Committee and the Hastings PD at the James Harmon Community Center on **Wednesday April 22nd at 7:00pm**. We will explain what bicycle safety means and the do's and don'ts of riding a bicycle in the Rivertowns.
 - There will be information and sign up sheets for our **Bike Rodeo**. The Bike Rodeo will be on Earth Day **Saturday April 25th** in the Chase Bank parking lot on Warburton. Kids will learn how to ride and navigate a bicycle safely in a comfortable setting. Bring your bicycle and helmet for a free safety check. There will be a few kids bikes and helmets available for those without.
 - Workshop: Wednesday April 22nd 7:00pm, Harmon Community Center, Main St
 - Rodeo: Sunday April 26th 12:00-2:00pm, Chase Bank on Warburton
- **8th Grade Graduation Party –**
 - The PTSA will contribute \$2,500 for 8th grade graduation party.
 - There is still a need to raise some additional funds, but this grant will be helpful towards making it a wonderful event for the 8th graders.
 - There is a student club working with parents to make party plans. Several fundraisers are being planned. Reach out to fmsvp2@ptsahastings.org for more information.

SEPTA Announcements

- The **SEPTA Community Conversation** originally scheduled for March 11th is being moved to an **April date TBD**. Stay tuned for more information.
- On **March 12th**, please attend the **Parent Assistive Tech Night** at FMS. This is a workshop to help parents understand how assistive tech can help students with learning differences.
- There is a **parent discussion group** on the **first Monday of every month**.
- Thank you for the community's support of trivia night which was a huge success. The event will enable SEPTA to fully fund scholarships for graduating seniors this year.
- For more information on any of these events please contact Hastings.SEPTA@gmail.com.

Administrative Announcements

- **Gail Kipper is retiring after many years of service at FMS.** There is a search committee beginning to evaluate candidates for a new FMS Principal.
- **Later Start Trial –**
 - The pilot of a later start for FMS/HHS is on hold for now.
 - FMS is working with a consultant to work on next year’s schedule.
- **There are no more late start Friday mornings for the remainder of the school year.** It is still unclear whether March 18th will be a Superintendent’s Conference Day. Please stay tuned for more information about this.
- **FMS Socials –**
 - The FMS Socials were huge success. They were well attended, well chaperoned, and enjoyed by all.
 - The main criticism received about the evenings were that they were too loud. There are discussions about moving the event to the Cochrane gym next year to help improve the acoustics.
 - The PTSA hopes to work with the District to make this a regular event.
- **Food Policy –**
 - There is a Board policy that states that the building administration is responsible for the safety of all children, including when it involves food.
 - Whatever’s brought in, staff must ensure it’s safe for children to eat.
 - The FMS administration has become much more aware of children with food allergies and the diversity of allergies that exist.
 - Through meetings with school RNs, it was determined that the risk of cross contamination with allergens is high even with store bought goods.
 - There should be no sharing of food in school.
 - Like the policy at Hillside, there is now no food for in-class birthday celebrations – celebrations can focus on other activities.
 - Look for more information about how the Latin American or Grecian Festivals will be handled. The meeting participants and Administration discussed several options for ways these events could be safer for all children.
- **Results of the Climate Survey –**
 - This item was tabled for the next meeting as time ran out.