

## Tandem Parent Association Meeting January 5, 2006

After observing a minute of silence, our first meeting of 2006 opened with introductions.

**Paul Perkinson:** Our Christmas tree sale, spearheaded by Carolena Saunders and David Slezak, was a success raising about \$700 to support the 5<sup>th</sup> grade Salvation Army project and the Quaker Leadership trip scholarship fund. It will definitely take place again next year.

A sub has been hired to help Gordon with the gym classes while Paola is away due to family needs. There was concern that Gordon receives as much assistance as needed as he has had some heart issues. Amy Laufer, our 6<sup>th</sup> grade math/science teacher will not be returning from maternity leave this school year. The current sub is staying through January, but a substitute will need to be hired for the remainder of the year, and Paul would like input.

The Tandem Alumni gathering for recent graduates was well received. When asked questions about how Tandem had prepared them for college, most answered that their ability to forge relationships with peers and professors was most helpful. They also expressed that they were good time managers and able to write better than their peers. The only shortcoming they expressed was that they weren't prepared enough for the volume of reading required on the college level, but they were prepared for the depth. The upper school faculty will discuss this need.

Early admission reports for current seniors were very good, and Sharon deal was commended for doing an excellent job.

The planned MidWinter break For Feb 10-13 will now be school days to make up days missed due to snow.

A band consisting of Tandem graduates reunited at Gravity Lounge over winter break to a packed house. This looks like it will become a yearly tradition.

**Treasurer Report:** Virginia Knight said that activity for the last month consisted of : all money, totaling \$11,357.91, being sent to the EE Ford Diversity Fund; the Parent Association contributed \$100 to the Tandem Annual Fund; \$500 of Wish List funds was given to Lee Halstead and the art department. The next Finance Committee meeting will be in February.

The **December Parent Association meeting minutes** were approved.

**Spring Fundraiser:** Scheduled for March 4, this year's fundraiser will be a Cabaret consisting of acts by students, parents, and faculty. Musical acts signed up are abundant, so Barb is hoping for additional dance or skit acts for variety. Hank Schutz, vice chair of the Board of Trustees, will act as Master of Ceremonies. A director and a light/sound person are still needed.

There will be a silent auction of time at vacation homes only. Margaret Maupin is chairing this effort. She will contact all class reps to get the word out, and they will then inform their classes.

Barb made the executive decision of hiring service and clean up help for \$125 to spare the parents from having to do this work.

The next meeting is Wednesday, January 11 from 2-3:30 in the Community Hall. Tickets for the event will go on sale February 3.

**Linda Kobert:** Nominations are needed for Parent Association Vice President for 2006-2007. The nominating committee will meet this month.

Linda told us the Spiritual Life Committee meets every other Wednesday around noontime. Their main topic of discussion has been service learning.

There was discussion about how confusing all the varying and plentiful community service opportunities are. Clarity of service and some sort of structure would be very helpful. Should we put a dialogue about this on the PA agenda? There is a form being done to evaluate service learning so far this year, and Larry Goldstein is forming an advisory committee for service learning.

**JoAnn Dalley** told us that the Quaker Business meetings which take place the first Sunday of each month at 12:30 are very interesting as are the Tandem Board of Trustee meetings. She encouraged anyone curious to attend.

**Patrice Kyger** asked for any articles or input for the Tandem newsletter generated by the Development office. The office also needs help with labeling for mailings.

**Jim Elmore**, a Tandem parent, told us of the possibility of getting college credit for classes with a dual enrollment at UVa or Piedmont. The contact at PVCC is Charlie Mitchell at 961-5354. There were questions asked about the Tandem school policy on dual enrollment. Tandem has to make the arrangements, and the Educational Policy committee makes the considerations.

**Peggy Shaker** asked Liz Hanson about any planned Parent Education talks. Liz said typically parent attendance is very low for these events, but it was pointed out that even as few as 15 attendees is actually a good turnout. Peggy recommended a speaker come from the Women's Center at UVa. The speakers are free of charge and offer programs on equity, gender issues, and generally living in this world in its current circumstances.

**Taylor Randolph** wondered why so many Upper School parents attend PA meetings and not Middle School parents. Jean Dunnington pointed out that Middle School parents participate in our school in many other ways.

**Sandy Richardson**, teacher of Government and History in the Upper School, spoke to us about her use of funds received from the John Howard Teacher Enrichment Fund. In the summer of 2004, she revisited the curriculum of the

government class that all seniors are required to take. Sandy used to use a traditional text-oriented curriculum that she considered adequate, but she really wanted to make the class more engaging and provide more experience with how it feels to be a citizen in a democracy. She enlightened us on her classroom approach by doing an essential question exercise with us.

Sandy summed up her presentation with thanks for the funding provided by the PA through the John Howard Fund. Her curriculum continues to evolve. She is considering teaching an adult government class for Tandem parents.

This concluded our January meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlotte Rinehart, PA Secretary