

**Tandem Parent Association Meeting**  
**October 5, 2006**

Liz Hanson opened the meeting with a moment of silence. Introductions followed with a warm welcome to **Michele Jarman**, the new **Assistant to Head of School**. Michele is sharing space in the Development Office - phone extension 222. Her daughter is a 6<sup>th</sup> grader at Tandem.

Corrections to the September PA minutes:

- Jnanam MacIsaac volunteered to be the coordinator for the *dinner* given during the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Quaker Youth Conference, which is supported by the Spiritual Life Committee.
- The Tag Sale netted just over \$11,000 last year.

September PA minutes were approved.

Virginia Knight presented the **Treasurer's Report**.

Account balance as of 7/1/2006	\$ 13,758.96
Income from 1 <sup>st</sup> quarter Lunch Program	\$ 10,201.50
Expenditures	\$ 5,281.35
Account balance as of 10/4/2006	\$ 18,679.11
Committed funds	\$ 14,853.15
Wish list items	\$ 2,005.81
Uncommitted PA funds	\$ 1,820.15

It was approved by consensus to move \$678.00 raised at concerts last year from PA funds to the music department.

The finance committee selected three **Wish List** requests for final approval.

portable sound system (serves entire school)	\$ 2,089.95
mechanic's tool set (Applied Physics and Math)	\$ 349.99
equipment for Digital Filmmaking course	\$ 490.00

The PA agreed to fund \$1,411.95 for the sound system. This amount added to the \$678.00, covers the entire cost. It was approved to give \$349.99 to Dave Krovetz to purchase the tool set. The remaining \$243.87 in the Wish List Fund will be given to George Andrews to purchase equipment, at his discretion, for the digital filmmaking class. The total for First Quarter Wish List approved expenditures is \$2005.81.

Liz reported that Ron Hoffman, head of the **Spring Fundraiser**, has been exploring several exciting venues. At this point, it is unknown what dates these venues have available, but it is projected that a venue will be decided next week.

Liz reported Nica Waters has received wonderful responses with regard to **Friendly Families**. This program asks current Tandem families to supply the Admission Office with names of potential Tandem families who will then receive an invitation to join

others at an informal informational gathering at a current family's home. Also noted, Come See Us In Action is scheduled for Thursday, October 12<sup>th</sup> from 9:30-11am.

The **Middle School Parent Education** meetings start Tuesday, October 10<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in the Blue Room. This first of five meetings will focus on teens, drugs and alcohol.

The **Tag Sale** is making great headway. Volunteers are needed to help sort and price items on Wednesdays from 2:00-5:30pm. The sale is Saturday, 4 November, from 8am – 1pm and Sunday, 5 November, from 11am – 1pm. At this point all items are stored in the shed so it is requested that large items be delivered the week before the sale, at which time the gym will be available. Any and all help is accepted and appreciated the week preceding the sale, as much is to be done to get ready for this annual event that has become widely anticipated throughout the area.

The **lunch program** needs permanent Wednesday volunteers who can be available at 11:30am. Kim Dukes and Jean Dunnington, the Development Office staff, will split the responsibility of serving as one volunteer, but one more person is still needed.

A **Sports Booster** program was addressed. It was recommended that one parent serve per sport. The purpose of the program is to take some of the load off the coaches by attending to details such as scheduling issues, snacks, transportation, warm-up clothing, and confirming game times.

Jnanam MacIsaac requested the formation of a **Listening Group** for parents to hear; in particular, other parent's perspectives on issues concerning drugs and alcohol as it relates to our teenagers. It was emphasized that, as is Quaker tradition, the focus would be on listening, not passing judgment. Liz Hanson will contact Nura Yingling regarding this.

**Tolly Merrick**, 10<sup>th</sup> grade Dean and English teacher, presented a slide show of his 18-day trip last June to Japan. The trip was fully funded by the Japan Fulbright Memorial Fund, which selects applicants for the purpose of observing Japanese education. Tolly spent time both in Tokyo, a city of 20 million, and a village of 30,000 on the coast. He observed and had direct contact with students. Until students reach 10<sup>th</sup> grade, classes are much like that in the U.S. with regard to discussions, but from then on there is very little interaction between students and teacher. Japanese education differs greatly from Tandem education in particular, as self-expression is not encouraged in Japanese schools. "The nail that sticks out gets hammered down." Interestingly, bullying is a big concern in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades. In conclusion, Tolly would like to start an Asian Club at Tandem, have students design and create a simple Japanese water garden, arrange for written correspondence with high school students from Hiroshima, and take an Emphasis trip to Japan or China.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Wendy Evans, Secretary

