

## **Tandem Parent Association Meeting September 7, 2006**

Tandem Parent Association President, Liz Hanson, welcomed an enthusiastic group of thirty-five parents to our first meeting of the 2006-2007 school year. As is Tandem tradition, we shared a moment of silence. Introductions followed.

**Paul Perkinson**, Head of School, welcomed old and new faces to our monthly gathering. He emphasized the collaborative relationship at Tandem - "Teachers and students, teachers and parents, working together to engage students." He thanked parents for their support and honored the trust they give teachers. Paul addressed the appropriate avenue to take should concerns or problems arise. He asked parents and students to speak directly with the teacher as a first line of communication. At Tandem, students are encouraged to become self-advocates and architects of their education, so to this end, parents should encourage students to seek resolution. Paul mentioned Back to School Night, September 13, as a "must attend affair." All faculty and parents will meet in the Community Hall promptly at 7:00pm, parents will attend their child's classes in truncated fashion, and the event will end by 9:30pm.

**Liz Hanson** presented to Edith McHenry, a Japanese Snowbell tree for her service to Tandem as President of the Parent Association for the past 1 ½ terms.

**Nica Waters**, Director of Admissions, deemed the Friendly Families Program a success this year in welcoming new families to Tandem and she plans to start the program earlier next year, meeting with Tandemites as early as March. She thanked parents for being great ambassadors of the school and informing the community at large about Tandem. To showcase the campus in Fall, the first "Come See Us in Action" is Thursday, October 12<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers are needed, please contact Nica. Additionally, a few "Coffee and Tea" affairs will be held in the evening for prospective families. Dates are yet to be announced and they will be by invitation only.

**David Slezak** once again is hosting Wednesday morning pancake breakfasts from 7:45 to 8:30 am. Parents and siblings are welcome to dine as well. Donations of milk, eggs, butter, syrup, cooking oil, chocolate chips, and five-pound bags of Washington Pancake Mix are always welcome. Parent volunteers are needed to help with serving and clean up anytime between 8am and 9:30 am. Sign up on the sheet located in the red file folder above the sink in the middle school lunchroom.

Volunteers are also needed from 11:30-1:00 on Mondays to help the 8<sup>th</sup> grade class provide taco lunches on campus for a price of \$4.00. David Slezak and Christine Putnam are the coordinators – contact one of them for details.

February 1-3, 2007 Tandem will host the **10<sup>th</sup> Annual Quaker Youth Conference**. There will be 160 high school guests. The Parent Association will be responsible for providing lunches, snacks, and a dinner. **Jnanam MacIsaac** volunteered to be the coordinator on behalf of the PA for this event.

**Carolyn Merrick** and **Mary Sullivan**, middle school health teachers, will be offering parent classes October 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, and November 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm. The focus will be adolescent issues including: teen drug and alcohol use, sexuality, and self-esteem. Parents will not only learn the facts, but also share their concerns. Reminders will be published in the Friday Newsletter.

**Liz Hanson** has made arrangements for an Albemarle County Police Detective and possibly a Defense Attorney to talk with parents and students about “The Law” with specific regard to alcohol and drugs. The purpose is to differentiate fact from fiction. Although this talk is geared toward upper school students, all are invite to attend, Tuesday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7pm.

**Edith McHenry** and **Linda Kobert** are again coordinators for the **Tag Sale**, which benefits Diversity Scholarships. It is scheduled for November 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. Last year this fundraiser netted between \$12-14,000 – the goal this year is \$20,000. Household donations can be dropped off at the shed located at the back of the parking lot on Mondays. Clothing will be accepted closer to the date of the sale and must be in good condition (no stains or tears). No computers please. Items should not be left outside the shed – a key can be obtained from Meghan Saunders at the front office. This event also serves as Community Outreach since all unsold donations are given to charities. Volunteers, volunteers, and more volunteers are needed, especially the week before the sale. **Mindy Barber** volunteered to make flyers to advertise the sale.

**Ron Hoffman** volunteered to be the coordinator for the **Spring Fundraiser** this year. All money raised at this event goes to the John Howard Teacher Fund, which pays for exciting and enriching learning opportunities for Tandem teachers, which in turn directly benefits our children.

The **Volunteer Coordinator** position remains vacant. Anne Brune, past coordinator, is available to train anyone interested.

**Virginia Knight**, Finance Committee Chair and Treasurer of the Parent Association enlightened us regarding “all things financial.” Every quarter, profits from the lunch program pay for Wish List items. Teachers must write an exact and detailed proposal to the committee for any request to be considered. The finance committee meets with Paul to prioritize items on the list, and then the committee meets without Paul to make final decisions. The first approvals will be announced at the October PA meeting. Virginia presented the Treasurer’s Report and it was approved by consensus. She also noted that Stephanie in the business office handles all PA funds.

**Wendy Evans** was nominated last May, and approved by consensus at this meeting, as Secretary of the Parent Association.

**RideShare** Brochures will be located at the front desk of the Main Building. This program is offering Tandem a free carpool matching service, SchoolPool.

A beautiful **Nature Trail** was established last year on the grounds. An extensive guide identifying trees and plants can be found at the front desk of the Main Building. However, the back sections of the trail, behind the PA shed, are temporarily closed.

**Peggy Shaker**, head of **pARTisans**, described this group as those who support The Arts at Tandem. She asked all interested volunteers to provide her with email addresses (again), as she is re-creating her email list because the old one vanished into cyberspace. The group holds only a few meetings a year.

The meeting was adjourned but many parents stayed to enjoy delicious cakes and coffee, to reconnect with each other, and to welcome new parents to the Association.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Evans, Secretary