

STRINGS ATTACHED PARENT SUPPORT

Minutes for September 2011 Meeting

9/21/2011

Middle School Auditorium

38 members in attendance

Janet Engrem, SAPS chairperson, welcomed everyone, new and returning parents. We communicate info mostly via email so be sure to give us your name and email addresses so we can include you in the correspondence. You can send your email address to Lynnestrings@yahoo.com.

To contact Janet, email is jknje@comcast.net.

To contact Sue, email is smc19thhole@comcast.net

1. Treasurer's Report – Sue Connors

- Sue went over the starting budget, approved and carried over from last year for the following items:
 - \$500 supplement to scholarship fund
 - \$1500 Senior gifts and their end-of-year party
 - \$400 Arch of Bows bling
 - \$500 end-of-year concert budget
 - \$100 teacher appreciation gifts for teachers who score essays
 - \$110 P O Box fee
 - \$500 operating expenses
- SAPS has a General Account and also Individual Student Accounts. Profits raised from student fundraisers, for example with Yankee Candle sales, go into your child's individual student account to be used for student travel. Those funds can be used towards the upcoming Lake George or Ireland trip. Other fundraisers we do will be for the General Account to pay for things needed like the new basses last year, etc, that are used by and benefit the entire group.

2. Fundraising.

A. Scholarship Night/Okttoberfest

Friday 10/21/11 at Knights of Columbus Hall. \$25 per ticket. Email Janet Engrem for tickets at jknje@comcast.net. There will be a DJ, dinner, raffles, and dancing. The seniors will perform at the beginning of the night. The kids will leave at 8:00 and then the bar will open. This is our 5th year doing this fun evening. There will also be raffle items available that night. Get in touch with Kathy O'Brien if you can donate

something for the raffle at Kathmobrien@yahoo.net. This is the only fundraiser we have to raise money for the senior scholarships so it's important we make the most of this night!

B. Jasmine Cuisine Restaurant

Fundraiser night in the Fall. SAPS will receive a portion of the sales. May take place over several nights for the different schools. Funds raised will go to the general fund. An email and handout to come.

C. Yankee Candle Sales – Debbie Tetreault, chairperson.

4th grade families, since new to the group, are not included in this fundraiser. For all other grades, orders due back on 9/29. Parents let us know if you'd like to help with tallying & sorting orders, etc. Profits from Yankee Candle sales go to individual student accounts.

D. Clothing Drive

SAPS working in conjunction with Sue Connor's husband's workplace. Andrea Gillis's daughter Delaney will be coordinating the collection. SAPS will get paid a percentage for each pound of donated clothes and shoes. Notice of dates and drop-off sites to come.

E. London Trip Raffle

In the Fall we will begin selling raffle tickets for a trip to London that is donated to SAPS by the ACIS tour company. Every student's family will be receiving some tickets in the mail to sell if you wish to. All proceeds will go to your child's travel account. Children cannot sell the tickets themselves since it's considered gambling. Also in the Spring and the following Fall parents will have the opportunity to sell tickets at outside venues. We'll average all proceeds for an hourly rate earned and again, these funds will go to your child's account. Last time we did this prior to the Austria trip, the average profits was about \$36 per hour. All selling is voluntary. You can do as much or as little as you want to help with the mailing portion or outside sales. Kathy O'Brien is once again arranging the organization of our raffle ticket outside sales. Thanks Kathy!

F. Gift Card Sales – Pia Romano

Consists of on-line sales of gift cards of all types. Cost for cards is the same as buying them at the venues. Portion of the proceeds will go to SAPS general fund. A notice to come.

G. Election Day Bake Sales

Paula Barry has secured permission for us to sell baked goods at the Town Hall on election days. Please let us know if you

would like to contribute baked goods or cover the sales table. Also a good opportunity for students to earn community service hours. Alicia Johnson and Pia Romano coordinating the sales.

H. Santa Maria Pizza- they have also offered to do fundraiser nights for SAPS. Andrea Gillis will coordinate this. Notice to come.

3. Scholarship Committee

Tricia O'Donoghue, chairperson

Non-senior parents can be members of the committee. SAPS tries to give out several \$1000 scholarships each year. The committee reviews the process each year and the applications when they come in. Coordinates dissemination of the applications. Several teachers from Wilmington grade/evaluate the essay portion of the application. Point system for the other items on the application. The committee members add up the points, etc, to determine the winners. Not a huge time commitment for members. Only a couple of meetings per year. Very enjoyable to review the applications!

4. Mr. Dilmore's Report

Welcome new parents!

Strings Attached is the largest strings orchestra in New England with 400+ students in Wilmington. And we have 63 new beginners this year! The Elementary students (4th & 5th graders) meet once a week. The meeting changes from week to week so students won't miss time during the same class. They will perform in a Holiday concert and in the Arch of Bows ceremony. At the Arch of Bows the kids perform for the high school kids and parents who come. Then the elementary kids become official members of Strings Attached. Students never audition alone, always as a team. There's no competition against other kids. All grades perform at the May concert.

In the Middle School there are 70 6th graders, 35 7th graders, and 60 8th graders. They meet 3 times a week.

The administration is currently looking for a 2nd part-time Strings teacher.

Lake George Trip – we go every 2 years. Will take place the Thursday and Friday before Memorial Day, on May 24 & 25, 2012. Group drives by motor coach to Lake George, New York and stay at the Holiday Inn there. Parents can come on the bus also or drive themselves. On the largest dinner boat on the lake, kids will perform as a group for 2 judges and are scored. A score of 85 or better will get them the gold.

For parents to reserve a room for themselves, call the Holiday Inn at (518) 668-5781. Kids' rooms have already been reserved.

At the high school there are 120 kids in the orchestra. They meet every day as a regular class. The European trips take place in high school. Over the years with Strings, 1200 Wilmington souls have gone to Europe on trips including England, Italy, France, Ireland, Austria and Quebec. There is a Massachusetts State House trip before each European trip for the students to meet with Representative Miceli and perform.

Ireland Trip - 2013. Student Trip ID 66730, Shadow Trip ID 10854. Info to come from Encore Tours (ACIS) travel company for those who've registered. Encore Tours specializes in student concert tours. They'll offer a wonderful adventure which will include 3 concerts. They have great guides and roadies who will tour with us. The trip for the students is full. There's currently room on the second shadow trip for parents. Will be open to additional parents until it's full or until January 2013 at the latest. The shadow trip will have the same itinerary as the students, just different times at venues, and stay at different hotels and includes a trip to the Guinness factory. The shadow trip will be with the students at all concerts.

You can contact Mr. Dilmore at wdilmore@comcast.net with any questions. This is the best way to reach him, and he always attends the monthly SAPS meetings.

5. Voting – SAPS Meeting Dates:
 - In the Middle School Library: 10/19/11, 11/19/11, none in December, 1/25/12.
 - Middle School Auditorium on 2/15/12 for Lake George discussion
 - Middle School Library: 3/21/12, 4/25/12, 5/16/12, 6/6/12

6. Old Business
 - A. Website** – www.WilmingtonStrings.org Check it out for info, pictures, upcoming events, order forms, etc. Nancy Ennis does our postings. Send her any notices, pictures, etc. to go on the website at nme99@comcast.net The Dancewicz set up the website for SAPS and Performance Music Center in Woburn sponsors the site.

 - B. Lockable Cages** – first set is up. Working with Shawsheen Tech, the Rotary Club, and a donation from the Class of 2010 to build them. The rest should be built in the Fall or early Winter.

 - C. E Board Membership** – Anyone who wants to be a little more involved with SAPS is welcome to join our Executive Board. Very casual, involves a few more meetings a year. Members help out when needed. Let us know if you would like to join.

D. Wish List – throughout each year we ask Mr. Dilmore if there's any items needed for Strings that he'd like to "wish" for. Nothing at this time.

**NEXT SAPS MEETING WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 19, 2011
7:30 MIDDLE SCHOOL LIBRARY
Hope to see you then!**

Minutes submitted by Mary Mullens