

**PSL Meeting Minutes
May 13, 2008**

EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY PRESENTATION

Computer teachers, Dr. Susan Garrard and Mrs. Doris Berlan gave a very informative presentation about the new Vision for One-to-One Learning program, in which the school will provide one laptop computer to each student. Dr. Garrard expressed appreciation to the PSL for its generous support of the technology program over the past years. In their presentation, Dr. Garrard and Mrs. Berlan discussed the mission and goals of the one-to-one program, the ways in which some of these goals are already being accomplished, and what they hope to reach for in the future. Their presentation was conducted using the new Promethean White Board in the Upper School Computer Lab.

Dr. Garrard explained that current research shows that because students spend so many hours on the computer, they are beginning to process tasks in a different part of their brain. The goal of the one-to-one program is to apply this research to the way the children are taught. Mrs. Berlan explained that the computer lab model was designed for the efficient use of a scarce resource; however, now the students need the technology available at the same time and place that they are learning the content. She explained many advantages of the one-to-one program to the students and teachers. The ways in which the students will benefit include the following: laptops are portable, personal and powerful; students and teachers can use the computer whenever and wherever it is needed; laptops extend learning beyond the walls and hours of the classroom; the laptops will be the personal laboratory for the students' intellectual exploration and creative expression; and teachers are more likely to integrate technology into the curriculum with the use of laptops. The ways in which the teachers will benefit include the following: the laptops present them with authentic opportunities to learn with and from their students; the teachers will experience new ways of thinking, learning, and communicating; the teachers will become more collaborative with their colleagues and students; and the laptops facilitate just-in-time learning. Both Dr. Garrard and Mrs. Berlan gave many examples of Mirman's current use of technology and laptops in the curriculum and of the potential benefits of the one-to-one program in the future.

After the formal presentation, Mrs. Berlan, Mrs. Simmons, and Mr. Beard responded to parent questions about the program. Mrs. Berlan explained that the computer teachers and the classroom teachers all come up with school projects utilizing technology. She also explained that next year, 3rd and 4th Year Upper School students will continue to be provided laptops by the school. The plan and hope is that beginning in the 2009-2010 school year, the one-to-one program will be extended to all children in Rooms 3 and up. For Rooms 1 and 2 there will be one laptop to every two children. Mrs. Simmons added that this transformation has been happening in steps for a number of years. She explained that the decision to implement the one-to-one program in September 2009 was made to ensure that the school had developed a strong enough infrastructure and to allow time for the teachers to be trained in the use of the interactive white boards. Mr. Beard added that the decision was also made to refurbish both computer labs. They will be laying fiber and installing new switches in the

summer. Mr. Beard also stressed that Upper School students are not encouraged to purchase their own laptops. As of now, there are no roadblocks to the implementation of this program.

One parent expressed concern about her child having 24/7 access to a computer. Mr. Beard assured her that parent and student education will be a component of this program. Mrs. Berlan also stated that there will be an ambitious and thorough staff development program. Mrs. Simmons explained that two key words are "balance" and "enhance." The lower school children will still be developing their fine motor skills, and the computers will enhance the current curriculum.

PSL MEETING

PSL President, Diane Birnholz, welcomed everyone to the last PSL meeting of the year.

The April PSL Meeting Minutes were approved.

Diane explained that this was a special meeting because it was the Annual Installation Meeting in which the new PSL Executive Board would be installed. Diane explained that later she would turn the meeting over to the new PSL President, Shelly Flicker. She explained that the terms of the PSL Executive Board members run from May 2008 until May 2009.

Diane relayed that there would be a lot of upcoming activities. Tomorrow would be Hawaiian Spirit Day. Thursday evening would be Open House. Diane clarified that the children do go to Open House. She stated that the Hospitality Committee may need volunteers for Open House. Friday would be Grandparents' Day. She stated that the Hospitality Committee already had too many volunteers for Grandparents' Day. Diane reminded everyone to check the list of upcoming events and to periodically check the school website.

Assistant Head of School, Sheila Simmons, explained that last year the school conducted a parent survey about Open House. In this survey, many Room 1 parents said that they wanted Open House to start at 5:30. Thus, the decision was made to extend Open House, so parents could get their younger children home to bed earlier. Mrs. Simmons also reminded parents that the teachers prefer not to have parents present on Grandparents' Day. The teachers enjoy the opportunity to talk to the grandparents. Also, when too many parents are at school on Grandparents' Day, we risk exceeding fire code capacity.

Lunch Program

Incoming Lunch Program Liaison, Pam Bergman, explained that last week there was a parent meeting at which Mrs. Simmons disclosed the results of the Parent Lunch Survey. As a result of that meeting, a "task force" was formed to set food standards for our lunch program. As of now, there are fourteen parents on this task force. Pam promised to keep everyone posted on the developments of this task force.

Spring Fair and Auction

Diane Birnholz thanked the Spring Fair and Auction chairs for a wonderful event. Spring Fair Chair, Laura Schare, sent a hearty thank you to everyone for supporting the school and the Spring Fair event and for making her job easier. PSL Treasurer, Bill Roberts, said that each year we do better and better

with the Spring Fair. He said that right now it looks like we will net approximately \$200,000.00 from both the Auction and Spring Fair. Each year, our net seems to increase from the year before. Bill urged everyone to submit their expenses, so he can close the books.

Auction Chair, Shelly Flicker, thanked everyone for their auction donations, for wrapping baskets, and for everything else they did. She said that the on-line auction was lots of fun. Shelly Flicker and Judy Bennington designed the on-line auction from scratch. Generally, businesses charge 10% of the auction proceeds to host on-line auctions. Therefore, they decided to hire a programmer and build the site. She asked anyone who has any ideas for next year's auction to let her know, and she will pass them along to Laura Schare, one of the incoming Auction Chairs.

Annual Giving

Lower School Annual Giving Co-Chair, Cynthia Sherrill, thanked everyone who led Annual Giving this year. She reported that we had generously exceeded our financial goals and said that every gift to Annual Giving is valuable. She warmly thanked Susan Roush and her team and introduced Jed Sherwindt, incoming Annual Giving Co-Chair.

Global Buddies

Cynthia Sherrill also reported on the Global Buddies program. She called attention to a flyer about three Global Buddies trips this coming year. There will be two trips to Cape Town, South Africa and one trip to Kampala and Vicinity, Uganda. She reiterated that Global Buddies is a nonprofit program, and, thus, the price is truly the cost of the trip. Cynthia explained that money raised from Mirman's recycling went to assist women in South Africa with college preparation. Global Buddies is working with three universities to create scholarships to fund college opportunities for these women. Many of these women had no idea what a college education is until they were put on a bus and showed the career opportunities that are available with a college education.

Uniform Exchange

Uniform Exchange Chair, Allison DeCamara, announced that the Uniform Exchange will be next Thursday, May 22. If anyone needs a tax receipt for donated uniforms, they can get one from Ms. Toy Nickol. Anyone who would like to volunteer for the Uniform Exchange should contact Allison.

Installation

Mr. Galen Gary explained that Mr. West was unable to attend the meeting. He read a letter from Mr. West and the Administrative Staff warmly thanking Diane Birnholz for her service as PSL President the past year. Mr. Gary then presented Diane with a beautiful basket of flowers. Lynn McMullen presented Diane with a bottle of wine.

Diane then announced that she was going to turn the meeting over to the new PSL Board. First, she warmly thanked Lynn McMullen for her two years of service as PSL Recording Secretary and presented her with a lovely plant in appreciation. Diane presented plants to Bill Roberts, continuing PSL Treasurer, Dana Wolf, incoming PSL Recording Secretary, and Cynthia Sherrill and Rinaldo Veseliza, incoming PSL Vice Presidents. Diane then gave Shelly Flicker, incoming PSL President, the President's Notebook and, with pleasure, turned the meeting over to Shelly. Diane thanked everyone for giving her the opportunity to work with them. She expressed that she loved serving as President, that she loves the school, and that serving as President was a wonderful growing opportunity for her.

Shelly Flicker then expressed appreciation for and amazement at what the Mirman parents do for the school. She said that we do it because we love the school. Shelly is always trying to encourage new families to become involved in the school. Shelly then read the names of the outgoing, continuing and incoming PSL Committee Chairs. With regard to Auction, Shelly stated that Karen Miron, Jill Williams and she will continue to work with the incoming Chairs as advisors and consultants. Shelly also announced that a new PSL Committee is the Music Boosters, chaired by Janet Kwuon-Lee and Stefan Lee. The Music Boosters will assist Mr. Kay and help raise money for choir trips. Shelly noted that Special Events/Community and Faculty Lunch Co-Chair, Lynn McMullen, has some wonderful ideas for the Special Event Lunches that will make the lunches fun for all involved.

Additional Announcements

Diane Birnholz thanked Hope Mulbarger and Dana Yariv for organizing both the Dodger Game event and the Mirman X-Games Fair Kick-off event. She noted that both events were a lot of fun.

Director of Alumni Relations, Mrs. Leslie Mirman Geffen, announced that there will be a party for all former Mirman students that are graduating high school in the spring. The party will be on Tuesday, June 3 from 4:30 to 6:30 pm. She noted that this is a wonderful way for Mirman alumni to reconnect before going off to college.

Community Service Co-Chair, Susi Gaylord announced that she and Mrs. Geffen are hoping to do another E-waste disposal event again next year. They will try to give everyone plenty of advance notice. She noted that these events both raise money for the school and help keep the environment clean. She reminded everyone to save their electronics and not to donate them. Susi also inquired as to where the money raised by the school's recycling is going to be donated next year. Cynthia Sherrill explained that the parents and students who help with recycling can designate to which charities they would like the money donated. Susi then asked whether families that bring in their recycling but are unable to be there on Friday mornings may designate a charity by proxy. Lori Cohen suggested that Susi send her kids to volunteer. Rinaldo Veseliza noted that the recycling committee has been very short on volunteers, so they can use more student volunteers. Susi noted that many parents may not be aware that Upper School students can volunteer and get community service credit. Shelly Flicker stated that maybe Mr. Beard can list Upper School community service opportunities on his website. Cynthia Sherrill added that the students who do volunteer for recycling on Friday mornings can choose between receiving either community service or school service credit.

Shelly Flicker then reminded everyone about the New Parent Orientation, which would be Monday, May 19. All PSL Chairs should have received an invitation. She noted that everyone is welcome to stay for the formal orientation program, but they are not required to do so.

The meeting was adjourned.