

**McDonogh Parents Association  
Upper School Meeting Agenda  
November 14, 2017  
8:30 am**

**Welcome and Introductions:** Jill Eisner, Chair  
Kristin Henry, Assistant Chair

**Upper School Update:** Merritt Livermore, Head of Upper School

Merritt extended appreciation for the Teacher Luncheon on Friday

"Thank you" for the "Screenagers" film sponsoring on Thursday, Nov 16, Michelle Kreibel is incorporating that into the curriculum Alex Meyers is speaking to parents and students on Nov 27th (7th-12th graders), notes and videos will be sent out and discussed to students pre and post his visit for explanation about transgender experience, The goal is to open minds and hearts and promote compassion

Holiday Project will be after Thanksgiving

This year students will have formal exams- Math and Science will have traditional 90 minute exams (Thursday, Dec 21; 8:30-10am; 1-2:30pm). Last day for graded work is Tuesday, Dec 19th in Language, English and History. Friday, Dec 15th is last day for graded work for Math and Science; following week is review only. Other classes may have projects that last week. Few students with special scenarios. No exams will be given early. If missed, makeup exam will be in January. If there is "unhealthy" stress, please have students work with teachers and dean.

**Speaker:** Kevin Costa, Director Learning and Innovation

Life Ready- academic strategic plan launched 2014; helps mainly with teacher education/ professional development; helps prepare students for future in college and beyond; Three competencies for graduating students: 1) Communicate well in variety of arenas 2) Form questions and solve problems in teams and on own 3) Adapt in rapidly changing work environments and think for common good

Life Ready is about "how we learn", to be active with learning, to "think" and transfer learning to other areas. This process is happening in all divisions. Rubrics and metrics are now created and required for all teachers to have coherence about how to measure student outcomes. More responsibility given to students for own learning is directly linked to being hired. College degree is not the only path.

McDonogh Works- Thank you to Jennifer Little, Brad Shelley and Vince Talbert who developed a bank of alumnae to teach about their scenarios/job to students; classes have been very successful; these are taught without grades and credits; students and parents can attend; come listen if you can't attend all of them- doors are open; connects students to alumnae for future networking and exposure to careers. Find information under McDonogh website "Academics"; left hand column link for "McDonogh works". If you would like to teach, then contact Kevin Costa and he would even help if no teaching experience.

**MPA Updates:** Randi Hyatt - school wide survey in January about what MPA is doing and not doing to help connect families, please give feedback about volunteerism; Please give any ideas for "off campus" trips to Jill or Randi

**Parent Relations:** Ann Fleming, Director of Advancement Services and Parent Relations  
"Screenagers" for Freshman parents, all parents can come from 4th grade and up  
"Understanding Gender and Expression" Alex Meyer on Nov 21st with conversation before and after  
Holiday Project- December 19th; box trucks taking packages, 10-12 parents can take mini bus down and  
back to unpack; contact [afleming@mcodonogh.org](mailto:afleming@mcodonogh.org)  
Mondays are deadline for getting info into community newsletter  
Give two weeks notice if need anything from Ann F.

**All School Committees:**

**After Prom:** Debbie Thacker - successful bake sale at McD vs Gilman game and US  
on Monday; gave leftovers to cafeteria staff and transportation; made \$750 for afterprom; thank you to  
parents who stayed in rain to close up; first meeting for Afterprom is Nov 30th at 8:30am in Mullan Board  
Room; please email [debbiethacker5@gmail.com](mailto:debbiethacker5@gmail.com); Afterprom is Tuesday is June 6th

**MPA Parent Ambassador:** Maureen Roden

**Parenting Education:** Judy Yu

**NYC Trip:** Shanae Walker - trip departed Wednesday at 6:30 AM; may not be able  
to continue if interest in future is not as high; may try to revamp and add games, drinks, prizes, earlier depart  
and later arrival to not sit in traffic in future

**Upper School Committees:**

**Teacher Appreciation**

**Luncheon (Fall):** Dana DiCarlo - lunch with drink and dessert was offered in the Mullan  
Board Room; two cards for the teachers were handed out Friday; Merritt and Katie said a huge thank you  
for organizing and offering this event. They really appreciated it.

**Used Uniform:** Pam Foresman

**Teacher Coffee Bar:** Jill Bloom February 8th

**Student Treat (Snowballs):** Jill Bloom May 3

**Teacher Appreciation Luncheon (Spring):** Kristin Henry - April 19th

**Upcoming Events and Save the Dates:**

**November 20:** Upper School Lost and Found display from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

**November 22-27:** Thanksgiving break. School closed.

**November 28:** Classes resume.

**December 5:** Upper School Winter Concert and Jazz Band performance at 7:30 p.m. in the Ceres M. Horn Theatre.

**December 9 and 10:** Upper School Winter Choral Concert at 5:00 p.m. in Tagart Memorial Chapel.

**December 21:** Upper School math and science exams.

**December 22 - January 2:** School closed for winter break.

**January 3:** Classes resume.

**January 9:** All School Strings Concert at 7:00 p.m. in Tagart Memorial Chapel.

**Next US meeting (December meeting cancelled)**

**January 16th at 8:30 am Mullan Board Room**