



## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

### **May**

- 25 No School – Memorial Day
- 27 Camp Sunshine Parent Orientation 9:15am or 1:30pm
- 28 All School Picnic – Oz Park 12pm
- 29 Camp Sunshine Parent Orientation 9:15am

### **June**

- 1 Last day of class for Parent Tots
- 2 Last day of class for 2am
- 2 Park West Board Meeting 7pm
- 3 Last day of classes (all classes except 2am)
- 3 Rain Date - All School Picnic Oz Park 12pm
- 9 First day of Camp Sunshine – Session 1
- 23 First day of Camp Sunshine – Session 2

## **FAREWELL TO ali**

It is with a heavy heart that we announce ali jennings has decided to leave Park West. ali has been an integral part of Park West for 11 years, leaving an indelible mark on her colleagues, as well as countless children and parents. For those who have had the privilege of knowing ali, she truly exemplifies all that makes Park West, well, Park West. ali has been a vital member of the staff – she is an outstanding teacher, a supportive colleague and a wonderful person. Over the last few years ali has organized and led some of our staff in-services, as well as providing in-service training for other schools. Outside of her work as a teacher ali has worked on numerous projects around the rights of LGBT students and staff. ali will be shifting to focus more on those interests in the next phase of her career.

Park West has been blessed to have had ali with us all these years. We've seen her grow from an assistant teacher to a Master level teacher, a very thoughtful and skilled practitioner. ali is amazing in the classroom, with parents and really, in every way.

Goodbyes are bittersweet - yet we are thrilled for ali and know she will pursue this next chapter with the passion, dedication, intelligence and caring she has given to Park West. Though ali will be leaving us at the end of the school year, the door at Park West will always be open for her. Thank you ali.

## **FROM THE DIRECTOR**

This is the last Link Newsletter of the 14/15 school year. Are you as caught off guard on this as I am? Yes, I understand it is May, and really the second half of May, but I am still somewhat in denial. How can it be close to the end of the school year, when I feel I still have so much to accomplish? So much has happened this year, that I feel somewhat like our students, who at the end of a school day can have a tough time explaining to their family what they did that day.

I will send a goodbye newsletter later, so for now, let's enjoy these last few weeks together. As you bring your child to school, do think back to those first days last fall. How did you feel then? How do you feel now? What was your child like last September? What is your child like now? My hope is that your child's time with us has made an impact and encouraged growth and development for your child. Parent education is an important part of coping. I hope you feel your time assisting in the classroom, serving on committees, attending Park West events has been helpful and supportive in your role as parents. Being an assisting parent at Park West made me a better parent at home. I hope your experiences have been as rich as mine were as a parent - and continue to be as Director.

I hope you can join us at the all school picnic on Thursday, May 28th, at Oz Park at Noon.

Best,  
Jane

## **STAFF CHANGES AND NEW FACES**

Park West too, will be starting a new chapter, with new opportunities for staff, returning and new faces. David Butler, who has been an assistant teacher at Park West for 6 years, will be co-teaching the 4 day morning class with Sarah Wawrzaszek. David will also be an assistant teacher in JK with Sarah and Chris Chen. Byl Adam, a former Park West staff member, will be returning to Park West as the full time assistant teacher in the 2 and 3 day morning and 3 day afternoon classes. Byl, like others before him, is coming back home to Park West. Finally, Megan Brennan, a nanny for two of our Park West families for the last couple of years, will be joining our office staff as administrative assistant.

## **COMMITTEE UPDATE**

What an amazing year it has been – in large part to the dedication of our Park West Community. From class potlucks put on by Room Parents, to wine tasting and a Gala night in Paradise put on by Special Events – just a few of the opportunities to allow our parents time to connect outside of school. The Conversations with Jane, put on by the Education Committee, that help us expand how we think about parenting. A spring carnival, put on by the Social Committee, that brought bright sunshine to families on a cold, rainy spring day. The behind the scenes help of our House, Tech, Legal, Financial and Administrative teams that keep Park West running. A dedicated Membership team who has filled every seat for next year!! And of course, our incredible staff. Thank you to all for your commitment to Park West!

## **CAMP SUNSHINE UPDATE**

There will be an orientation meeting for parents whose children will be attending Camp Sunshine on Wednesday, May 27th at 9:15 and 1:30 and on Friday, May 29th at 9:15. Parents need attend only one of these meetings. The information will be the same at these meetings. We are offering multiple times as a convenience for parents.

If you have not already done so, please complete the camp forms and turn them into the office. Forms as well as handbooks were distributed via email on May 20 and are due to the office by May 29<sup>th</sup>. Thank you!

## **COME TO JANE'S GARDEN PARTY**

We have room for more guests at Jane's Garden Party, the evening of Saturday, July 11th. Come join other Park West parents on Jane's screened in porch and enjoy wine, appetizers, and delightful conversation and company. This was offered at the Park West Gala, and you can still join us. The cost is \$125 per person.

## **2014-2015 PARENT SURVEY**

Thank you to everyone who completed our Parent Survey this year – participation was very strong and we appreciate your time and feedback. The Board

and Staff will be reviewing your input and incorporating into next year's planning. Thank you!

## **NEW ARRIVALS**

Please welcome, Bree Eleanor Van der Voort, new sister of Petey (4-2) and Park West Alum, Will.

## **ENROLLMENT FORMS WERE DUE APRIL 30**

Thank you to the many families who have been working hard to get their forms completed! If you haven't already completed your forms, please do so as soon as possible.

There will be a new policy regarding late forms this year. If your forms are late, your family can be moved to the wait list. To insure that your child begins school in Sept, you must complete all forms. Throughout May we will check uploaded forms and will confirm with families once their child/children's file is complete. When school closes for the summer on July 2nd, we will no longer continue to contact families about late forms. Families with an incomplete file by the end of the summer will not receive the information regarding the start of the school year.

Christine Cucinotta  
Board Secretary

## **WE NEED YOU – PW BOARD**

Interested in becoming more involved in running our great school?? Serving on the Board or chairing a committee is a great way to meet parents outside your class and become more involved in the PW community. We invite any interested parents to attend an upcoming Board meeting or to reach out to Jane or Maggie Daniel (Board President).

The June Board meeting will be held Tuesday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>. If you are interested in attending please contact the office for more information.

## **FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Dear Park West Families,

Is anyone else thinking, "Where did this school year go?!"

It really does seem, just like yesterday, we were all together at the Fall General Meeting talking about the year ahead. Now we are preparing for the summer and for some, to transition to a new school. Those with older children who have attended Park West, know that you really never leave Park West. You and your children will take the friendships you've made, the knowledge gained from Jane and your teachers and the memories of a very special first school experience. So many of us still call on Jane to help field questions about our children's growth and development, long after we've left.

The foundation of learning for children and parents is, to me, what really sets Park West apart. My children's teachers taught me how best to talk with my girls when they were facing frustration. I learned to appreciate the process of art, not the product. I now know the power of the seemingly simple to be the profound.

As I child, I remember a children's museum our school visited for a field trip. It had a sand table. I can still feel the grains of sand running through my fingers and the joy I felt scooping, pushing and molding the tiny grains. Our children have had that joy day after day at Park West. They've learned to be explorers, champions of their ideas and advocates for themselves.

As we say good-bye for the summer, we know that it really isn't good-bye. We all are forever bonded by this time together and to the magical place that is Park West.

All My Best,  
Maggie