

An update from the FAN parent survey regarding the Campus Security and Green Space 2019 FAN.

There were 83 people that took the Fund a Need (FAN) survey, out of 240 current school families. Less than 40% of the responses were in favor of setting a “fundraising goal of \$150,000 for the Gala 2020 Fund a Need to continue the playground and green play space” as described in the parent update of November 5. This year’s Gala will not include a Fund a Need that is designated for green space.

Mr. Wood appreciated the very thoughtful comments that people presented when they responded in the FAN survey. Overall, many of the comments acknowledged that, while a green space area is a great idea, improvements inside the classrooms or school buildings, enhancements to curriculum, and recognition of our teachers were a higher priority as far as fundraising efforts. Most of the comments focused on following Mr. Wood’s ideas for curriculum or classroom improvements - specifically new chairs, desks, classroom doors - and a STEM program.

The Annual Fund Committee met in November to discuss the survey responses and to look ahead at funding priorities for the school. The Annual Fund Committee consists of three representatives each from SAB and FSA, one representative each from Athletic Board and PMC, and Mr. Wood. The meeting also included someone from the Campus Improvement Plan Committee (CIP) as well as two Gala chairs.

While there was not a lot of support from the FAN survey for a full playground change to bring in green space, there was concern from parents regarding the high barrier around the north playground area (the big kid side). Mr. Wood shares this concern with parents and wants to use the funds from the 2019 FAN to regrade the curb around the big kid side. An estimate for this scope of work has been presented and the Campus Improvement Planning Committee is working through the proper channels in the parish, the Archdiocese and the Village to ensure that this playground improvement can happen next summer.

There will be funds leftover because of the large anonymous donation and Mr. Wood will work with the donor on where to use the remaining funds. Mr. Wood has already looked at the price for new classroom furniture, the CIP Committee has received prices on new classroom doors, and Julie Hoeper, our curriculum coordinator, will be looking at programs and ways to bring STEM into the curriculum.

The emphasis for the 2020 Annual Gala will move away from a specific Fund a Need goal and will instead focus on community building and fundraising for all aspects of the school. The fundraising goal of the 2020 Gala is \$135,000 in proceeds and this will be the focus for the Gala on March 7, 2020. FSA raises money that becomes part of the SAB budget and the Gala is the largest fundraiser to achieve this goal. Your support of the Gala through ticket sales, sponsorships, advertisements, raffle tickets, cash donations, live and silent auctions, and sign up parties all help make a successful fundraising event. Gala chairs work extremely hard to keep expenses low so that more profit can be returned to the school.

It's important to remember that the Gala is the main fundraiser for the school, and it's hoped that all families will support the Gala in some way. A profitable Gala supports a successful Annual Fund. The funding priorities of the Annual Fund include many resources that directly benefit the student and teachers and are not possible just through tuition and fees:

- a licensed school counselor
- some of the language programs in the younger grades
- classroom reimbursements and professional development opportunities for teachers
- updates to technology in the classrooms.

Updating classroom furniture has been on Mr. Wood's enhancement 'wish' list for a few years and since there was a lot of support for this idea from the FAN survey, the Annual Fund Committee approved a motion to include this as a fundraising effort for this school year, 2019-2020. Logistics for the funding of classroom furniture is underway and there will be an opportunity at Gala to donate specifically towards classroom furniture in all grades. Watch for more information to come in January.

Curriculum enhancements and new educational programs are also on Mr. Wood's enhancement list and match the funding priorities of the Annual Fund Committee. Mr. Wood will be looking to implement STEM resources and programs into the curriculum over the next two years. There are many ways to do this and the costs associated with STEM programs vary greatly. The success of FSA fundraising, specifically the Gala, will help bring in STEM resources.

Thank you for your patience, prayers and concerns. Merry Christmas to you and your families!