

There is a lot of information to share and we encourage you to read this letter in its entirety

Update on the 2019 Fund a Need Project -

Phase I of the 2019 Fund A Need project focused on campus security and is 98% complete! The plan for this phase was determined based on the parent survey over the last couple years.

- ✓ Security cameras installed around the school buildings and grounds.
- ✓ Keypads at the entrance doors.
- ✓ Teachers, staff and volunteer organizations being assigned key cards this month.
- ✓ Soon, all the entrance doors will be re-keyed and only a small handful of staff will have the master key.

The benefits of the security upgrades are already being seen by the administration and others. The new cameras have improved procedures for safety drills and actions that would be taken in an actual emergency. Replayed footage has also helped in the handling of various discipline situations and can be accessed remotely at any time by the administration. Mrs. Tiltz and Mrs. Smith say the clarity of the new TV monitors make it easier to watch the entrances. Coaches have begun to make use of the keycard system to access the gym. Each coach has their own access key versus checking out one universal key from the parish office. Additional volunteers will be able to make use of the new keycards as the year progresses. These are positive improvements for our school.

The 2019 Fund a Need raised \$123,000 because of the amazing generosity of this school community. Thank you! While the final bills for the school security system have not arrived yet, it is expected that the total cost will be almost \$60,000, which is more than originally estimated. Additionally, \$7,000 was spent for survey and planning, which was needed for any project work in the parking lots and playground. There is approximately \$56,000 remaining in escrow.

Due to the larger scale of the project than what was initially presented and understood, a Campus Improvement Planning Committee was formed and met in mid-October to discuss the remaining phases of the Gala 2019 Fund A Need. Phase II and Phase III were to include, respectively, safer walkways between the buildings and a green space. As mentioned in the summer update, our property is zoned for 356 parking spaces and the original idea to add a large green space north of the elementary building would require a zoning variance from the Village, which can be costly and time consuming. Knowing this and using the advice of engineering and construction professionals, there have been discussions to change the location of the green space.

The Campus Improvement Planning Committee has discussed the following:

- a plan to create a contiguous playground area that would be upgraded with synthetic turf and/or rubber surfacing
- increasing the size of the playground to include a green play space to the west of the north side of the playground
- expanding the north side of the playground from 3,700 square feet to 7,200 square feet
- expanding the south side of the playground from 1,500 square feet to 1,800 square feet.

It is believed this work could be completed without needing to apply for and incur additional costs for a zoning variance from the Village. This proposal would change the material underneath the existing playgrounds, remove the playground barriers, address the drainage

issue and add a green play space. The committee is working on a site plan of this area and, when that it is completed, it will be shared with the community. The committee and 2020 Gala Chairs realize this is a substantial difference than what was originally proposed and presented and that families may be disappointed with the new proposal.

By utilizing the expertise of some parent volunteers on the Campus Improvement Planning Committee, we are better positioned to accurately define the financial commitment and timeline of the playground and green play space. The preliminary estimated cost to complete this next phase is \$200,000.

This means that the fundraising goal of the Gala 2020 Fund a Need could be aggressive; with \$56,000 in escrow, another \$150,000 must be raised to follow through with the revised next phase. Significant donations, matching dollars and in-kind donations will be needed to ensure this project can be completed. Please note, Gala helps raise approximately \$120,000 that provides FSA to the school in support of resources for the students. This is in addition to what is raised for the chosen Fund a Need project.

Feedback from families and donors is important if another large Fund a Need project is undertaken. Given that, a survey link is attached to the end of this email providing a chance for you to indicate if you are in favor of the school going forward with this large goal.

Mr. Wood has many ideas for projects that will enrich our school – many of which do not require permits, zoning variances, or triple-figure budgets. These ideas include: a STEM program, improvements to the Fine Arts classrooms, putting new desk and chairs in each classroom; replacing classroom doors, soundproofing the multi-purpose room. He will evaluate the results of the survey and share them with 2020 Gala Chairs and the Annual Fund Committee. The results could change whether the green play space project continues.

The Campus Improvement Planning Committee includes David Wood, Principal; Danielle Kenney, school Development and Marketing Manager; Jim Liput, parish Business Manager; Leo Morand, parent volunteer and lead civil engineer; Mike Paine, School Advisory Board (SAB) representative and construction manager; Feliza Gauthier and Tanya Petermann, 2020 Gala Chairs; and John Brady, Parish Management Council (PMC) representative and construction manager. The Annual Fund Committee consists of three FSA members, three SAB members, David Wood, a PMC representative and an Athletic Board representative.

The survey is open until 12 noon on Saturday, November 9.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DP6YXHY>