

THE TORCH



From the Executive Director

Happy New Year SHPA Families!

I hope you all had a restful and enjoyable winter break--here at school we were happy to see the students return ready to learn and grow! The New Year offers a unique opportunity for new learning and growth that is often best achieved when rooted in reflection and contemplation. Here at Seven Hills we are learning and growing in so many ways, including in our awareness and appreciation of equity and inclusion and the values upon which our democratic classicism model of education is based.

With that in mind, we look forward to recognizing and celebrating the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., ahead of the holiday later this month honoring his legacy. Our ongoing commitment to equity in education is inspired by Dr. King's wisdom and efforts to create a more just and civil society. This commitment is reflected in our strategic plan, increasingly represented in our curriculum, and an integral part of our classroom instruction. It is also demonstrated in our professional development, and we are eager to continue our learning and growth when our staff participates in an English Learner workshop followed by a conversation panel on race and equity at the end of this month.

This month also highlights school choice week, and we are so grateful to be able to provide a high-quality, character-based, tuition-free Classical education to our families who have exercised their right to choose a learning environment where students and staff from all backgrounds work hard to prepare for a diverse world in which they make lasting contributions.

May the New Year be one of new growth and learning for all of you,

Carl Schlueter

FAMILY DINNER NIGHT FUNDRAISER

Seven Hills will host a Spaghetti Dinner at Fat Lorenzo's on Saturday, February 9, from 4:00 - 8:00 pm. Join with our community to celebrate and support Seven Hills. All proceeds support SHPA extracurricular funding. Your meal includes: Pasta, garden fresh salad and artisan focaccia bread. Fat Lorenzo's is located at 311 West 84th Street, Bloomington (behind the Cub Foods).

Pre-sale Ticket cost is \$6 Adult/Child* and At-the-Door cost is \$8 (*children ages 4 and under are free). Please refer to the Ticket Sales Flyer (as linked in Mrs. Farrell's cover letter) and submit it to the office for pre-sale orders.

DATES AHEAD

January 17
Winter Concert

January 17-24
K-5 Interim Assessment
(Reading & Math)

January 21
No School
Martin Luther King Jr.
Day

January 25
No School
Teacher Workshop

February 9 Spaghetti
Dinner
4:00 – 8:00 pm
Fat Lorenzo's

February 18
No School Presidents'
Day

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SAFETY FIRST

During morning and afternoon pick up and drop off, our procedure is that parents will remain in their vehicles and students will either walk to the building in the morning and then to the vehicle in the afternoon. We continue to have staff assisting with this process. Please **DO NOT** get out of your vehicle and walk your child to and from the building. This is dangerous to other vehicles who may not see you or your child walking. We appreciate your patience as we keep safety as our top priority with morning and afternoon dismissal.

SCHOOL BOARD REPORT

Next School Board Meeting

Thursday, February 7 at 6 pm, Bloomington Campus.

SHPA School Board Meeting Minutes

<http://sevenhillspreparatoryacademy.org/about-our-school/board-of-directors/#executive>

Meet a Board Member

Celeste Wiederholt, Teacher Member

Current term: 7/1/16-6/30/19

Committees served on: Public Relations, Human Resources

Connection to SHPA: Founding teacher and parent

Fun Fact: I have lived in Minnesota my whole life. I love cheering for my Minnesota sports teams especially the Vikings, Wild and Twins. Most of the time you can find me cheering on my son Nick and daughter Ava at their sports and events, Go Spartans! My dream was to be a teacher when I grew up and I am lucky to have my dream job.

PTA UPDATE

PTA Meeting: Thursday, February 7th from 6:30 - 8:00 pm, Bloomington Campus. Free child care provided for all potty-trained children.

K - 5 Family Dance: Once again the PTA will be sponsoring the K-5 Family Dance for all SHPA families. The dance will be on Friday, February 15 from 6 to 8:00 pm. Look for more information to be provided over the next few weeks.

Box Tops: Continue collecting!! There will be a collection period in February! Do date we are at \$850 towards our goal of \$2,500.

More PTA Updates at <https://sevenhillspta.org> or join our Facebook page at Seven Hills PTA.

LUNCH ORDERS

The February lunch menu is available through Friday, January 18th. Please make your February lunch selections as soon as possible as we are unable to accept lunch requests after the 18th.

WINTER CONCERT

When: Thursday, January 17 Time: 6pm-8pm

Where: SHPA Richfield Gymnasium

Who: All Elementary Students and Middle School Choir & Band Students

The concert should not go past 8pm.

The SHPA Winter Concert performance for **all** Elementary students and Middle School ensembles will be held mid-January. Attendance is expected for all elementary students unless prior arrangements have been made with Mr. Mulder. Absences will only be excused in cases of illness, or extenuating circumstances. All Elementary students should be dropped off in their classroom at 5:45pm to take attendance and get lined up. Do not drop off your student prior to 5:45pm. Following each grade level's performance, students will go back to their classroom with their teacher. Please do not go and pick up your student until ALL elementary ensembles have finished performing. It is very distracting to our students when audience members come and go in the middle of the concert. Following the elementary portion of the concert, you may go and pick-up your student during the intermission. Please then return to the gymnasium with your student after the intermission to support our middle school ensembles.

Dress for the concert is as follows: *Boys:* button-down or polo shirt (no writing); dress pants, dress shoes and socks. No jeans will be permitted for the concert. *Girls:* button-up shirt or polo (no writing); dress pants, skirt or dress, dress shoes and socks or tights. No jeans will be permitted.

Following the concert, there will be a reception with cookies hosted by the Seven Hills PTA. the 18th.

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