

Mounds Park Academy Parents Association (MPAPA) Annual Report for the 2008-2009 School Year

Introduction:

During the 2008-2009 school year, the Mounds Park Academy Parents Association (MPAPA) was governed by the bylaws adopted during the 2006-2007 school year. In accordance with Section 9 of these bylaws, an annual report shall be prepared each year which addresses the following topics:

- (A) Financial Report.
- (B) List of MPAPA Board Officers and their respective offices.
- (C) Summary of the activities of the MPAPA and each MPAPA committee.
- (D) Invitation to become active in the MPAPA.

Financial Report (pending):

MPAPA Board Officers

Co-President	Lori Tapani
Co-President	Tracy Tapani
Co-Vice-President:	Sandy Law – Grade Rep Program
Co-Vice-President:	Mary Indritz – Grant Program
Treasurer:	Lance DuMond
Secretary:	Dee Polacek
Board Rep:	Stacy Suberg

MPAPA Division Chairs

Lower School:	Kathy Bourne Sandra Erben
Middle School:	Lora Kasper Chris Levesque
Upper School:	Jeanne Berget

Summary of MPAPA Activities for 2008-2009

The activities of the MPAPA during the 2008-2009 school year were guided by the MPAPA mission statement and prior year MPAPA activities. The overall goal of the MPAPA during the 2008-2009 school year focused on the promotion of “community” throughout Mounds Park Academy. For reference, the MPAPA mission statement reads:

The MPAPA is an organization of volunteers who actively support the MPA mission and promote community within the school.

- We foster a growing Pre-k to 12 community that promotes understanding, trust and positive opportunities.
- We facilitate family and school communication by gathering, coordinating and sharing information.
- We offer a variety of opportunities for family participation in the life of the school.
- We fundraise to give our students additional resources for learning.
- We provide support to acknowledge and encourage the excellence of our faculty, administration and volunteers.

The following is a summary of the major initiatives, activities and meetings for the 2008-2009 school year:

Parent Association Meetings: Throughout the school year, many Parent Association (PA) meetings are held. These meetings are open to all MPA families and meeting dates and times were planned to coincide with other scheduled MPA events in an attempt to increase meeting attendance. Dates, times, and locations of meetings were included on the MPA calendar and reminders were published in the weekly MPA e-communication.

Divisional PA meetings were organized by Division Chairs in conjunction with Division Directors. In addition to the Divisional PA meetings, All School PA meetings were held periodically. The All School meetings were organized by the MPAPA Board and they provided an opportunity for parents from each division to meet as a large group and for the board to report on its activities. During the 2008-2009 school year, the following meetings were held:

- All School – 3 scheduled meetings (September, January, April)
- Upper School – 5 scheduled meetings (August, October, January, February, April)
- Middle School – 4 scheduled meetings (September, November, January, April)
- Lower School – 3 scheduled meetings (October, January, May)

Fundraising: As described in the MPAPA Mission Statement, fundraising activities provide additional resources to enhance student learning. Additionally, funds are used to support community building activities and to support MPA faculty and staff. A summary of the fundraising activities of the MPAPA follows. Financial details associated with each fundraising activity are described in the Financial Report.

Magazine Drive – The magazine drive occurred during the month of September. Although new magazine subscriptions and renewals can occur anytime throughout the year, there was a significant push during a three week period in September. Prizes during the 2008-2009 school year we moved from strictly individual awards of low dollar value items to a wristband drawing system. Under this system a larger number of participants are eligible to win higher dollar value prizes. Another change in the program was the inclusion of gift wrap and other gift items.

Recycled Treasures – During the 2008-2009 school year the MPAPA, coordinated two Recycled Treasures drives. These drives collected a wide variety of gently used items including clothing, toys, books and other household items which in turn raise funds for the MPAPA. During the drives, members of the MPA Community and their friends are invited to bring their donations to the special trailers available on-site on the MPA campus. The MPAPA receives a cash payment based on the volume of the donations collected.

Poinsettia and Spring Plant Sale – The Poinsettia and Spring Plant Sales were conducted in the same manner as prior year sales.

Book Festival – The Book Festival is an annual event which is intended to promote a love of reading, build “community” throughout MPA, and raise funds for the MPA library. The Book Festival took place during the week of February 23rd and concluded on February 27th with Book Festival Family Fun Night. Book Festival activities are focused on students in both Lower and Middle school.

2008-2009 Grant Program: The Parents Association Grant Program, implemented in the 2006-2007 school year under Stacy Suberg, provides funding for programs to support the education and enrichment of MPA students. The program is:

- available to all faculty, staff, and student organizations
- providing funding for equipment, program, curriculum, and faculty or staff attendance at conferences outside the scope of other budgeted funds.

Funds to support the grants are raised through:

- the Magazine Drive
- Recycled Treasures
- poinsettia and spring plant sales.

This is the third year of the program, which replaced the end-of-the-year teacher wish-list. This year's theme was "Spark Something."

- Three grant cycles were offered in October, February, and April
- The level of funding for each cycle depended on the success of this year's fundraisers
- Submitted grant requests were reviewed in October and April
- A Grant Review Committee, made up of three MPA parents and the PA Board, determined the awards with feedback from the MPA administrative team

The grant process consists of:

- applications submitted and reviewed by Grant Review Committee
- the Committee ranks applications according to suitability
- makes a funding recommendation
- the recommendations are submitted to the Head of School and the Directors of Lower School, Middle School, and Upper School for their input and ranking
- final approval is then made by the Grant Review Committee.

New for this school year was the Conference Grant Program:

- offered as of January, 2009
- provides funding for faculty or staff attendance at conferences locally or within the bordering states
- the level of funding for the remainder of the year was set at \$2,000
- submitted grant requests were reviewed as they were received
- applications were submitted with a recommendation from the appropriate administrative representative
- the Grant Review Committee determined the awards

During the 2008-09 there were two grant cycles (one cycle received no applications) and three conference grants for a total of \$15,651 awarded:

- 12 grants and 3 conference grants were funded
- approximately (there is some overlap between divisions) 16% of the grants were directed to Upper School, 40% to Middle School, and 44% to Lower School
- the impact of a grant to benefit multiple classes or ages of students over several years is an important consideration

Complete details of grant recipients and monies awarded are available by contacting Mary Indritz.

Members of the Grant Review Committee:

- Mary Indritz, Chair
- Lori Tapani
- Traci Tapani
- Sandy Law
- Lance DuMond
- Dee Polacek
- Stacy Suberg
- Joy Bigalke
- Joan Ireland
- Deb Martin