



UNCSA High School

Parent Support Organization Newsletter

MAY 2010

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 3

The Parent Support Organization (PSO) is a non-profit organization created in 2009 to support the UNCSA High School academic program through volunteering and fundraising, to facilitate communication between parents and the high school academic program, and to develop a nationwide social and support network for parents. If you'd like to join the PSO or find out more about the organization, contact one of the PSO officers listed on page 2 of this newsletter.

Upcoming Events

**"Parent
Hospitality Suite"
Connector
Building
August 2010
(Move-in day)**

A message from the chairperson

One year ago today the PSO didn't exist and now, through the dedication and enthusiasm of parent volunteers and the support of Jill Lane, High School Academic Dean, we are a vibrant organization with one year of networking, fundraising, hard work and fun under our belts. Read on to see what we have accomplished this year and please join us next year to accomplish even more in support of the UNCSA High School Academic program.

Hospitality Committee

The Hospitality Committee hosted a "Sweet Treat Day" during the week of exams. On Wednesday, May 26th, high school teachers and staff enjoyed home baked cookies, bakery sweets, candy, and Starbuck's coffee all day in the teachers' lounge. Thanks to the parents who provided yummy baked goods, gift cards and monetary donations to make this event possible.

In March, the Hospitality Committee provided a sandwich/salad bar lunch for the high school staff. The teachers and staff appreciated the home-prepared sandwiches, salads and desserts. Thank you for your generosity and support for this event.

We plan to host a box lunch for the teachers when they return back to school in August. Box lunches will be purchased with monies from this year's fundraising efforts.

We are looking forward to hosting more teacher appreciation events next year and hope that you will continue to support this wonderful opportunity to show our appreciation of what our teachers do for our students. It is a small gesture but one that is greatly appreciated!

If you would like to be involved with the Hospitality Committee please contact Colette Griffin, Chairperson, at colette@triad.rr.com.

Membership Committee

This year, 96 high school families joined the PSO. If your child will be attending UNCSA next year, look for direction this summer on how to join the PSO again for the next school year.

PSO Officers

Chairperson:

Andrea Haritan

aharitan@mt-connection.com

**Vice
Chairperson:**

Karen Hines

karenhines@aol.com

Secretary:

Alix Hitchcock

ahitch@erfb.org

Treasurer:

Debbie Wilson

debawilson@yahoo.com

Family Support Network

When our young artists received their letters of acceptance from UNCSA, we were proud of and happy for our children, yet many of us were also sad to realize that our family life was changing – often many years earlier than we'd planned. Most students are boarding and many travel thousands of miles to pursue their passion at UNCSA.

Parents can feel very disconnected since our children are insanely busy with their new and exciting lives and parents don't have the same opportunities to connect and share information as they would in a local school. **The PSO formed the Family Support Network ("FSN") as a way to connect parents, welcome new families to the UNCSA high school community, and provide a resource for parents.**

Last month, surveys were sent to families of UNCSA high school students. We focused on the information you wished you'd had and information parents felt would be helpful to incoming families. Response was overwhelming and **36 parents volunteered to be members of the Family Support Network and serve as resources for incoming families.** We have compiled a list of admitted students and in the next few weeks, FSN volunteers will receive information on their assigned families. We matched FSN volunteers and new families by art and did our best to match by geography as well. **FSN volunteers will send welcome letters to each of their families and offer to serve as a contact person for questions or concerns about life at UNCSA.** We'll include information on the PSO, as well, so parents realize there is a place and a role for them at UNCSA.

Based on the survey results, there were two very concrete issues that appeared regularly - access to arts-specific supplies and local (UNCSA and Winston Salem) resources. In response, seniors will be asked to fill out information on where to get art supplies – locally, online and 'in an emergency'. UNCSA staff is also compiling a list of campus and area resources so families know what is available for their children. This information will be included in the registration packets. We are also working to compile the survey responses so we can get the results out to all of you.

The PSO has made a great beginning in finding ways to connect families to this place that is so important in our children's lives. The FSN hopes to connect parents so we can support each other – and our children - on this sometimes crazy journey. Thanks to all of you who have participated and volunteered. If you want to volunteer with or have questions about the FSN please contact FSN co-chairpersons, Karen Ramshaw at karenramshaw@pubintproj.com or Jane Murphy at ellewyn@comcast.net.

Treasurer's Report

The UNCSA Foundation is in the process of performing a final reconciliation of our accounts for the year (fiscal year end is 6/30/10) and will have final figures within the next few weeks. We will share exact figures with you when our Foundation account is reconciled.

To date, we estimate that we collected over \$3,500 in membership dues and donations this year, and our fundraising efforts yielded approximately \$6,000. Our expenses for the year went to support our fundraising efforts (purchasing merchandise that was sold during Nutcracker and other performances) and the hospitality tables that we sponsored for move-in and family weekends. Excluding these expenses, our remaining funds will fund the transformation of Room 308 in the Gray Building from a computer lab back into a classroom (estimated cost is \$3,600) and to support an endowed high school teaching position. We will leave \$300 in the account at year-end to cover expenses that we anticipate occurring before our fall membership drive, namely teacher boxed lunches in August and refreshments for a parent hospitality suite that we will host during move-in weekend.

If you have questions regarding PSO finances, please contact Debbie Wilson at debawilson@yahoo.com.

**We are on
the web!**

<http://uncsa.edu/parents/hspso.htm>

Fundraising Committee

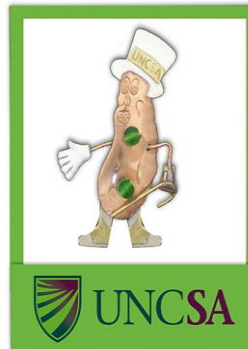
The PSO sent out the request and you answered the call! Thanks to all parents who donated time, effort and funding during our inaugural year.

Fundraising efforts started out strong with our presence at Family Weekend in October, selling bike raffle tickets and ornaments. Parent volunteers sold UNCSA merchandise and ornaments at Nutcracker performances in December 2009 and the Winter Dance Concert in February. In 2010, the PSO had the opportunity to sell merchandise and concessions at the Stevens Center for a variety of performances. We finished this academic year with a strong parent response to the call for sponsoring personalized gifts for graduating seniors which will be given to them at Senior Breakfast on May 28.

With your support, we managed to raise approximately \$6,000! These funds will be spent on the following:

- **Renovating the computer lab in 308 Gray Building into useable classroom space for the 2010-11 school year. The PSO has approved funding specifically for new desks, whiteboards, other classroom furniture, and room upgrades, giving the High School Academic Program much needed additional classroom space.**
- **Partnering with UNCSA and the state of North Carolina to support the funding of an endowed teaching position for the High School Academic Program. This is a long term project that will help to ensure the faculty of the High School Academic Program continues to be adequately staffed.**
- **Providing additional paper and toner for the public printers located in Mr. Hoover's office for student use throughout the 2010-11 school year.**

We still have pickle pins available for sale. Show your pickle pride by wearing one to UNCSA events. To purchase a pickle pin, contact Marcela Miller at marcella4276@windstream.com.



Marcela (Haley Miller's mom) has agreed to be the PSO's Fundraising chairperson next year. If you are interested in helping out with fundraising going forward, please contact Marcela.

Social Network Site

For easier and more private communication, the PSO is changing its social network site from Facebook to Yahoo! Groups. To protect your privacy and prevent Spam, our group will be restricted to UNCSA high school parents only.

Returning and new high school parents will receive an invitation to join "uncsapso" at your email address this summer. Please direct any questions regarding the new PSO Yahoo! Groups site to Laura Murphy at lauramurphy35@gmail.com.

Elections

The **results** of our recent on-line **election** for the **2010-2011 PSO officers** are:

Chairperson-Andrea Haritan

Vice Chairperson-Colette Griffin

Treasurer-Susan Jimenez

Secretary-open

We will hold an election for PSO secretary in the fall. Cindy White has agreed to run for this position and if you would like to run, as well, please contact Colette Griffin, PSO Vice Chairperson elect, at Colette@triad.rr.com. Thank you to everyone who participated in this election!

A message from the High School Academic Dean

Dear UNCSA Parent Support Organization Member Families,

Thank you so much for your support this year! I am excited about having an active parent organization at UNCSA and am amazed at all you've accomplished in just one year. Your work has touched all of our students through the senior gift project and student printing project and our entire faculty through the wonderful teacher treats and room renovation project. I am deeply grateful to you for your participation in this inaugural year of the PSO. I am excited about the future of the organization.

With deepest gratitude,
Jill Lane
Dean of the High School Academic Program

Best wishes to UNCSA's
graduating seniors!

Have a great summer
and
"Go Pickles!!!!"

