

**PACA Connect Meeting**  
**February 14, 2024**  
**8:00 AM, Fireside Dining Room**

- I. Welcome: Gaby May and Ellie Merritt-Zeiger, President and Vice-President of PACA
  
- II. Technology Department: Brent Halsey and Paul Hildahl (presentation linked [here](#))
  - A. All K-12 students are issued an iPad for 1-1 technology—students begin taking them home in 5th grade; students also have access to shared laptops on campus
  - B. Students use Google Workspace (Docs, Sheets, Classroom, Slides, etc.), browsers, apps, etc. All apps are curated by the tech dept.--students cannot just download any app
  - C. Learning environments are free of ads and are protected against spam and cyberthreats
  - D. Google allows CA to limit service and content for students; also allows for a single login for Apple, Google, etc.
  - E. There is a big difference from going to an Apple store to buy an iPad vs. buying directly from Apple—buying directly gives CA greater security and control over the iPads
  - F. All CA iPads are managed by the technology department
  - G. Mobile Device Manager is the system that allows CA to protect students by managing their iPads
  - H. New this year: JAMF Safe Internet—keeps the internet filtering on regardless of which internet connection they are using (home, Starbucks, etc.)
  - I. Industry grade network firewall and website filtering that is updated by PaloAlto regularly
  - J. All safe sites are enforced, such as YouTube Safesearch, Google Safesearch, etc.--on and off campus
  - K. New this year: 2-step verification to secure all CA accounts
  - L. Things parents can do at home:
    - 1. It is recommended to use a tool to protect your entire network, not just device by device
    - 2. Choose a home router with parental controls like age appropriate filtering, time usage management, and security features like firewalls, intrusion prevention, etc.
    - 3. Look into content filtering solutions
    - 4. Set boundaries as a parent, such as screen time limits, not allowing devices to be kept in your child's room, etc.
  - M. Students are not 100% safe; the adults in the room must continue to be vigilant to make sure students are not accessing inappropriate content
  - N. Parent Question: Can students bring their own devices?

1. Yes, in the US. If US students bring their own devices and they are on the CA network, they have the same protections; if they use their phone hotspots, this is not the case.
  - O. There are 3 tiers of filtering based on the 3 different division levels at CA
  - P. Parent Question: Is there any thought to providing laptops to US students?
    1. Conversations are happening about laptops in US—it's a yearly reevaluation; however, iPads have proven very successful and are a much less expensive option; the College Board has also moved to iPads for tests, so they make sense for this reason too.
  - Q. Parent Question: How often are the iPads updated (as in new devices)?
    1. Every 3-4 years; it is a constant evaluation based on devices and costs and when to do so
- III. Emily Campbell: Director of Development: What does giving to the Annual Fund do for our school?
- A. CA operates as a non-profit organization to *fulfill a mission and vision*; CA plans for a net-zero balance sheet at the end of the fiscal year
  - B. Approximately 80% of the money coming in is from tuition; approximately 70% of expenses going out is salaries/benefits for faculty and staff
  - C. Tuition is not enough to afford the CA experience aka the "Tuition Gap"—the "Tuition Gap" is across all independent schools
  - D. After tuition, CA needs approx. \$3,500 philanthropic dollars per student per year (this is CA's "Tuition Gap") to operate—this comes from a combination of Annual Fund gifts and an endowment draw
  - E. The Annual Fund gives CA the flexibility to say "YES" to what the school needs and wants to do for students, parents, and faculty and staff
    1. Faculty Development (PD, conferences, initiatives, etc.)
    2. Curricular Innovation (new courses and programs, visiting authors/artists/experts, social-emotional curriculum, equipment, etc.)
    3. Campus Facilities (231 acres, 360,000 square feet of building spaces with daily wear and tear)
    4. Tuition Assistance: CA does not have a large endowment; 1 in 4 students receive some level of need-based tuition assistance (via endowment and Annual Fund); average amount awarded this year is about \$13,800
    5. "Specific" expenses were laid out on the tables and shared with attendees, such as Forest Friday replacement rain pants, starter and referee for Varsity Swim Meet, replacement dishwashers in Early Childhood classrooms, white noise machines in counselors' offices, etc.
    6. The Annual Fund removes barriers so teachers and administrators can focus on providing our kids the best educational experience possible!
    7. So, please do the following:
      - a) Participate in the Annual Fund, every gift matters and is appreciated.

- b) Consider the [aspirational giving levels](#) (\$300+), or if you are able, the leadership giving levels (\$3,000+ covering the gap for one student). The school needs a certain number of gifts at these levels to reach the budgeted financial goal of \$1.7 million this year.
  - 8. Save the Date: All Day 4 CA April 18-19—Annual day of giving for the 2023-2024 Annual Fund
  - 9. Parent Question: Does CA look at numbers of giving participants in addition to the amounts given?
    - a) Yes—the percentage of parents, alumni, faculty/staff who give to the annual fund is important. Faculty/staff looking to work here or funders looking to invest here want to see the community is invested in the mission.
- IV. MOSAIC: Dr. Theresa Ankamah (presentation linked [here](#))
- A. Black History Month: “Celebration of the African Arts”
  - B. 3 Big events being planned in addition to other division events:
    - 1. Virtual speaker on Tuesday, February 20 6:30 PM: Carl Smallwood on bridging differences
    - 2. Guest speaker on Sunday, February 25 2:00 PM: Paula Penn-Nabrit in the dining hall in conjunction with a fashion show, food, and fun for everyone in the CA community
    - 3. Hip Hop/Afrobeats Fitness Class on February 28 at 6:30 PM in the MACK gym—no experience required!
    - 4. Across CA Divisions:
      - a) Feb. 12-21: Middle School Advisory Challenge/Door Decorations (based on countries instrumental in Black History)
      - b) Feb. 16: LS assembly for 3-5 grades
      - c) Feb. 20-23: LS parents and caregivers reading opportunity
      - d) Feb. 26: US BOS assembly/fashion show and LS assembly for K-2 grades
    - 5. Parent Question: Can non-CA community members attend the events?
      - a) Yes, they can come with CA members—just note the number of attendees on your registration
  - C. Thank you, MOSAIC, for a wonderful presentation! To register for this year’s events please go to: [columbusacademy.org/mosaic2024](https://columbusacademy.org/mosaic2024)
- V. PACA Call for Nominations: Jenn Nester, Immediate Past President and Nominations Chair
- A. Board positions available:
    - 1. Vice President
    - 2. Budget Manager
    - 3. Secretary
    - 4. LS Division Lead parents
    - 5. MS Division Lead parents

6. US Division Lead parents
- B. Committee Positions:
1. Charlie David Dinner
  2. Faculty Appreciation
  3. Service Committee (Kids4Kids)
  4. Book Fair
  5. LS Carnival
  6. Clothing Exchange Closet
  7. Nominations and Governance Committee
- C. Self nominations or peer nominations can occur (please make sure your peers know you are nominating them!) The nomination form will be going out this week via email.
- D. Timeline:
1. Nomination window: Feb. 15-March 15
  2. PACA position informational/interest sessions: Feb. 29 at 6 PM and March 4 at 8 AM in the fireside dining room (please RSVP for the sessions, but they are not required to be nominated)
  3. Nominations will be confirmed by April 24
  4. The slate will be presented at the PACA Connect meeting on April 24
  5. The final vote on the slate will occur at the PACA Connect meeting on May 8

VI. Meeting adjourned