

OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 2012



The Park Parent

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Playing Well With Others: In Pursuit of Greater Civility

BY PAMELA LARSON MATHEWS, *Park Parent Editorial Board*

At a recent Park Parent Editorial Board meeting, the topic of “civility” came up, prompted in large part by the rash of public incivility that is common to an election season. Our discussion broadened into a conversation about the general societal increase in incivility, apparent not only in politics but on the road, in reality TV, and across social media.



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WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

*If you have a story
idea or issue you'd
like to see covered
or thoughts about
something you've read,
please let us know.*

[Contact The Park Parent](#)

Announcing *The Jerry Katz Park21 Fund*: A Community Effort in Support of Park21

BY BEA SANDERS, *Director of Development*



Like many Park parents, you may have heard about “Park21” in the hallways or on the fields or read about “strategic plan” initiatives in the *Park Parent*. Perhaps you helped set the foundation for Park21 by participating in a parent focus group, but haven’t heard the latest update. Or maybe Park21 hasn’t reached your radar screen yet. Regardless of how much you’ve heard about Park21, be prepared to hear a great deal more in the coming months as we bring our community up to speed and work to engage everyone in this great plan.

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**A PUBLICATION
OF THE PARK
SCHOOL PARENTS'
ASSOCIATION**

Park21, continued from page 1

PARK21 DEFINED

Park21 has been guiding Park's Board of Trustees, faculty and administration since early 2011. The spirit behind the plan is to make Park a faster and more nimble – yet still thoughtful and data-driven – innovator and leader, seeking out best practices in education wherever they might be, around the corner or across the globe, and bringing them to our classrooms. Park21 offers innovation to students across all grades, with a special focus on 21st century skills in math, science, technology, faculty leadership, faculty collaboration and professional development, and expanded global perspective in service learning. (Read more about the plan at parkschool.org/park21)

The School is seeking to raise \$10 million in endowment to fund these initiatives. During the “quiet phase” of this gift drive Park has raised \$6 million toward the \$10 million goal.

Another exciting piece of Park21 involves purchasing eight acres next door to Park that belong to Nancy and Kim Faulkner '45. The Faulkner family has been an incredible friend to the school, donating 14 acres of land on Goddard Avenue in 1967, and another 12 acres in 1980. This new Faulkner property provides a much-needed opportunity to Park. Under Brook-

In summary, Park21 has two major components:

\$10 million in endowment for innovation to which everyone will be asked to contribute through the Jerry Katz Park21 Fund

and

\$6.5 million to purchase the adjacent Faulkner property

The total is \$16.5 million, of which nearly \$9 million has been raised so far.



line zoning laws, the school cannot build further on our existing acreage. As Park's needs grow for new science, art, athletic, or after school space, or for innovations yet to come, we cannot meet any of these possible needs without more land. Purchasing this property will allow Park the flexibility to expand as future needs arise. During the “quiet phase” of this gift drive, Park has raised almost \$3 million toward the \$6.5 million needed to fund the purchase.

SUPPORTING PARK21, WHILE HONORING JERRY KATZ'S 20 YEARS OF LEADERSHIP

Among the multitude of hats that Jerry

wears as head of school, the one perhaps closest to his heart is his role as a catalyst for change and innovation. He constantly seeks ways to improve Park's curriculum and other programs. In many ways, Park21 exemplifies exactly what Jerry has been doing for the past twenty years.

In honor of Jerry's years of service as head of school, Park has created the Jerry Katz Park21 Fund, a named fund within the \$10 million endowment for innovation. The Jerry Katz Park21 Fund recognizes Jerry's passion for looking beyond the School's walls to uncover great educational practices and ideas and bring them back to Park. This fund will give the next head of school the means to act quickly on new and exciting initiatives which fall outside the regular school operating budget, enabling worthy new ideas to be piloted and implemented immediately rather than waiting for the next budgeting cycle.

Jerry has been a primary force behind the excellence and growth of the school since 1993. His dedication to students and their families, tireless efforts to enhance the classroom learning experience, drive to give faculty the professional development opportunities they need to enhance and perfect their craft, and his utmost commitment to making Park the best school it can be have all left a powerful and lasting



Jerry enjoys some birthday ice cream with Lower Division friends.

continued on next page

Park21, continued

impact on our community. Jerry has championed innovation and positive change at Park for the past twenty years. A fund targeting innovation is a fitting tribute as his lasting legacy at Park.

In giving to the Jerry Katz Park21 Fund, everyone can participate in the Park21 plan, and honor Jerry's vision for the School. 🗣️

Q HOW DO I KEEP UP-TO-DATE ON PARK21?

A Park21 initiatives have been driving innovation in Park classrooms since 2011. For a complete list of initiatives underway and those yet to come, please see the Park21 website, www.parkschool.org/park21. Park's leadership is very excited about Park21 and the future it offers the School and we hope the entire community will join us in supporting it.

Q WHAT ABOUT THE ANNUAL FUND THIS YEAR?

A The Annual Fund always comes first! This year we will ask everyone to sustain or modestly increase past levels of Annual Fund support and pledge to the Jerry Katz Park21 Fund as they can. Thank you in advance for your participation and for continuing to make the School a philanthropic priority!

Other questions? Please contact Bea Sanders, director of development, at bea_sanders@parkschool.org

Last year, more than 94 percent of Park's parents supported the School. When the phone rings on November 7, please make *your* commitment to Park. Thank you!

**Park
Parents'
Phonathon**

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 7
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.**

HEAD OF SCHOOL SEARCH The Park School

Earlier this fall, following months of evaluating and interviewing many impressive individuals who were excited by the prospect of leading The Park School, the Search Committee selected three candidates to advance as finalists for Park's next Head of School.

In mid-October, the Park community welcomed these educators to campus for two-day interviews.

Michael Robinson, head of Lake Forest Country Day School in Lake Forest, Illinois, visited on Oct. 10 and 11.

Gregory Schneider, head of Berwick Academy in Berwick, Maine, visited on Oct. 15 and 16.

Amy Purcell Vorenberg, head of The Philadelphia School in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, visited on Oct. 17 and 18.

The candidates met with a broad representation of the Park community including faculty, alumni and parents. Each candidate attended two open community conversations as well. The Search Committee encouraged everyone who met with the candidates to voice their impressions in an anonymous online survey.

The Search Committee will take this feedback into consideration when they meet to make a recommendation to the Board. The Board of Trustees will announce Park's 12th Head of School in early November 2013. He or she will begin on July 1, 2013.