

Dear Burke's Families:

This morning I stood before the Parents' Association meeting attendees for the last time this school year and the last time as PA President. It has been a wonderful year as I have had the opportunity and honor to work beside a PA slate of dedicated, smart and hard working people, whose goal has been to support Burkes in being the best it can be.

Leaders amongst these fabulous people are our Burke's Family Festival Co-chairs, **Meeta Arcuri and Nancy Hsieh** and Dinner Auction Co-Chairs, **Kerri Lehmann and Yvonne Blaxter**. These women were in charge of the main fundraising events this year. They put together terrific teams of people and went about organizing extremely fun and creative events. Today as the result of their efforts, we were able to present our financial gift to Burke's. In keeping with our green efforts, we did not use the traditional large foamcore check but I was excited to announce that we are able to present to Burke's a grand total of .....**\$550,000!**

Of that \$550,000:

**\$320,000** will go to Student Financial Assistance  
(22% or 1 in 5 students here at Burke's receive some form of financial assistance)

**\$125,000** is going to the new school lunch program - which will benefit every student and staff member and was money raised exclusively at our dinner auction through the "raise your paddle" portion of the evening.

**\$105,000** will go to Faculty and Staff Professional Development

This was an astounding achievement and I am so very proud of the Parents' Association Board whose efforts have paid off so handsomely.

As anyone who has run a committee or organized anything here at Burke's can tell you, the support staff is the backbone of the school Administration. They work diligently to keep Burke's the immaculate, well-run organization that we are all so fortunate to send our girls to every day. So it was my pleasure to present to them tokens of our appreciation for the work they do.

Development Office: **Claire Devereux and Luis Hernandez**

Office staff: **Anita Painitz, Barbara Angus, Cathy Tritschler-Hall, Chris Chang, David Smith, Elizabeth Coleman, Jane Husain, Maggie King, Mary Jizmagian, Sue Wyatt and Sylvia Lee.**

Last but by no means least our incredible custodial staff: **Carlos Oliva, Alejandro Vargas, Carmen Perez, Lara Orozco, Rose Balladeres and Victor Vargas.** We thank them and are grateful to them all.

On behalf of the PA, I handed out gifts to two other people, **Roz Benjamin** and **Kim Wargo**. Roz has worked closely with the Parents' Association these past years. Her dedication to Burke's

and incredible work ethic set a shining example to our girls. I personally have worked side by side with her on many projects these past two years and have grown very fond of her and will miss her greatly. The same goes for our Head of School, Kim Wargo. Board of Trustees Vice President, Louisa Consagra put into words beautifully on behalf of the parent body our admiration for Kim and the indelible mark she has made on our school. We will always look back over her tenure here as one of great progress, incredible warmth and infectious spirit. Our presentation to Kim and Roz ended with a song sung to them by our Kindergarten girls. Ms. Mandelstein and the girls customized many verses to suit the occasion and also presented handcrafted books to Kim and Roz that they will take with them as precious keepsakes of their time here at Burke's.

But this school year is not over yet! We still have one fun family community event to come and that is the **Burke's Dash** to be held **Sunday May 22**, in Golden Gate Park. Co-chairs **Matt Davis and Ken Lew** are putting together what I am sure will be a great family day out for all with an all-new fancy dress category and much, much more!, Details will be forthcoming in Tuesday Notes but make sure to save the date.

I wish all the best to incoming PA President 2011-2012, Nina Srejovic.

[Michelle Hackett](#)

2010-2011 Parents' Association President