

The ML H&SA:
Enriching our
schools through
celebration,
volunteerism,
and fun!

Mountain Lakes Home & School Association Fall 2023 Newsletter

Hello Mountain Lakes District Community! We are pleased and excited to share with you a summary of the fall activities of the **Mountain Lakes Home & School Association**, made possible because of our Board, our members, and our volunteers.

We started off the year by launching our annual **Membership Drive** at the end of August. To date, over 400 families have joined as members of the ML H&SA. **Members contribute to the over 60 activities per year that our kids remember** - including socials, informational programming, celebrations, class parties, and volunteering at field trips.

Our members have access to the Mountain Lakes Family School District Directory, now available online through the **Membership Toolkit website and app**, which can be downloaded from the *Apple* or *Google Play* stores. The Membership Toolkit app allows members access to all Directory information at their fingertips!

Our fundraising efforts have been in high gear this fall, earning over \$70,000! Our largest fundraiser of the year, the famous **ML H&SA Bake Sale**, was one of the most delicious and successful in our history! Despite the challenge of the very rainy early fall, we have completed our **Portraits by the Lake Fundraiser**, resulting in beautiful family portraits! At Wildwood, our **Back to School Supplies Fundraiser** and our **Book Fair** helped enhance our student's learning, and our beloved **Holiday Shopping Spree** brought the holiday spirit!

Contribute to the over
60 programs and
events of the H&SA
community members to
help fuel the fun!

Click here to
contribute:

<https://mlschools.membershiptoolkit.com>

We need
you!!

Interested in volunteering with us?
Contact our Nominations Chair, Patty Bordoni, at:
bordonifamily3@gmail.com





We've been busy this Fall!

Our visionary H&SA Board and many dedicated volunteers have been working tirelessly to continue the ML H&SA's mission to enrich our schools through over 60 programs per year, and celebration, volunteerism, and fun!

Our **Wildwood, Briarcliff, and MLHS School Chairs** who organize our school volunteers have been busy all fall with Back to School Nights, class parties, library duty, decorating at the schools, Family Fun Nights, Math Nights, staff and teacher appreciation breakfasts, and more!

Our **Wildwood Cultural Arts** team works with the teachers and administration to develop and produce cultural arts programming that enhance the curriculum. To fund these programs, we hosted the first Paint-a-Block fundraiser in October, and launched the first ever Wildwood Apparel fundraiser. We have another Paint a Block event coming up on January 17th!

The **H&SA Programming** team held two **Coffee Talks** with our Administrative Team, Mr. Fetherman and Ms. Ciresi, on October 17th in the MLHS Media Center, and virtually on December 13th through the Teams platform.

We also sponsored the program, *The Digital Dilemma*, with speaker **Tim Shoemaker**, an expert on the responsible use of social media. Tim spoke to the Briarcliff students, and held a forum for parents in the evening.

We also began the **Wingman Program** in collaboration with the District. The Wingman Program supports youth in the development of social and emotional skills like compassion, empathy and inclusivity

Our **H&SA Parents Appreciating Teachers and Staff (PATS)** team and **Social Chairs** have also been busy this fall. They contributed to the Board of Education back to school retreat this August, set up a welcoming and beautiful Welcome Back Breakfast for teachers and staff, helped keep us all energized through three Back to School Nights, and celebrated our district's custodial staff to celebrate National Custodian Day in October.

Our **Nominations** committee will soon begin recruiting new volunteers for the H&SA Board. Our **Scholarship** committee will launch the H&SA Scholarship application in January with the selection made in May. Last year, we awarded over \$12,000 in scholarship funds.

As we look forward to 2024, we are excited for the launch of our new website that will be a one-stop-shop for all of our information and programming, and to many more fun school events! Until then, we wish you all a happy, healthy and a festive holiday season!

Contact us! mlhsaboard@gmail.com
<https://mlschools.membershiptoolkit.com/hsalandingpage>

