

Parents Council

O F W A S H I N G T O N

CONNECTING SCHOOLS ▪ SHARING IDEAS ▪ ENGAGING PARENTS

Orientation 2026-2027

*Thriving in a Moment of
Unprecedented Change*

Today's Agenda



Welcome

- *Erik Van Der Merwe, President, Parents Council of Washington*

Opening Remarks

- *Dr Elinor M Scully, National Cathedral School*

Maximizing the PCW Partnership with Your School Community

- *Nicole Lewis Tyson, PCW Board Member & Orientation Co-Chair*
- *Brian Jacobson, PCW Board Member & Orientation Co-Chair*

Share, Connect, Engage: Best Practices Roundtables

- *PCW Board Members/School Liaisons, PCW Representatives, and Parent Association Presidents*

Who We Are and What We Do?

WHO WE ARE – PCW is a non-profit membership organization founded in 1964 to promote excellence in education and foster communication for independent school communities in the greater Washington, D.C. area.

WHO WE SERVE – Over 56 dues paying member independent schools representing 27,000+ students from PreK-12.

WHAT WE OFFER – We provide inspired and inventive programs and events to our member school communities. Program summaries and multiple resources are available on our website and through our social media postings.

2026-2027 Theme

*Thriving in a Moment
of Unprecedented
Change*



Opening Remarks

Dr Elinor M Scully

*Head of School,
National Cathedral
School*

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PCW Member Schools

Aidan Montessori School
Alexandria Country Day School
Beauvoir School
Browne Academy
Bullis School
Burgundy Farm Country Day School
Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School
Commonwealth Academy
Concord Hill School
Congressional School
Connelly School of the Holy Child
Edmund Burke School
Flint Hill School
Foxcroft School
Georgetown Day School
Georgetown Preparatory School
Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School
Gonzaga College High School
Grace Episcopal Day School
Green Acres School

Green Hedges School
Holton-Arms School
Holy Trinity School
Landon School
Lowell School
Maret School
McLean School
Milton Gottesman Jewish Day School
National Cathedral School
National Children's Research Center
National Presbyterian School
Norwood School
Oneness-Family School
Our Lady of Good Counsel High School
Sandy Spring Friends School
Sheridan School
Sidwell Friends School
St. Albans School
St. Andrew's Episcopal School
St. Anselm's Abbey School

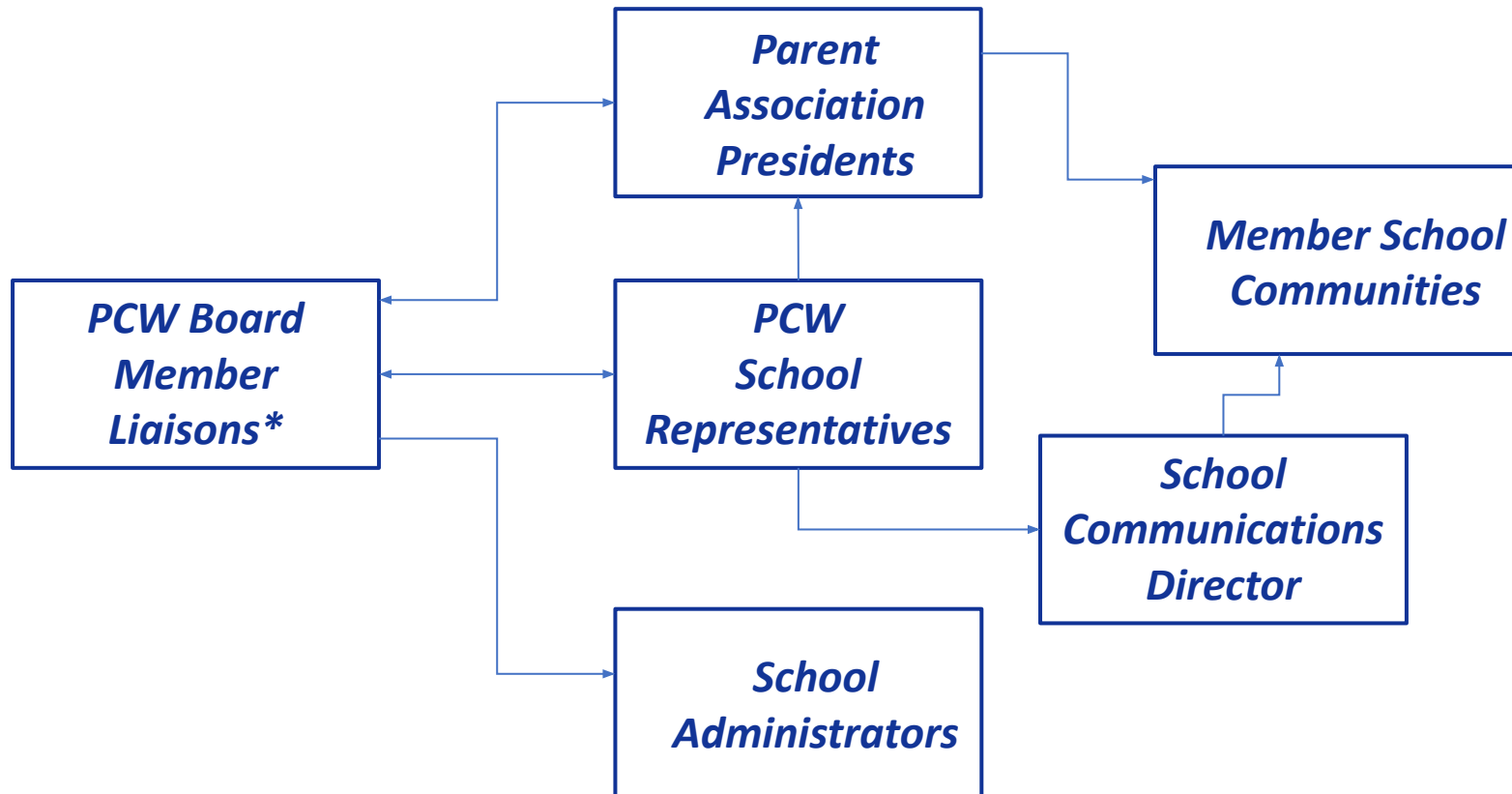
St. Patrick's Episcopal Day School
St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School
Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart
The Academy of the Holy Cross
The Field School
The Harbor School
The Lab School of Washington
The Langley School
The Madeira School
The Potomac School
The Primary Day School
The River School
The Siena School
The Woods Academy
Washington Episcopal School
Washington International School
Washington Waldorf School

Parents Council

OF WASHINGTON

CONNECTING SCHOOLS • SHARING IDEAS • ENGAGING PARENTS

PCW/Member School Partnership



* See “2024- 2025 Board Liaisons to Member Schools” handout for liaison assignments

PCW Directors and At-Large Members

Board of Directors	Board Members-at-Large	
Erik van der Merwe <i>President</i>	Lauren Barber Lisa Monroe Briscoe Patricia Garffer Jenny Gillespie Brian Jacobson	Nicole Lewis Tyson Nisha Sankaran Mary Vitale Denise Yarbough-Smith
Jen Scott <i>Vice President, Programming</i>		
Karen Gibian <i>Vice President, Internal</i>		
Cara Hur <i>Treasurer</i>		
Denise Prince <i>Secretary</i>		
Katrina Holliday <i>Ex Officio</i>		
Emily Cevallos, PCW Administrator		

How To Be an Effective PCW Rep

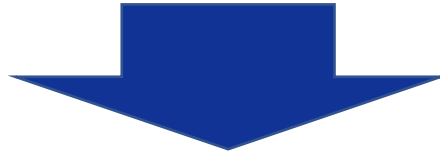
Learn About PCW/Programs

Advertise and Promote

Encourage Participation

Attend and Engage

Share Post-Event Program Materials



The “Monthly Checklist” will outline PCW Rep responsibilities each month and will include all relevant information, flyers, links, etc.

2026-2027 Program Schedule

Program	Date	Time	Venue	Audience	PCW Rep Role
PCW Orientation	Monday, Sep 14, 2026	10 am - Noon	National Cathedral School	PCW Reps and PA Presidents	<u>ATTEND!</u> Distribute material*
PA Presidents' Discussion Kick-Off	Thursday, Sep 24, 2026	10 - 11 am	Virtual	PA Presidents	PA Presidents invited by PCW to attend
Movie <i>Screenagers: Generation AI</i>	Thursday, Oct 8, 2026	10 am - Noon	Avalon Theater, Washington, DC	All PCW Member School Communities	Publicize/Promote <u>ATTEND!</u> Distribute material*
AI Experts Panel <i>Growing Up in the Age of AI</i>	Nov 2026	TBD	Virtual	All PCW Member School Communities	Publicize/Promote <u>ATTEND!</u> Distribute material*
Upper School Student Leaders Breakfast	Thursday, Feb 18, 2027	8:30 am - 12:30 pm	Madeira	Selected Upper School Students	Ensure Administrator and Counselor have date and know to select students
Speaker <i>Lisa Damour</i>	Feb 2027	TBD	Virtual	All PCW Member School Communities	Publicize/Promote <u>ATTEND!</u> Distribute material*

2026-2027 Program Schedule

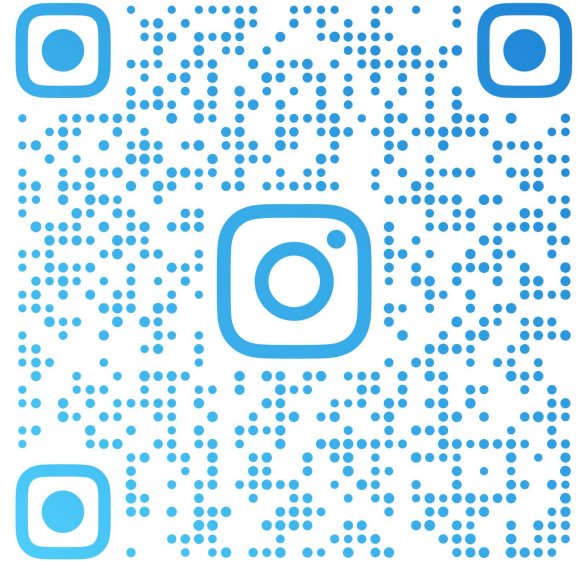
Program	Date	Time	Venue	Audience	PCW Rep Role
Upper School Deans' Breakfast	Wednesday, Mar. 10, 2027	8:30 am - 10:30 am	TBD	Upper School Deans of Students	Ensure Dean of Students has date on calendar
MS Student Leader Breakfast	Tuesday, Apr. 20, 2027	8:30 am - 11:30 am	The Langley School	Member School Selected Students	Ensure Administrator and Counselor have date and know to select students
Member School Panel <i>Executive Functioning in Younger Brains</i>	Apr 2027	6 - 7:30 pm	St Patrick's	All PCW Member School Communities	Publicize/Promote <u>ATTEND!</u> Distribute material*

Instagram

PCW is on Instagram as
@PCW_DC

Follow to see more about
our programs, board
members and member
schools

Use the QR Code to the
right to follow us



PCW_DC

Presidents Roundtable

PA Presidents' Discussions

These occur throughout the year and offer an opportunity for PA Presidents to have an informal discussion about topics that matter to them. This program is open to current and incoming member school PA Presidents only.

Calls occur quarterly and are open to only the Presidents and incoming Presidents. The first will take place on September 24th at 10AM.

Each president will receive an invitation for the Zoom meeting.

This group also communicates between the meetings via a private WhatsApp group.

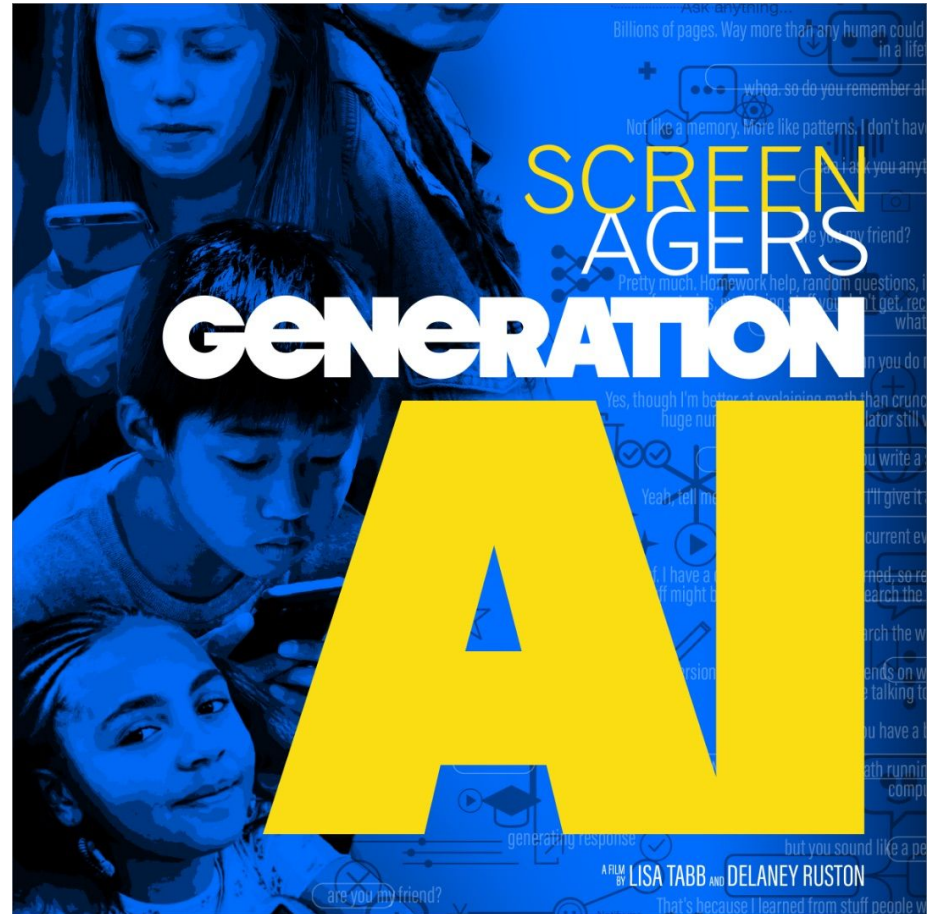
Movie

“Screenagers: Generation AI”

Filmmaker **Lisa Tabb** in
person for Q&A following
film

Thursday, October 8, 2026
10 AM

Avalon Theater
Washington, DC



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AI Experts Panel

Growing up in the Age of AI: What Parents Should Know

November 2026, Virtual



Russell Shaw
Writer, The Atlantic
Past Head of GDS



Rebecca Winthrop
Senior Fellow
Brookings Institute



Angela Virtu
AU Kogod School of
Business

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Speaker Series

Lisa Damour

Acclaimed clinical psychologist, author, and speaker specializing in child and adolescent development

February 2027

Virtual



Who Are These Programs For?

For Parents

- Experts Panel
- Speaker Series
- Movie

For Students

- Middle School Student Leader Breakfast (MSSLB)
- Upper School Student Leader Breakfast (USSLB)

For PCW Reps/PA Presidents

- Orientation
- Speaker Series
- Informal PA President Discussions and WhatsApp group

For Educators

- Speaker Series
- Deans' Breakfast
- Experts panel, movie, and other programming

* Lower and Middle School Parents

Important Resources

- **Your PCW Board Liaison**
 - Opportunity to connect today and available by email later
- **Program Schedule and Month-to-Month Guide**
 - Outlines annual calendar and anticipated monthly PCW Rep responsibilities
- **Monthly Checklists**
 - Detail specific PCW Rep action items each month; will always have the most up-to-date program information
- **PCW Website**
 - ParentsCouncil.org/resources/resources-for-reps/
 - Includes orientation materials, monthly checklists, current year program summaries, and archived info from past programs

Any questions?

**Next:
Breakout Session**

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We appreciate you joining us today!

*Thank you to
National Cathedral School
for hosting the
2026 Orientation!*

Upcoming Events:

September 24, 2026
PA Presidents' Roundtable Kick-Off

October 8, 2026 – Movie
Screenagers: Generation AI