

## St Mary's PTO Meeting Minutes Wednesday, December 17, 2008

Board Members Present: Lynn Burgard, Duffy Meyer, Cressy Aberle, Shawn Morlock, Cindy Fischer

Board Members Absent: Tom Hesford, Wendy Kopp, Shauna Greff

Lynn Burgard called the Meeting to order. Those attending introduced themselves. The minutes for the November PTO meeting were approved with no changes.

### Old Business:

**Leadership Program Update:** Leadership Committee member Tim Rasmussen gave an update on the results of the student leadership survey given to all students in May of 2008 (attached). The survey shows that the students of St. Mary's have a good understanding of the concepts of the 7 Habits, and are using the leadership principles in their academic and personal lives. The Committee continues to bring in guest speakers for the students. The speakers this year have included Kayla Effertz, from the Department of Commerce, who spoke on Career Awareness; and Kevin Cramer from the Public Service Commission who spoke on the voting process. Other speakers including Band Director, Tony Fladland & Engineer, Nancy Huether are planned for the future.

Leadership bracelets, partially paid for with the help of PTO, will be distributed during Catholic Schools Week. The rubber bracelets will say, "First a Servant, Then a Leader". The Leadership Committee has applied for a grant to help with funding and will have more information in January. The Leadership Committee is now looking to expanding the leadership concept beyond the 7 Habits. The nine member Committee meets at noon on the second Monday of each month. They are looking for new members. Anyone interested in participating in the Leadership Committee should contact Tracy Finneman.

**Braided Bread:** The Braided Bread sales were down this year. Sales are about \$1,700 under what was budgeted and \$2,000 less than sales last year. There was some discussion on the impact of holding the Pizza Corner and Braided Bread fundraisers so close together. The Pizza Corner fundraiser cannot be moved because the Daycare holds a Pizza Corner fundraiser in the winter. PTO previously sold Braided Bread twice a year before Thanksgiving and before Easter. There was discussion of moving the Braided Bread fundraiser to the spring to coincide with Easter. Further discussion will be held at upcoming meetings.

**Santa Store & Breakfast:** The Santa Store was successful. The financials are not in yet. There was discussion that the primary goal of the Store was to allow the children a fun way to purchase small gifts for their family and not to make money. Lynn shared that Katie Johnson, the event Chair, had mentioned that the Knights of Columbus might be interested in hosting the Santa Breakfast next year, with profits going to the PTO. To do this the Santa Breakfast would move from Saturday to Sunday. Those at the meeting felt this would be a positive change.

**Barnes & Noble:** Marcy Ekre was not able to attend the meeting but emailed that the Barnes & Noble fundraiser was very successful. Tentatively there were \$4,800 in purchases and the school will receive about \$720, although these numbers have not yet been finalized. Staff at Barnes & Noble told Marcy they felt the school did very well, especially considering the weather. The proceeds from gift-wrapping were \$24.03. There was discussion that the placement of the gift-wrapping table negatively impacted gift-wrapping. Many books were purchased for the classrooms and the library. The Christmas music sung by the Preschool and Kindergarten classes, as well as the story read by Tom Hesford, were very positively received. There was discussion that it was helpful to have the St Mary's vouchers available at the store. Marcy has scheduled the school to participate in this fundraiser again next year on the second Saturday in December 2009.

**Parent Christmas Cash for Teachers & Staff:** A letter was sent to all parents allowing them the opportunity to give money to be distributed as a Christmas gift to teachers & staff. Sixty-six families participated in giving \$4,600 in Christmas Cash. Nineteen full-time staff members were given \$200 and eight part-time staff members were given \$100. PTO separately contributed \$100 to each full-time staff

member and \$50 to each part-time staff member. Our former custodian Daryl was included in on this and \$200 was sent to his family. PTO had previously sent a \$100 memorial. The teachers and staff were very appreciated and thankful for everyone's generosity.

**Superbowl Football Pool:** We have more Superbowl Football pool cards to sell. Cards are \$25 each, with the chance to win \$100 after each of the first three quarters and \$250 at the end of the game. We have just broken even and all future sales will be profit. Everyone was encouraged to purchase a card, and to spread the word to friends and family about this fun way to help the school. Contact Cressy Aberle, Shawn Morlock or Duffy Meyer to purchase a card, or to help sell the cards after Mass.

**Christmas Movie:** The kids will be staying at the school and watching a movie on Friday, December 19. The teacher's chose the movies. The younger grades will be watching Mr. Magorium's Wonder Emporium and the older grades will be watching Home Alone 2. The kids can bring their PJ's to change into after Mass. They can also bring a drink for the movie. PTO will provide bags of popcorn with some candy as treats. There was a request for the PTO to purchase ice cream as an additional treat. The request was discussed and denied because the feeling was the kids would already have enough sugar and ice cream may be messy.

**Irish Kaleidoscope:** The Irish Kaleidoscope Program is scheduled to come to the school in January. St Mary's has received a grant to pay for half the cost of the Kaleidoscope. This year the school could not find any other schools to partner with so St Mary's PTO will need to pay for all additional expenses, which are estimated to be about \$3,000.

**Family Fun Night:** Family Fun Night is scheduled for Saturday, February 21<sup>st</sup>. We are still in need of another family to help the Dosch's Co-Chair the Midway. Donations are currently down for the Silent Auction. Anyone wanting more information on volunteering to Co-Chair the Midway or to make a donation to the Silent Auction can contact Lynn Burgard. Concern for the future of Family Fun Night and the Silent Auction were discussed as we are having problems finding Chairs for the event.

**Author in Residence:** At the November PTO meeting there was a request for the PTO to fund the school brining in an author as part of an Author in Residence Program. At that time there was not complete information on how long the author would be at the school, how the author would be interacting with each class, and the full cost of brining in an author. No additional information has been received so the topic will be held over for discussion at the next PTO meeting.

#### **New Business:**

**PTO Communication Via Email:** There has not been very good participation with the Domino's Pizza fundraiser this year. There was a suggestion that emails could be regularly sent to parents reminding them of the fundraiser. There was a request that PTO information, such as PTO meeting agendas and event updates be emailed to parents, rather than sending home paper information with the kids, as this is easier to misplace. Lynn was requested to ask if Shelly could send out emails to parents from the PTO, or if the school could give the PTO the parent's email address. This topic will be discussed again at upcoming meetings.

**PTO Payment to School Board:** Currently the PTO makes an annual payment to the School Board for \$10,000. The money is then added to the school budget. There was discussion that this is too much for the PTO to be paying and that the school budget should be funded in other ways. At the upcoming School Board Meeting on Friday, December 19<sup>th</sup> Lynn will request that the PTO payment be dropped to \$5,000 in 2010, with a continued reduction thereafter. This has been a reoccurring topic for the PTO. This issue has been brought ups to the School Board in the past by former PTO President's Cressy Aberle and Marcy Ekre.

**Treasurer Report:** Shawn Morlock reviewed the Treasurer's Report (attached), and expenses to be paid were announced.

Meeting adjourned at 7:38 PM.