

Home and School Association Meeting

November 9, 2011

- Intro & Prayer: Kelly Reichardt, Vice-President

- Reports
 - Administration – Mary Jo Warthen, Principal.
 - What happens on Professional Development Days?
 - These days are set aside to provide teachers an opportunity to continue their education about educational topics.
 - The Oct. and Nov. days this year were devoted to the EQUIP for Ministry program which is the new program for lay ministers to continue their spiritual development. Sometimes, a school will bring in a speaker to talk about a topic of interest. Sometimes teachers will have an opportunity to work with each other on curricular issues.
 - Status report on Technology Committee.
 - All members are on board and the first meeting is on Tuesday, Nov. 15th.
 - Chair – former parent and owner of technology company; two teachers, two parents, AOB liaison for Federal Programs and Technology Director at Immaculate Conception (interest in having schools work together to improve technology). Jane Kirby and Tony Morea will be consultants for this group.
 - Currently surveying faculty to determine comfort level with various technology and will use this to plan professional development opportunities.
 - Scheduled a demonstration of a reading and math program called Study Island for faculty to determine if it might be useful for us.
 - Where are we with the Continuous Improvement Plan?
 - School Improvement Team – TBD This Team will be a team that takes direction from both the Continuous Improvement

Plan and the Strategic Planning Committee of the School Board. "I am in the process of pulling this team together and Fr. Whatley and I are working on the membership of the Strategic Planning Committee".

- Student Advocacy Team
 - This year St. Mark has initiated a Student Advocacy Team to serve both as a resource for the classroom teacher and as a liaison to the local educational agency (public school). The team consists of the principal, counselor, nurse, director of Vianney program, Vianney tutor, and 4 teachers from various levels and subjects.
 - The focus of the team will be to identify students with learning difficulties. These needs may include students with specific learning disabilities; children with learning gaps due to a change in curriculum, time missed from school, or a transfer from another school; gifted students who are not being challenged; etc. Teachers refer students to this committee. The committee looks at all of the information we have on a student and then makes suggestions to the teachers (and parents if applicable) of ways to address the issue. We then set a timeline for a follow-up meeting for these students to evaluate the recommended strategies.
 - The team met for the first time on Nov. 1st, considered three students, suggested strategies to try and actions to be taken, and set a follow-up date to evaluate these strategies.
 - Mrs. Taylor- Teacher Liaison.
 - Curious about status of standardized proposal form.
 - Clarified usage of Cultural Arts money. Yes- funds can be used for buses. One idea in planning stages: Educational Day at Ripken stadium in May. Looking into this field trip for 1st and 2nd graders.
 - Cookie baking needs to be done on Wed. Dec 7- Clarified with chairperson of Pancake Breakfast that there is no conflict with Pancake Day supplies.
 - Aware of HASA proposing mini technology grants to apply for (5) digital cameras.
 - Wil Gavin – treasurer. Innisbrooke on track for making about \$16,000. Right in line with last year. Teachers are spending their

allocated classroom monies faster and spending their Cultural Arts money quicker- already more CA events than last year.

- Recap October Events:
 - Ginny O'Malley gave recap of Monster Dash. Great turnout despite unseasonable winter weather. Water bottles left over. Made over \$1,000. Left over T-shirts for sale (adult sizes only). Contact Ginny if you are interested in purchasing for \$5.

 - Kate Allen gave recap of Science Night. Attended by approx. 125 students. UMBC students did great job. Suggestion given to possibly present some new experiments next year.

- Announcements:
 - Need help for ice cream (chair- Holly Lerch)
Pizza (chair- Jen Griffin)
Pouches (chair-Kate Masters)
Please contact Kate Allen for any committee questions or help.

 - Please send emails for events- not necessarily need paper copy in the pouch. Why can't the fliers be scanned and attached to end of Lion? Tony Morea will consult. Number of families 283 + 45 preschool.

 - Lunch and recess schedules have gone out for November. NEED VOLUNTEERS EVERYDAY AND EVERY LEVEL. Even if you are not on the schedule please come out anyway. Please feel free to come on out. ALL NEED TO BE STAND TRAINED. Parent question: Can the recess/lunch schedule be posted on the school website?

- Upcoming Events:
 - B & N Night November 18th. Chair- Mary Scavilla. Held at the bookstore. Featuring readings by teachers and St. Mark Chorus. Looking for volunteers. St. Marks gets a percentage of the sale if you mention St. Mark the entire weekend and following week. There is a code in the Lion and bulletin. Patricia Roberts Rose is coordinating teacher readers- pending schedule.

 - Santa's Workshop Dec 9th and 10th. Chair- Vicki Wrisk. Looking for volunteers. Out of uniform pass available for that day. Craft club is meeting tonight 7:30.

- Pancake Breakfast Dec 10th starting at 7:30a. Chair- Debbie Pell. 1st grade singing at 9:30a. Need volunteers! Will need to replace coolers this year. \$6/person.
- Christmas Bazaar Dec 10th. Chair- Mary Scavilla. This year the bazaar is connected to pancake breakfast and will be held in the Coakley room. 16 vendors. Handmade jewelry, American Girl clothier, water color artist, "Scentsy", books, St. Benedicts parish crafts, polish pottery shop, Tastefully Simple, hair bows, Christmas crafts, and fresh greens.
- Lions Roar will return this year. Chair- Missy Cochran. Submission deadline 3/2/12.
- Kids Stuff Book fundraiser. Chair- Joe Dwyer. Coming home in Thursday pouch. Benefits Vianney.
- Next month's meeting will be a social- all teachers invited to the social. Refreshments needed.
- Father – daughter dance. Feb 10th 1st year event. Chair- Laura Kuhl.
- Mother –son bowling night. Feb 25th 1st year event. Chair- Laura Kuhl.
- Double Lunch ministry is tomorrow.
- Bartlinski Family Auction Friday night at Knights of Columbus.

St Mark in print recently

Baltimore Sun for article on the Monster Dash

Catonsville Times for article on Veterans Day