



*No one can do everything, but everyone can do something.*

## What's New at PTO?



Have you been to a PTO meeting lately? If not, there are a few exciting changes to the forum and we invite you to come and see for yourself!


First, we have babysitting for those parents who might need it. The children sit in the far side of the cafeteria, within view of the group, with upper-class student babysitters. Last spring, the PTO sponsored a babysitting certification course for the then 5<sup>th</sup> graders and this year they have been generous with their time and have agreed to babysit during PTO meetings. During this week's meeting, most of those same girls have a conflict with CYO basketball, so we have reached out to some 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders who agreed to step in for the meeting.

Next, we have our new principal, Mrs. Tierney. She brings a jam-packed message to the group – the first meeting, it was the results of the school survey and her plans to address concerns. Last meeting, she brought a concise and informative update from the school board and other operational news. We look forward to more of the same for this November meeting. The PTO officers are also forwarding any questions or comments they get directly to her so she can include specific feedback to the group on particular areas of concern. We are looking into establishing a link through the school website so you can get your questions on the table.

And finally, we have had many of our teachers attend both meetings so far this year. We are looking for ideas or suggestions on how to capitalize on all this involvement and cooperation that this new year is bringing. If you have suggestions, please talk with a PTO officer. They are listed on the school website and sit in the front of the group at the PTO meetings.

Parents who participate in school activities and events will have added opportunities to communicate with teachers. Becoming involved with PTO gives the teacher and parent the possibility to interact outside the classroom. And hopefully all of this adds up to a stronger, healthy and more successful school community.

## Did you know...

- Our school now has a presence on facebook.  Search for Mater Dolorosa Catholic School to find us and click "Like" to get the regular updates.
- The first achievement assembly was held last month and it was great. There was a short slide show with pictures of the students and staff since the beginning of the semester and a presentation of awards to several students. Keep alert for the next one – it was short, fun and had the kids cheering together with wonderful school spirit.

## PTO Mtg Agenda Wednesday, Nov. 9<sup>th</sup>, 6pm – 7pm



The agenda for the meeting is detailed below. As always, we strive to start and end on time. Refreshments will be served.

- 6:00 Call To Order  
Opening Prayer
- 6:05 Treasurer & Secretary Reports
- 6:10 Principal's Report/Comments  
General info & response to submitted questions  
Bingo, snow days make up plan, box tops  
Fr. Alex Comments
- 6:20 Parish Council & School Board Update  
2 way feedback – if general PTO group has questions for one of these forums, bring up here for liaison to present at future meetings.
- 6:30 Old Business:  
Toast to the Future Update – Doug Loughrey  
Vendor Fair Update – Dora Courchesne
- 6:40 New Business:  
On Deck Fundraisers/Activities (3-5 min ea.)  
Dinner w/ Santa  
Gingerbread Shoppe  
Contant Family Benefit update  
Disbursement Requests & Vote (5 min)  
Issues List  
If meeting runs early, start reviewing issues brought up during meeting. If not, put on next month's agenda.
- 7:00 Closing Prayer  
Meeting Adjourned

## More News

- Any interest? In our parent community, we have a contact who works with several physicians who study sleep habits and healthy lifestyles. They are offering to come and talk at our school about these issues if there is any interest. We could work it in to a future PTO meeting in January or February. Please talk with any of the officers if this is something you might have an interest in and if there is a positive response, we will work to make it happen.
- We've heard from reliable sources that the school is establishing a student council and we may hear from them at future PTO meetings! ☺



## Major Thanks and Kudos to the Vendor Fair Committee



The awesome, hardworking and lovely Vendor Fair Committee did another stellar job this year in organizing, planning, decorating and everything else! Thank you all for a job well done.

From left: (front row) Colleen Forest, Colleen Kucinski, Ellen Pecia, Beth Duggan, Dora Courchesne and (second row) Kara Mercier, Bethaney Healy, Bonnie Antil, Tammy Everett, Lisa Balicki and Karen Godbout (not pictured)

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### Tentative 2011 – 2012 Event and Meeting Dates w/ chairperson

*Note time change for PTO Meetings: 6pm – 7pm*

9/14	September PTO Meeting
10/12	October PTO Meeting
10/22	School: Toast to the Future Gala @ Open Square (Doug Lougrey)
11/5	PTO: Vendor Fair (Dora Courchesne)
11/9	November PTO Meeting
12/10	Dinner with Santa (Jennifer Skibel)
12/12 -12/15	Gingerbread Shoppe (Bonnie Brainard)
1/11	January PTO Meeting
2/8	February PTO Meeting
2/18 – 2/19	Parish/School: Winter Festival – PTO provides baked goods & operates Bake Sale Booth
3/14	March PTO Meeting
March-April	PTO: Cookie Doug Fundraiser (co-chair needed w/ Sharon Orr)
4/11	April PTO Meeting
May	Teacher Appreciation Luncheon (Kara Mercier)
5/9	May PTO Meeting
6/1	Field Day & School Barbecue (Jessica Powers / Tammy Everett)

There are various fundraisers throughout the year, some of which are specifically for the PTO treasury and others that are needed directly for the school operating and special needs budget. In the list above, the fundraisers have been identified as either PTO or School to differentiate the two.

*Mater Dolorosa School – where every child is special*