



Small deeds done are better than great deeds planned.

— Peter Marshall



A New Year – More Excitement

Happy New Year to all our MDS parents and families! We look forward to continuing this year of transition with more of the same enthusiasm and participation that the first part of this school year brought with it. If you haven't been around, come join us on Wednesday. If you have been seeing this excitement for yourself, keep coming – we love having you!

Joyful Thank You to All



Christmas cheer was heightened by several December activities including a few PTO sponsored events. Thank you to all those involved including Bonnie Brainard and her elves, who shopped, coordinated and then resold festive items in the Gingerbread Shop and to Jennifer Skibel and Laura Evans who coordinated and pulled off another great Dinner with Santa. Thank you to everyone who set-up, participated or cleaned up for these activities. We look forward to their reports and ideas for next year!

Winter Bazaar



The annual parish Winter Bazaar is coming up in February 18th and 19th. While this is led by the parish, we look to the school parents to help support and visit the event and to help the PTO with a Bake Sale Booth and volunteering at the Basket Booth. This event, along with the Summer Festival, are the 2 major fundraising to help the parish defray the cost of sponsoring parish children attending our school. This year, they look to raise about \$40,000 between the 2 events to meet the need of \$450 per parish sponsored student.

When is it and what can you do, you ask? When, let me tell you! Bake some tasty treats and have your children drop them off the Friday before winter break (Feb. 17th). In addition, a flyer will be sent home beforehand asking for help with accepting the bakes goods, setting up the booth and signing up to volunteer to work a shift that weekend.



A Facelift in the Making

In preparation for the upcoming new student open house, our principal, Mrs. Tierney, is coordinating another painting party to spruce up the second floor hallway. Please check your schedule and try to fit this in for this coming Saturday, January 14th. It's definitely more fun with more people and it will get done more quickly. Novice painters welcome. Some of us never painted but there were plenty of seasoned painters to give us tips and encouragement last summer when we did the first floor hall.



PTO Mtg Agenda Wednesday, January. 11^h, 6pm – 7pm

The agenda for the meeting is detailed below. As always, we strive to start and end on time. Babysitters will be available and 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
Extra Curricular Activities, Security, Grants
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:
Report on December Activities
Mid-mtg officer Approved donations
- 6:40 New Business:
On Deck Fundraisers or Activities (3-5 min ea.)
Winter Bazaar
Family Bingo?
Cookie Dough – Yes or No?
Disbursement Requests & Vote (5 min)
Bullying Curriculum
Next Year's Officers
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



This -n- That



- If you have any items you don't want or need anymore, the Tag Sale Committee would love to get them for the Winter Bazaar. Typically, there are drop off hours the week preceding the event. Keep an eye out for signs and a list of accepted items.
- Officer Down: recently, the PTO V.P. changed schools and is no longer able to serve in our group. If you are interested in getting involved, please let us know and get a behind the scenes look on how we operate. If it's too soon this year, keep us in mind for the next school term. Some of us are completing our 2nd term and are looking for some others to step in and lead us. Don't worry – we aren't going anywhere and you'll still get plenty of help.
- Do you have an idea for an afterschool event or activity? If you are willing to lead a group of kids on a craft, hobby or other kind of project, call the office. In the past, we have had craft projects where the kids made their own pillow or blanket, art projects and more. All we need is a willing parent leader and something to cover 4 – 6 weeks, 1 hour a week, and "TA DA!" we have an activity! Call the office with your great idea.

- Mater Dolorosa School is holding an Open House for prospective new students on Sunday, January 29th to kick off Catholic Schools Week. If you know someone who might be interested in sending their child to MD – refer a friend (and you could get a discount yourself)! Check with the office for details.
- The school is looking for a part time nurse, one day a week. If you or someone you know is interested – please call the office.
- Are you in the loop? There are several avenues for you to get your information on school events, updates and other news:
 - Connect Ed phone call –once a week for important info
 - Principal emails – as needed with overview info
 - Facebook – well, that's just for fun, to show the world and each other what's going on in real time here at MDS.



2011 – 2012 Event and Meeting Dates w/ chairperson

Note time 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 (Tammy Everett – shopping helper needed)



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.