

PTO Meeting
Wednesday, November 9, 2011
In attendance, Father Alex, 31 parents and 6 teachers

Agenda and Meeting Notes:

Opening prayer was given by Father Alex

Issues List

None to report

Secretary report from 10/12 meeting

Motion to accept by Bethaney Healy and Jennifer Skibel

Treasurer's report

Balance as of 10/12/11: \$3066.65

Deposits:

\$4913.88 received from vendor fair

\$70 received from dues

Payments: \$746.01

Current Balance: \$7304.52

Principal's report

Refer to Principal's PTO Report published separately on the PTO web page.

Father Alex comments

Father thanked people for all their hard work with the Toast to the Future Gala and Holiday Hoopla. A lot of work was involved in these activities. Father noted that everyone looked lovely at the Gala.

Reminder - Thanksgiving Day mass at 9am. Tradition is to bless loaves of bread. 400 loaves of bread will be blessed. Students from MD School and CCD program will be participating in this event. Very important for the parish to see MD School children as part of the Our Lady of the Cross community

Parish Council update

No meeting to date so no update to provide. Ed Godek hopes to have an update provide at PTO meeting in January.

School Board update from 11/8

Refer to report from School Board/PTO Liaison from Bethaney Healy published separately on PTO web page.

Specifically note the following important items.

~ Presence of children at Our Lady of the Cross masses is important and necessary. This is critical in order for us to reasonably expect the Parish to help pay the bills at Mater Dolorosa School. Families are encouraged to consider joining Our Lady of the Cross.

~ School Board is considering an incentive program for existing families who refer and successfully have a new student join the school. Approximately 73 students can be added to the existing enrollment without having to add teachers. The School Board is working on establishing caps for classroom sizes to ensure increased enrollment doesn't negatively impact class sizes.

Old Business:

Bingo – update provided by Father Alex

- ~ Executive team is being created (Ed Godek is participating in this) to fill Merrill's current position.
- ~ Ed Godek is available for approximately 40 weeks of the year however assistance is needed to backfill the weeks he isn't needed. Approximately 1-2 more people are needed for the remaining weeks from 4-10pm.
- ~ Assistance is also needed with the selling of the Bingo tickets from 4:30 – 6:30 and a few to also stay til 8:30. A notice will be going out soliciting volunteers.
- ~ Reminder - **Bingo is an important activity that helps reduce the cost of our children's tuition.**

Toast to the Future – Doug Loughrey provided an update on behalf of the Gala Committee

- ~ Event was very successful
- ~ Net profit of the event was \$13,255.
- ~ Specific breakdown of results include:
 - Ticket sales \$4883
 - Silent \$4167
 - Live \$4230
 - Balloon \$390
 - Donations \$2900
- ~ The committee has received a lot of positive feedback.
- ~ There were over 65 vendors, business or individuals who donated items that contributed to the auctions, giveaways and balloon purchases.
- ~ Positive Learnings – There was a target audience for the event & the time of year worked well.
- ~ Enhancements for next year's event – need to seek assistance from new committee members, solidify plans for ticket sales in advance, identify different venues for ticket sales, potentially identify a sponsor for the event, allot more time for marketing, and definitely seek out the mailing list for former students and solicit alumni donations

Vendor Fair –

- ~ The fair was very successful. Especially considering the elements the days prior to the event.
- ~ Received positive feedback from the vendors specifically acknowledging the fair's organization, marketing & publicity.
- ~ The fair raised roughly \$4800. This is down from last year however the economic environment and weather prior to were both a factor.

Boxtops –

- ~ \$566 collected from Boxtops.
- ~ Our Lady of the Cross does have a box for Boxtops.

New Business/On deck fundraisers/activities:

Dinner with Santa – update given by Jennifer Skibel

Date - December 10th after mass.

Same format, pizza, Santa, fun, smiles.

Flyer is going to go out after Thanksgiving.

Jessica Powers will look into whether "Santa" is Catholic.

Gingerbread Shoppe – update given by Bonnie Brainard

~ Date – 12/12 – 12/15

~ Similar to previous years.

~ Everything will be \$1.00.

~ Elves have been busy all year buying things.

~ Bonnie will put together flyer seeking volunteers. Looking for volunteers to set up the room, work the event and clean up.

Donation for Contant Family Benefit

Tickets are available at the school, the night of the event (Saturday 11/12 at 6pm). Donations are also being accepted (monetary or auction donations).

Various Parent Questions:

Q) Can members of the church also volunteer for Bingo?

A) Yes. Currently approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of the volunteers are affiliated with the church and some of those have no students at Mater Dolorosa School.

Q) How are volunteer hours being logged?

A) Chairperson should be signing forms. The hours are being logged in the office.

Q) How are families doing with making the hours? Will parents be provided an update soon on where we stand with hours and the availability of volunteer time?

A) Mrs. Tierney should be providing a status on February on where we are with hours.

Q) How many families have paid the 2011/2012 PTO dues?

A) 87 families out of approximately 170 have paid PTO dues. The PTO is a member organization (parents pay \$10 dues to become members).

Q) What time are PTO meetings going forward, the website indicates 6:30 – 7:30?

A) Meetings are held from 6-7pm. The website will be updated to reflect the correct time.

Meeting adjourned at 6:55

Respectfully submitted: Laura L Evans, PTO Secretary