

St Thomas Aquinas Grade School General PTO Meeting November 18, 2008- Minutes

Committee Meeting:

In Attendance: Jennifer Copeland, Susan Hoopes, Judy McCarville, Kim Bacic, Chi Sidner-Funk, Caren Bailey, Debbie Tofil, Kelly Fitzmaurice

Bookfair: Debbie Tofil and Kim Bacic

- West Valley View Advertising was a bust and for the next Bookfair will do more advertising in parish bulletins around our area.
- Debbie and Kim will focus more on our school and parish community and the surrounding area parishes and school for the next Bookfair.
- The Muffins with Mom and Doughnuts with Dad were big success days as well as Sunday morning masses
- Spaghetti Dinner night not as great as in the past so may try for another type of event for Spring Book Fair
- Total raised was double what we made in previous years, way to go Debbie, Wendy and Kim!
- In Spring looking at changing the hours for the fair
- Debbie will be putting a book together for future Bookfair chairs
- Knights of Columbus open to helping out in some way during Sunday Masses for Spring Bookfair

Authors Week: Judy McCarville-Chair

- Authors Week has been moved due to a scheduling conflict to February 9th through the 12th, Monday through Thursday.
- We have Mrs. B, Susan Lowe and Robert Kawasaki as our three almost confirmed authors. Each will do a morning and afternoon presentation for lower and upper grade levels. Mrs. B is scheduled for Wednesday and Robert Kawasaki for Thursday. Parents are welcome at all presentations.
- Monday Night will be Family Reading Night with Mrs. Rich
- Classes will be participating in bookmark contest, questions for the authors contest and perhaps a book creation contest.
- Judy is still in need of volunteers for her committee and a theme for the week!

Hospitality Committee: Rachel Shindler

- Rachel has taken a full time job so she needs help with this committee
- Dr. McDermott may take over responsibility of teacher lunches during Catholic Schools week due to accreditation team being here at the same time.

Scrip Committee: Deanna Hancock

- Scrip Sales are down
- Not many sales made at Christmas Bazaar

Honey Baked Ham Sale: Chi Sinder-Funk

- Christmas Sale kicked off at Christmas Bazaar on November 15th.
- Christmas Distribution will be on December 23rd so looking to end sale on December 15th this year.
- Pie sales are going really well
- Will be trying to sell at 7am masses as well though the cutoff date
- No pickup in St Clare Hall, pickup has moved to Media Center

Uniform Committee: Caren Bailey

- Dennis Fall Sale was a success and they took many preorders as well as orders at the sale itself.
- There is a ton of resale stock but not a lot of people trading right now.
- PE Uniforms and Fleece jackets are needed for resale.

Presidents Report: Jennifer Copeland

- This will be last year as President, Hopefully Marissa Bell will be taking over position next year
- However, Jen will be staying on in Executive Role
- Caren Bailey getting bylaws so PTO board can review terms
- PTO Donated \$5000 in Jog A Thon Funds for new computers!

GENERAL MEETING**Teachers Report:** Kim Rich

- All the teachers are very thankful for all the gifts from PTO!
- Preschool Report:
 - Food Drive ongoing for SVDP. The Children are bringing in items daily.
 - Funding was donated to replace our old writing center. The new one is greatly appreciated by all the children. Thank you!!
 - We attended a training last month with Mrs. Porell and the Catholic Arts Tradition. The children learned a lot from this presentation.
- Kinder Report:
 - Reading Stone Soup.
 - Will be seeing a play next Tuesday.
 - Science Fair with 8th Grade Buddies
 - Will be participating in Thanksgiving program
 - Continuing Cleaning Church for service
 - On Friday the Kinders have Art
 - Working on a Fairy Tale Unit currently focusing on Gingerbread men
- First Grade Report:
 - First Graders have completed three more Health Booklets for Science, one on the Human Body, One on the Food Pyramids and Food Groups, and one on Proper nutrition.
 - Reading is taking some major steps with more than half the class reading chapter books with good fluency and comprehension.
- Second Grade Report:

- Class created their Community Dramas and presented them to the class. They will be on display for parents and school.
- In Math the class is learning about creating different graphs.
- They will be learning about the Pony Express that delivered mail in the coming weeks.
- Fourth Grade Report:
 - Fourth Grade will be taking a field trip to a Play in December.
 - Currently Reading “Tales of a 4th Grade Nothing”.
 - The Fourth Graders are also doing extremely well with Accelerated Reader Program!
- Sixth Grade Report
 - Working on Egyptian unit
 - Doing Essays in lit and working on critical analysis.
 - The Xavier Food Bank Experience was awesome.
 - Will be taking a big trip in January to Tucson.

Presentation By Mrs. Pierski: Scholastic Reading Inventory and Scholastic Reading Counts

- How does the program work?
 - Students take Inventory via computer
 - Diagnostic feedback of independent reading level
 - Set reading goals based on Lexile level (reading medication)
 - Students read books in range and take computerized comprehension test.
- Why, Mrs. Pierski, why?
 - Differentiate in the classroom
 - Improve reading comprehension
 - Teacher and student instant feedback
 - Parent feedback-reports sent home
 - Research shows that this program improves standardized test scores
 - Public/catholic Schools throughout the nation use this program and excel in reading
 - No reading scams
- My child is a reluctant reader and I am losing my mind?
 - Be positive with your child about the program! They will feed off your negative attitude.
 - Over 40,000 quizzes have been installed
 - Make it fun by going to the public library or bookstore together
 - Reward your child for passing quizzes with special time with you.
 - Tough Love! Pass or Fail!
 - Be patient- our goals for the students are minimal this year. This will change from number of books to points next year.
- Presented a trial of computer program to demonstrate what children actually have to do with each book read.

- Handout given based on what each parent will receive to see how his or her children are doing with program.
- Second grade will be starting soon and then all students from 2nd to 9th grade will be participating.
- School has read 10,000,000 words this year!

OPEN FORUM:

Annual Appeal: 26,000 over goal. Last year over 40,000. Committee would like to see 100% participation. Each child whose family participates will receive a medal.

Book fair raised \$8700!

Parish Ball will be held Saturday back at the Wigwam. Ticket sales up from last year with 250 sold so far.