

# St Thomas Aquinas Grade School General PTO Meeting

## September 9, 2009-Minutes

### Opening Prayer For Committe Meeting

Dear Lord,

We gather this evening trusting in your presence. As we begin the journey of a new school year please be our constant companion reminding us often that you are with us. Be our strength as we come together as new leaders. Show us your light as we hope to show others our light. May you guide us in your infinite wisdom as we make decisions for the students of this wonderful school. Send Your Holy Spirit to preside over this meeting, and help us to work together for Your honor and glory and for the good of STAGS. Inspire us to listen with attention and patience to each other, to share with courage and generosity, and to welcome the ideas of all. May this meeting of ours strengthen our friendship, build our community and increase our confidence in ourselves and our school.

We ask for this and for all the prayers left unsaid. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

### Commitee Meetings:

In Attendance: Marissa Bell, Kelly Fitzmaurice, Chi Sidner-Funk, Elsa Robinson, Karin Carnazzo, Jennifer Copeland, Susan Hoopes, Mary Haggerty

### Bookfair: Karin Carnazzo-Chair

- Karin's biggest concern is no help only one volunteer to date.
- Theme of this years bookfair will be, "Destination Around the World"
- Karin would like to send a stuffed bear to travel from class to class. Each class will pick a country, do some research to then present at morning prayer to share what they learned with the rest of the school. Dr. McDermott, already gave OK.
- Karin will have a map at the bookfair where students can put a pin in the country of their families orgin.
- Karin would also like to have all the students make a post card of a country of choice to be hung in the media center during the bookfair.
- Becky Johnson has generously agreed to donate the cookies for the bookfair, as well as pizza for the winning class.
- Donuts for Dad will be October 9th and Muffins with Mom October 12th.

- Karin is in need of a person to do the accounting for the bookfair. Will put in school newsletter looking for volunteers as well as church bulletin. Families that signed up at circulum night not responding to emails.
- Bookfair hours this year have changed, Saturdays have been eliminated.

### **Scrip:** Elsa Robinson-Co Chair

- Scrip team will put together a survey and send home to families to determine if there are vendors that should be stocked on a weekly basis.
- Gail in office on vacation so fry's gift cards will not be in until 9/25.
- A portion of the Honeybaked Ham script will be given to Honeybaked Ham committee to sell at table along with the order forms for hams. Should increase sales:)

### **Authors Week:** Jennifer Copeland & Judy McCarville

- Will be held during Catholic Schools Week
- May need to change name as now only 2 day event.
- The Author's week budget has been cut to \$1000 any left over funds will carry-over to next years event.

### **Spaghetti Dinner:**

- Marissa will check with Rachel to see if she would be able to make the sauce.

## **General Meeting**

### **Opening Prayer: Kelly Fitzmaurice**

Thank you Lord for all the wonderful parents, teachers and staff who have come together this evening to ensure this will be a wonderful year for the students of STAGS. Lord Jesus, you are with us as we begin our year's work. Help us to understand our importance in educating our children. Please bless our especially the teachers who are our partners in teaching our children. Guide us in our decisions, and open our hearts in friendship to each other. May we welcome, all families old and new so that they may see the sense of community within STAGS and always

feel welcome here.

And may this meeting of ours result in many benefits for the children on whose behalf we gather. We ask all this in your name.

Amen

### **"How to do Math Homework With Your Child" -Maria Herrera- Bill**

#### **6th, 7th, 8th Grade Musical Performances-Amy Burns**

- 6<sup>th</sup> grade – Eye of the Tiger, I'm a Believer
- 7<sup>th</sup> grade – Twist and Shout
- 8<sup>th</sup> grade – Don't Worry, Be Happy
- All grades: I Could Sing of Your Love Forever, Rain Down, Just Like You

#### **Teachers Report: Kim Rich**

- Thank you from all teachers for the wonderful gift bags, the beginning of the school year luncheon, new recess equipment, and classroom money!

#### **Preschool Report:**

- Planted in the garden beans, marigolds, and sunflowers.
- Dug for earthworms and snails and studied them.
- Developmental assessments will begin week of 9/14.
- A baby chick will be visiting the class soon!

#### **Kinder Report:**

- Began Charlotte's Web unit focusing on characters, setting and making predictions.
- Will be attending play, (Charlotte's Web) in October.
- Studying living things in Science.
- Planning underway for the Family Math Night- tentative date October 7th. Communication with families to begin soon!

#### **First Grade Report:**

- Completed Chapter 1 in Math book (12 chapters in all).
- 3 ability groups in reading- the good news, all students are reading!

- Science book was completed on the five senses. This was a classroom project with no help from the teacher.
- Parents are welcome to join meditation weekly at 8am in the 1st grade classroom.

### **Second Grade Report:**

- Learning about the mysteries and how to say the rosary. They are planning to say a rosary every day during the month of October in honor of our Blessed Mother.

### **Third Grade Report:**

- Proud of the SRC progress, excited to see the ITBS results this year.

### **Fourth Grade Report:**

- Creating a "creation wheel" to share with Pre-K buddies whom they will be meeting for the first time next week.
- Student Council will announce classroom representatives this week.
- Exciting community service projects planned.
- Looking forward to the "Welcome Back" dance!

### **Sixth Grade Report:**

- Lots of time is being spent learning to take notes using The Cornell method.

### **Eighth Grade Report:**

- Excited about the new social studies text books!
- Algebra and religion are going well.

### **Closing Prayer**

Thank you Lord, for allowing us to come together this evening. We thank you again for all the parents and teachers gathered here tonight and we ask that you bless us all as we go forward in making the 2009-2010 school year one of the best yet. Remind us often that you are with us...Keep us mindful of your presence...Be our strength; grant us guidance as we continue on our journey of a new school year, help us often to remember that truly your power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. In Jesus Name we pray, Amen.

