

St. Mary's School

P.A.C. Minutes

2-19-09

Mrs. Whelan opened the meeting with a prayer at 7:00 p.m.

The last few weeks have been busy at the school with various issues arising. The recent loss of Mr. Whitford, father of two of our students, hit many very hard. He was very involved in the wrestling program. Fr. Jeff made himself available to the students who needed to talk about the situation and gave comfort to those involved. This past week, the Athletic Commission held make-up games that were missed due to Mr. Whitford's funeral. The proceeds from these games were donated to the Whitford Children's Education Fund. Thank you to all who attended.

Catholic Schools Week always is an exciting time, beginning with the Open House. The Open House brought many new families to visit St. Mary's School. This year we combined our resources with our cluster parishes and sent out a postcard to the neighboring communities advertising the date of our Open Houses. Combining our efforts with these parishes cut the cost of the mailing by two thirds. The Science Fair was a great experience for our 6th and 7th grade students again this year. The judges commented on how well our students presented their projects and many judges said they would enjoy returning next year. Our breakfast with parents was well attended the first morning, but due to a snow day, the second morning was canceled. It was not re-scheduled because of the logistics of working it into the schedule. The Preschool Art Show and Concert also had to be canceled due to the snow but was re-scheduled for the following week. The Preschool raised several hundred dollars through this event to be donated to the Ronald McDonald House Charities. The Ice Cream Social was a fun event enjoyed by all who attended. The students were able to participate in a scavenger hunt that Mrs. Whelan created with the help of students Seamus and Sonia Whitford. Friday of Catholic Schools Week was Mission Day. The students worked on projects throughout the day that focused on the Stewardship Program. Also throughout the day, students were entertained and enlightened by Beacon Streets' Bob Kloos.

The Drama Program is well underway with their rehearsals for their production of Honk! to be performed during the first weekend of May.

The 8th grade students have all received their acceptance letters for high school. They were all accepted to their first choice school.

Tuition costs for next year have been slightly increased, but Mrs. Whelan wanted all to know that great effort is made to keep the cost to parents down. Our per pupil education cost is roughly half that of the public school system.

Several cases of lice had been found in a few of the students in recent months, but are now under control with no known cases in the school at the present time. The school follows P.S.I.'s policies for all health issues. Students who had been diagnosed with lice

were sent home and their parents informed on treatment procedures. Even at its worst here, it affected only a very small percentage of students. The class of any student diagnosed with lice was checked, siblings of those students were checked, and their classmates were checked. Upon returning to school after receiving treatment for lice, the student was checked each morning in the clinic prior to entering the classroom.

The 5th grade held a bake sale and purchased recycle baskets with the proceeds. The baskets have been distributed throughout the school and paper will be collected for recycling. There is a recycling basket located in the gym for beverage containers.

Conferences were held by the request of a parent or teacher in February. All went smoothly.

The Winter Concert for Kindergarten through Grade 2 was awesome. The students gave a wonderful performance. There have been suggestions that perhaps we borrow the use of the facilities in our cluster schools for various programs, but the inconvenience of not having a place to practice is a concern. The gym was full but not overcrowded.

Mrs. Whelan is now working on the calendar for the 2009-2010 school year.

PRIDE: The Family Bowling event was well attended with all the lanes at Fairview Bowling being sold out to our families. Family Movie Nights were fun evenings as well with over 100 attending each night. Information about the Fashion Show will be coming soon.

Old Business: In response to a question from the last P.A.C. meeting, Mrs. Whelan informed the group that immunizations are required by state law, unless a parent signs an exemption form.

New Business:

Q: Since the school has doubled in size, is there any thought to hiring an Assistant Principal?

A: No discussion at this time. Mrs. Ziegler was brought on to help with accreditation, and is a wonderful person for the students to talk with. The front office does a great job keeping things running smoothly.

Q: If you attend one of the cluster parishes and drop your donation envelope in their basket, does it get back to your home parish?

A: Yes, they send the envelopes to the home parish.

Q: Are the Friday Folders distributed according to grade level or is all information sent home to all the students?

A: Most information, if grade specific, is sent only to the appropriate grade level. General information is sent home to all families.

NEXT P.A.C. MEETING DATE HAS BEEN CHANGED TO MARCH 26, 2009, AT 7:00 P.M.

In attendance: Mary Whelan, Mary Beth Hennessy, Sandi Ziegler, Debbie Barendt, Julie Baker, Daniel Brass, Sharon Davenport, Daniela Gaidos, Laurine Gajkowski, Sharon Hayes, Dolly Hritz,

Tracy Justice, Joan Petrak, Laura Rini, Nancy Smith, Karen Stenger, Chris Julian