

St. Mary's PTO October 10, 2023 General Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 10, 2023 at 6:33 p.m. virtual meeting

Meeting called to order by President Tara Testo at 6:30 p.m. Virtual Meeting

Attendance: Tara Testo (president), Hilarie Patrizio (VP), Danielle Dixon (co-secretary), Brittany Abromaitis (co-secretary), Gabriella Preston (co-treasurer), Elisabeth Hildebrandt (co-treasurer), Michelle Goss, Ashley Boyce, Jennifer Coombs,

Officers' Reports

(Tara Testo, summary of events and plans for this year; Hilarie Patrizio, summary of plans for monster mash)

President: given by Tara Testo

- The next PTO meeting date is November 14th.
- PTO welcome folder feedback has been great. People felt they were a great introduction. We plan to get the folders out earlier next year.
- Currently the PTO is paying for signup genius. We are actively working with Kiki Wagner for a better solution for signups and monetary collections. Plan to speak to St. Mary's School Board to see if they would take on paying for signup genius in the meantime and the whole school could use it.
- The cost of the Snow Cones event was \$93.45.
- The total cost of the Boohoo breakfast was \$206.02

Vice President: given by Hilarie Patrizio

- Currently we have 90 attendees for monster mash.
- We have three games.
- DJ Jelly will be playing music.
- Miss Koala has agreed to offer face painting. We need to check and see if she has supplies or if we need to supply them. The plan is to use hypoallergenic face paint.
- We currently have donations from Stewarts and lakeside farms for donuts and cider. We are waiting to hear from Hannaford.
- We have a couple of St. Mary's Alums who attend Spa Catholic who have volunteered to help.
- We will be offering Halloween fruit snacks as an allergy alternative. Volunteers handing out donuts will not be giving donuts to kids unless they have an adult with them.

Planned Events

(Tara Testo, date and summary of planned events)

Parent/Teacher Conferences December 1st:

- Plan to provide luncheon for teachers.
- Deciding between meat platters for sandwiches or having teachers place order for sandwiches.
- Signup Genius for volunteers.

Thanksgiving Feast November 20th: chaired by Tara Testo and Hilarie Patrizio

- We are hoping to bring this annual event back to all its original glory! We have a volunteer (Steve Zlotnick) who is a retired fire fighter and has three children who have all gone through St. Mary's School who has graciously planned to cook our whole school a thanksgiving feast.
- The food will all be prepared at the fire house to prevent any cross contamination for allergies. Students will be given tags to wear with what they can eat. Food labels will be sent out for all of the food well ahead of the event. Parents are welcome to send their children with their regular packed school lunch.
- We will need a lot of volunteers this day for set up, helping the children make their plates and monitoring the children. The plan is to give the teachers their own uninterrupted feast while parent volunteers help the children. Signup Genius to come!

Ballston Spa Holiday Parade December 1st:

- St. Mary's will have a float in the parade! All are welcome to ride on the float. Students riding on the float will need to be accompanied by a parent and have a signed waiver. The younger kids (preK and K) will ride on the float while the older kids will walk.
- There will also be viewing room in front of the school and church.

Christmas Cards for the Elderly December 5th:

- We are very excited to have our students participate in this community service event where we get together and decorate cards to give to homebound parishioners!
- We are trying to coordinate a big space for this event- possibly Mrs. Phillips Classroom.
- We will need to determine if we are going to drop off cards or deliver them in person. If delivering in person we will need to determine the visitor guidelines for cold and flu season.

Parish Appreciation in January:

- We plan to have our students hand out chocolate to our wonderful and supportive parishioners. Date and signup genius to come!

Big Heart Mini Gala February 9th: chaired by Danielle Dixon

- More to come!

Family Game Night March 1st: Chaired by Gabby Preston

- Bring your own board game or BINGO
- Ideas welcome!

Teacher Appreciation:

- Last year we were very successful in raising money to shower our teachers with appreciation every day of the week.
- September we handed out Rollos.
- October we handed out apples and caramel.
- Hilarie will be taking care of November and Tara will have Decembers teacher appreciation gifts but we are looking for volunteers for future months.
- January: Clean slate & Clean Hands- Gabriella Preston

- March: 100 grand bars and lottery tickets- Jen Coombs
- April: Mini Easter baskets-Brittany Abromaitis
- May-Teacher appreciation week: Coffee bar and muffins, David and Danielle Dixon will provide a luncheon, Massage chairs, possible tote bag gift.
- June: Easy Peasy Lemon Squeezy- Tee shirts, lemonade and favorite snack.
- End of the year: Water bar with fruits, electrolytes and crystallites.

Field Day in June:

- Last year we were able to provide each student and teacher with a field day shirt. The whole school is split into teams by color. The students were given their shirt with their color and the teachers were given tie-dye rainbow shirts. This was very successful and we plan to do this again!

New Business:

(Merchandise update from Ashley Boyce)

- We are waiting on our Puravida bracelets to be sold as a fundraiser.
- We are in the works of ordering St. Mary's Merchandise to be sold at events and possibly online. Ashley Boyce has been working with Northwind graphics (Thank you Ashley!) Once merchandise is available we will be looking for volunteers to run an apparel merchandise table at events.

Old Business:

Snow Cones with Deputy Josh: (Total Cost: \$93.45) This event was a huge success with many families coming.

Thank-you to Miss B for donating the snow cone making machine and carnival games! We were also thrilled to welcome back recently graduated St. Mary's students as volunteers for the event.

"Boohoo" Breakfast: (total cost: \$206.02) This event was held for parents of kindergarteners on the first day of school right after drop off. This was also a successful event. Suggestions for next year: opening the event up to more parents, utilizing name tags with student's grade and teacher to help make connections, and bringing in already made coffee.

Next meeting is November 14th at 6:30 p.m. and will be held virtually

Motion to close 7:34p.m.

Minutes compiled by Brittany Abromaitis, Recording Secretary