

St. Mary's PTO September 12th, 2023 General Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, Sept 12th, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. in the school library

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

Attendance: Tara Testo (president), Hilarie Patrizio (VP), Danielle Dixon (co-secretary), Brittany Abromaitis (co-secretary), Gabriella Preston (treasurer), Father Vivacqua, Principal Hills, Jen DeSantis, Christine Osgood, Julie Briscoe, Carrie Yund, Kimberlee Marshall, Ashley Boyce, Alexis Feldbusch, Kris Lagace, Jeremiah Lagace, Jeff Daszewski, Diana Daszewski

Officers' Reports

(Tara Testo, role of the PTO, past events, plans for volunteers)

President: given by Tara Testo

- Introductions
- PTO Meetings to be held the second Tuesday of every month. This year we plan to use a virtual bulletin board and send out newsletter updates.
- The PTO is starting with \$2083.40 raised from the previous year. We are looking into online banking and securing a venom account
- The PTO has already held 2 events this year: for August Snow Cones with Deputy Josh and for September the "Boohoo" breakfast.
- The PTO will be looking for volunteers throughout the year at our many planned events. We plan to utilize signup genius.
- There will be a PTO table at back to school night and handing out packets with dates of school events.
- Our school has a wonderful uniform closet. The closet is intended for families to donate uniforms that are no longer in use but are in good shape to pass along to other families. There is a \$5 donation suggestion when taking clothes but it is not necessary. Our goal is for all children to have comfortable fitting clothes. Thank-you to Mrs. Testo and Mrs. Dixon for spending their time organizing the closet this summer! We will be looking for more volunteers to train to help with the uniform closet.

Vice President: given by Hilarie Patrizio

- We are planning to have a new fundraiser up and running this year. The plan is to have framed professional pictures (mixtiles) posted throughout the school of current students. Families will be able to sponsor a mixtile of their student for a fee.

Planned Events

(Tara Testo, date and summary of planned events)

Monster Mash October 27th: chaired by Hilarie Patrizio and Brittany Abromaitis

- DJ Jelly was very popular last year so we are working on securing her for the event.
- Face painting was also very popular. Miss Koala volunteered last year (thank you!). We are working on securing a volunteer for this year.
- We have decided to replace trick or treating with another event this year in order to contain the event to the gym/cafeteria. It was suggested that we could ask each grade to sponsor a

table in the gym with a theme and a game and the potential for kids to earn prizes. The kids could decorate bags again to collect their prizes in.

- Cider and donuts were donated last year by Ellms Family farm. We are very appreciative of Ellms for taking such good care of us during our yearly field trip to the farm that it was suggested to look to other businesses for donations this year.

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. 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.
- 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.

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!

Catholic Schools Week January 29th-February 2nd:

- Stay tuned for more details to come about this annual event. We will have themed days, a teacher luncheon and fun and engaging events for the kids.

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

- Our Big Heart Gala, held annually at Saratoga National, was the most successful it has ever been last year raising \$106,000 for our school (Big Thank you to our Gala Committee for putting together such a wonderful and successful event).
- The idea for this event was inspired by our children who find the Big Gala so exciting but are disappointed they do not get to attend. This is a chance for them to have their own Gala.
- Since the event will be held around Valentine's Day, the idea is that the students can bring a special "sweetheart" (family member) for a night of dining (on pizza), dancing, and a photo booth. This will be a red carpet event with paparazzi.

Family Game Night March 1st: Chaired by Gabby Preston

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

Teacher Appreciation Week May 6th-10th:

- Last year we were very successful in raising money to shower our teachers with appreciation every day of the week.
- This year we would like to change things up a bit and spread the love to our teachers throughout the whole year in addition to appreciation week. We plan to pick a day each month to plan something special for our teachers who we appreciate so much!

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!

Father's Report: given by Father Vivacqua

- We are very excited to have our School Resource Officer here this year. He will be at the school every school day and at every school event.
- We are also very excited to welcome our new Principal Mr. Hills!
- We have been able to replace all of the floors in the preK rooms from carpet to tile as well as purchase new area rugs for the rooms. The goal is to replace the floors in all of our rooms.
- Principal Hills will be overseeing the kitchen remodel with the goal of having Hot lunch at the school five days a week.
- We would like to thank our parishioners for all of their support!

Old Business

Snow Cones with Deputy Josh: 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: 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 October 10th at 6:30 p.m. and will be held virtually

Motion to close.

Minutes compiled by Danielle Dixon and Brittany Abromaitis, Recording Secretaries