

Minutes: St Joan of Arc Parent-Teacher Organization Meeting

Date: Sept. 21st, 2017

Time: 6:30pm - 8:30pm

Attendees:

- Principal: Sister Eileen
- PTO President: Kristen Mortelliti
- Past PTO President: Andrea Bentz
- President-Elect: Tara Pennypacker/Homeroom Parent Coordinator
- Recording Secretary: Nada Walton
- Don Gidusko: Treasurer
- Marisol Willi: Corresponding Secretary
- Joanna Sheehan: Webmaster/Social Media
- Tara Carl: Teacher Representative
- Other Attendees: Laura Otto, Jessica Purcell, Vanessa Elliott, Bridget Brickley, Bethany Bauer, Irene Reedy, Stacey Kosters, Lisa Perrotti, Margarita Marengo, Shelly Silber, Deb Rizzotto, Kim Roche, Christine Stickler, Jen Morris, Maria Angelo, Jess Boyer

Agenda Items

- Childcare
- School Fundraisers
- PTO Fundraisers: Spaghetti dinner, Christmas Shoppe, Breakfast with St. Nick
- 90th birthday celebration
- PTO treasurer's report
- Homeroom Parents
- Assemblies
- Halloween parade
- Cocoa packs
- Teachers Report

Action Items:

- Deb Rizzotto: She has a gala project to give to homeroom parents. Homeroom parents need to start thinking about baskets for the spaghetti dinner too.
- Tara Penypacker will email homeroom parents to choose basket themes. It will be done on first come first served basis.
- Maria needs parent volunteers on M-TU and TH for the AG truck.
- Parade: we need candy before parade day. The budget is \$50 for candy. Parents will be asked to donate candy.

Other Notes:

- Sister Eileen: Parents weren't able to find childcare in August so the school held summer camp sessions for four weeks.
- Deb went over all the school fundraisers for the upcoming school year.
- Oct 8th is the 90th birthday celebration for SJA school. Free for kids under 4, 15\$ for buffet lunch.
- Don: Beginning balance is \$3000. We got \$200 for DFD from Sorrento's and \$124 from Subway.
- Margarita: There is \$9000 in the PTO account but we are only allowed to have \$3000. We must put the rest into a savings account and the school will then buy what is needed.
- Homeroom parents: All positions for all classes are full but Mrs Rochi needs 1 more parent for her class.
- Andre Bentz: Are we asking for classroom funds?
- Tara Carl: It depends on each class's needs. Some classes need more money and some need less. We are leaving it up to each class to decide individually.
- Tara Pennypacker: Class funds will be done according to each event and the homeroom parent will ask the other parents for donations.
- Some teachers don't want class funds.
- Margarita Morengo mentioned that she was not receiving homeroom parent emails.
- Deb Rizzotto: No alcohol could be placed in spaghetti dinner baskets.
- Maria Angelo: Nov 6-7-9 is the visit from the PA Department of Agriculture. They will come to school with a truck and all students KG through 8th grade will go. Maria is trying to get Pre-K to go as well.
- The cost is \$500/day but because it is our first year, we got a \$1000 scholarship so it is only costing the school \$500.
- Maria is working on getting authors, she also mentioned that Phoenix Contact does engineering assemblies and will do one for SJA.
- Science explorers also want to do an assembly for the school.
- Maria asked for ideas for free or low cost assemblies.
- Kristen Mortelitti: The second Sunday social is a parish event but SJA school was responsible for the second Sunday in September. This event made \$75 for the parish.
- Andrea Bentz: Back to school night should be started earlier.
- Tara Carl is our teacher representative. She will go to staff meetings and bring info from faculty meetings to the PTO.
- Lynn Brooks (not in attendance) wants battery operated lights for the wagon, glow sticks to hand to the SJA kids, and decorations. She also asked for \$50 to \$100 for these things.
- It is better to buy battery operated because they can be reused.
- The trailer belongs to the DiSylvester family and the castle is from the rectory.
- The committee voted to give \$50 for needed items, but to ask for décor to be lent or donated.
- Tara Pennypacker: We have 43 spaces in the back parking lot for "trunk or treat". Parents can sign up online. This year we will not invite parish kids since it is the first year. Trunk or treat will only be open to SJA school kids and will be held Oct 20th from 6:30 to 8:30.
- Breakfast with St Nick. Andrea will check if Fr. Al will dress up. The budget for this event is \$850.

- The skating party is during Catholic Schools week. It is a free event for the SJA students but will cost the PTO \$150. It is a private event so we will have the entire place to ourselves.
- Laura Otto: We will have food in the cafeteria, presentation in the gym, middle schoolers will be involved, and we will have timed visits at each table.
- Easter egg hunt will be held in back of the school. Eggs stuffed with candy will be provided.
- Easter bunny costume needs to be replaced. \$100 budgeted for purchasing a new costume.
- We will ask for candy donations. We still need a contact from the Hershey Company to give us candy canes and Hershey kisses.
- As in past years, parents will take home the eggs to fill them with candy.
- Tara Carl will co-chair the Easter egg hunt with Bethany Bauer.
- Pastries with parents: setup will be the night before.
- Teacher appreciation week: Heather Tressler and Laura Otto will co-chair
- PTO is always looking for new ideas. Daddy daughter dance, mother daughter tea party, father son indoor golf, gingerbread house day.
- Dinner for daughters: supports the Daughters of Mercy. The sisters prefer mild dishes, no mushrooms, no iceberg lettuce; all info for dinner for daughters is on the PTO website already.
- Dinner for dollars: Subway is already scheduled for the year, Sorento's was already scheduled, Dafno's is next, Devon Stuart has tentative dates for other DFD nights. Fudruckers believes a fall night would be better attended because of the weather. Devon looking into the Pantry Café.
- Every Friday some kids pick up food from Cocoa Perks. The kids get food if they need it.
- Some questions we had are: where does funding come from, is it through the district (someone said it was not), how can we help, could we do a SJA PTO packing day, can we show up with our own donations?