

St. Mary on the Hill School

PTO Minutes September 15, 2009

Opening prayer: Pat Fair

Introduction of new officers and welcome: Pat Fair

Principal's Report:

Welcome – school year off to good start. Expect information in the coming weeks about the PTO Carnival which will be held October 10th, please plan to attend. October 25th is Priesthood Sunday. The school will be participating in activities to honor our priests. Brennan Simkins is doing well, and is at home with his family. Please continue to keep Brennan and his family in your prayers. Please keep in your prayers the Mims family – Larry Mims, grandfather to Allie Mathis passed away. Introduction of teachers, Mrs. Crow maintains the aquarium in the Primary dept. which has developed a small leak. If anyone has experience or “know how” with aquariums your help would be greatly appreciated. Terry Wick has done good work in his new position of cafeteria manager and we have had good feedback. Edline is up and running and your student's Progress Reports are on there. If you need help accessing it, please contact Mrs. Debra Ryan. St. Mary's School is accredited by the Florida Catholic Conference, FCC and Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, SACS. This enables 8th graders to receive high school credit for appropriate classes taken at St. Mary's. The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools will be reviewing all aspects of school and Mr. Darr will keep us posted. Our school meets a high standard both for its academics and its physical plant. The SACS team will visit our school in November of 2010.

- Before closing his remarks Mr. Darr made these points:

Are we an authentically Catholic school? Yes, our students are involved in the sacraments, liturgy, and attend mass every week. Are we academically excellent? Yes, our students have shown significant improvement each year on Terra Nova testing scores. Are we community supported? We have many volunteers such as parents and others who volunteer in our school to help make St. Mary's successful. Are we economically sound? Yes, our budget was balanced last year, and it is our belief that Catholic schools are for everyone.

Mr. Darr introduced Mr. McBride

Mr. McBride gave an overview of the Grace Scholars of Georgia program and how it works. All money that is donated and not used stays in the diocese of Savannah for Catholic education. Any student that comes from a Georgia public school can apply for a scholarship from the Grace Scholars program.

Title 1 – Any qualifying Richmond County student can participate.

Treasurer's Report: Kim Welsh – there is a current balance of approximately \$14,000 in PTO savings and checking accounts combined.

Carnival Update: Pat Fair

Carnival is October 10th. It is the largest fundraiser for the PTO. Expect letters to come home with your students from their class coordinators regarding the raffle, silent auction, and ways that each family can

help. Wrist bands will again be sold for \$20 each with a family maximum of \$60. 8th graders can earn service hours by volunteering at the carnival. Some homeroom's still need carnival coordinators. Please send in your family donation of \$5 for the gift baskets.

Earning for Learning update: Michelle Ciamillo - There are still some Publix grocery cards available. We earned the most from these last year. Also please continue to utilize the Yellow Brick Mall, Box tops, Target store card. Other stores now participating are Lands End and French Toast, and Dairy Queen on Central Ave. will donate a percentage of their sales from 3-4pm to the school. Michelle will follow up to see if Kroger is still participating.

There is a contest for the most box tops (please check the expiration dates on them). Send in 10 box tops per bag with your student. There will be a drawing each quarter beginning in November for the student that brings in the most.

Sports report: Mrs. Shine - Over 70 students involved in St. Mary's athletic program this year. Soccer has 19 players coached by Keith Craw and John Nechtman. Volleyball A- team coach Terry McInerny 1-2. B- team coach Sara O' Neal 2-1. Cross Country has 36 runners this year-coach Greg Cooper. Please remember to continue to donate your empty printer cartridges, there is a box in the school lobby. This is a fundraiser for the sports program and last year raised \$200-\$300.

SAC update: Lisa Whatley – Next SAC meeting will be in November. There was not one held in September due to the lack of agenda items. SAC meetings are always held the Tuesday before the PTO meeting.

Booster Club meeting will be rescheduled please check your email in the coming weeks for date and time.

Bookfair update: Dianne Kohler & Debbie Mitchell - drawings for bookfair certificates were awarded to: Melissa Goretskie, Nancy Torchia and Shelly Allen.

School Store: - Renee McCabe - announced the winner for this year's school t-shirt contest is Alexis Wagner. The ½ zip fleeces are no longer available only the full zipper. A shipment of orders is expected by the end of this week.

Christian Service Awards: - Mr. Darr - Presented to Timothy Novajosky for being a hard worker, very positive attitude, always cheerful and excited to learn. Sol Swenson for always being willing to perform chores without being asked, responsible, and setting an example of what it means to walk in the footsteps of Christ. Kate Monahan for kindness and willingness to help others, especially helping new students find their way. Mrs. Kathleen Wilkinson for going above and beyond her duties, reaching out to all, following the golden rule, using free period to help other teachers.

Attendance banners: KA – Wilkinson, 3A – Doss, 4B – Serji, 7B – Watwood.

Closing prayer – Pat Fair

Respectfully Submitted

Catherine Bedenbaugh