

Our Lady of Grace Catholic School
Parent School Organization
Meeting Minutes of December 15, 2009
9:30 a.m. – School Library

Board Members Present: Mia Liebl, Patty Boo-Pryor, Sheila Folkestad, Jeanne Gathje, Amy Clancy, Amy Garrity, Lori Ziembra Massaroni, Jamie Pohl, Stevie Sislo, Jen Williams, Elizabeth Gorman, Lara Howell, Betsy Violante, Maureen Trenary

Mia Liebl called the meeting to order. Opening prayer was led by Betsy Violante.

Secretary's Report: Jeanne Gathje

The minutes for the November 10, 2009 meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Sheila Folkestad

Sheila had copies of the PSO Budget and Cash Position Statement as of November 30, 2009 for all to see. Profits from the Gift Wrap fund raiser were down a bit this year from in past years. We took in \$13,059.10 and had to pay \$6,389.36 in expenses. This results in a profit of \$6,669.74 which will benefit our school. A check for \$293 was given to the food shelf at the Basilica. This money was extra money that was collected during the Thanksgiving Basket food drive. The Sports fees collected at registration time for fall sports have been paid to the parish for operating the sports programs at OLG. A check for \$10,500 was given to Mary Jo Copeland and Sharing & Caring Hands. This money was raised through the Santa's Secret Shop event. Details of the actual amount of money taken in and the expenses paid for Santa's Secret Shop will be reported in next month's meeting minutes after the December PSO Budget numbers are finalized.

Someone asked a question about the use of the money given to our school by the Target Connection. The funds from Target Connection go directly to the school. They do not come to the PSO. This year's funds were used to purchase the Blue Ribbon T-shirts for the kids.

Money from Box Tops for Education will be coming soon. The school should get a check for about \$500 so far.

Principal's Report: Maureen Trenary

Mrs. Trenary reported that Mary Jo Copeland from Sharing & Caring Hands met with OLG Peer Ministry students that morning. After talking with the students, she was presented with the check from the Santa's Secret Shop fundraiser. The check was for \$10,500. Mary Jo was moved to tears. After that, she helped lead Tuesday Morning Rosary in the church.

Archbishop Nienstedt is coming to OLG on Thursday to celebrate our Blue Ribbon Award. He will say mass for the students and bless our Blue Ribbon Banner.

Committee Reports:

Santa's Secret Shop: Mia Liebl for Jane Pirtle and Patty Knopick

The three day sale was very successful. There were many items for the kids to choose from. Jane and Patty did a lot of their shopping online this year and got many bargains due to the numerous "going out of business" sales. A profit of over \$10,500 was made. Some money was set aside to begin shopping for next year's sale. \$10,500 was donated to Sharing & Caring Hands. Mia reminded everyone that the focus of this event is to raise funds for charities that benefit children. The beneficiary of the sale generally changes from year to year, but that mission is always carried out.

Emergency Phone Tree: Martha Allen

Martha Allen has assumed the chair position for this committee again this year. A test run of the Emergency Phone Tree system will take place the first week in January. This will be the first test run of our system this school year.

Room Parents: Jen Williams

Arrangements are all in place for the all-school Blue Ribbon lunch that will take place on Thursday, Dec. 17th after the mass. The students will receive pizza, chips and a cookie. There will be three head tables with special guests—Archbishop Nienstedt, the Edina Public School superintendent, and the Archdiocesan Catholic Schools superintendent. These tables will also be served fruit and salad along with their meal.

Hospitality: Mia for the Committee

The teachers Christmas lunch was served on Monday, Dec. 14th. It was a beautiful meal and very much appreciated.

Service Committee: Mia Liebl for Diane Mulligan and Krista Gresham

Both the Thanksgiving Basket Project and the Reuben Lindh Project went well this year. However, our contact person at the Basilica asked if we could switch our delivery date for next year to the Saturday before Thanksgiving rather than on Friday. This could raise some issues with the storage of our baskets at OLG for one more night because some items are perishable. It also means that we need a crew of volunteers that are able to come in on Saturday to do the delivery. Next year's coordinators need to discuss this issue early on in the school year to see if it is possible to do.

For the Reuben Lindh project, there was some doubling up on parent volunteer sign ups. It happened at Registration Day and then again at some of the Parent Coffees. Diane suggested that it be done only on Registration Day and not at Parent Coffees. This should be noted for next year's chairs.

Barnes & Noble Book Fair: Amy Garrity

Amy reported that the Book Fair had 210 transactions with an average of \$62.07 per transaction. OLG receives 25% of that total, which is \$3,258.50. We also collected \$57 in cash for gift wrapping. This makes a grand total of \$3315.50. This is down a bit from last year, but still very successful considering the economy.

Snowbusters: Mia Liebl for Jennifer Rowland and Rebecca Silvestri

The registration form for Snowbusters has been in the last couple of Weekenders. The dates for this year's event have been pushed back a bit later in the season in hopes of getting warmer weather.

Box Tops for Education: Lara Howell

Lara is submitting Box Tops monthly now rather than just a couple of times a year. It makes the sorting and sending easier. This last month we got about 1300 points, which are worth \$130. Please keep saving and sending in your Box Tops. Lara will try to do some extra publicity regarding this easy money maker by publishing common products that have Box Tops on them. This should be a good reminder to people to keep clipping.

Partners in Education: Betsy Violante

Betsy said that there are currently more volunteers than are being requested by the staff. She suggested that maybe we could find more ways for these volunteers to become involved.

Used Uniforms: Stevie Sislo and Jamie Pohl

The next Used Uniform Sale will be held Wednesday, January 13th from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Volunteers are needed to help staff the event.

Announcements:

Stevie Sislo is looking into updating the format of the Weekender to make it more reader friendly. She is using a company called Constant Contact to set up a 60 day free trial of a new format. This will take place after Christmas break. She will trial it on the PSO Board and then ask for our feedback. If it is well received, these changes likely will be implemented school wide.

Elizabeth Gorman reported that Book Club will be held this year for 5th and 6th graders. All interested students in those grades are welcome to join. Three books will be read and discussed, one each at the end of January, February and March. Parent volunteers will lead the small discussion groups, which will meet after school. Elizabeth is heading up the 6th grade club. Amy Kolar is in charge of the 5th grade club.

Elizabeth also reported that several people from OLG (students, staff, administration and parents) will be visiting Highland Elementary school in Edina on Wednesday, Dec. 16th to observe their organics recycling program that was implemented in their lunchroom this year. OLG is looking into whether or not we should try to implement such a program.

The meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanne Gathje

Next Meeting
Tuesday, January 12, 2010
9:30 a.m. – School Library