

St Thomas Aquinas Grade School General PTO Meeting

November 17, 2009-Minutes

Opening Prayer For Committee Meeting

Dear Lord,

We gather as we gather this evening for our committee meeting help us to stop and recognize one another and all the wonderful gifts we have among us. We are so thankful to share these gifts with one another and the STAGS community. You have blessed the community with such wonderful Moms and Dads who do so much to ensure their children have a wonderful school. Please be with us this evening as we share our ideas with one another and continue to bless is in all we do. We ask this in your name, Amen.

Committee Meetings:

In Attendance: Marissa Bell, Kelly Fitzmaurice, Chi Sidner-Funk, Deanna Hancock, Karen Bailey, Susie Vanderwey, Jennifer Copeland, Sandee Tanner, Mary Haggerty

Scrip: DeAnna Hancock-Co Chair

- Less traffic at Bizarre this year.
- sales have slowed down across board (weekend mass, school sales)
- Bashas has a max of \$500 to load and you can purchase other retailer gift cards using your bashas scrip card

Uniform: Karen Bailey- Chair

- New PE shorts in and given to students. If too big too small parents will need to drive to Dennis to exchange or wait for January 16th when Dennis will be at STAG.
- Uniform committee donated blue shorts to Careton Elementary.

JOG-A-Thon: Sandee Tanner- Chair

- Piecing together, would like to have parent volunteer to learn process to take over in coming years.
- Requested P.O. Box for Jog-A-Thon donations to be sent. Will be researched.

Hospitality: Susie Vanderwey- Chair

- Cookies and lemonade will be held after school Susie is not able to be at school before 4:30. Volunteers will be solicited to help with sales.

- Marissa will check with Rachel Shindler to see if she is able to make cookies.

General Meeting

Opening Prayer: Kelly Fitzmaurice

As we enter into the Christmas Season and the wondrous celebration of your birth Lord Jesus we count our blessings. We thank you for all who are gathered here this evening and know that when we gather in your name you are here with us. We thank you for each other and for the work each has done in building our community. Please bless this meeting of ours where we celebrate our many strengths and plan our continuing work in your service.

Amen

CTDOP-Matthew Scheller and Bob Whitehouse

- CTDOP is extremely important for our school. 140 scholarships were awarded.
- Out of 3800 parishioners at STA, 493 tax payers participated in CTDOP.
- The committee is in need of more members if interested please contact Bob Whitehouse.

3rd, 4th and 5th Grade Musical Performances-Amy Burns

- 3rd grade – Eye of the Tiger, I’m a Believer
- 4th grade- Ring of Fire
- 5th grade – Here Comes the Sun
- All grades: Supercalifragilisticexpealidocious, We Fall Down, and You Are Holy
- Piano Solos- Max Mendoza, Penelope Chorkavy, and Alexander Gomez

President Report: Marisa Bell

- Tomorrow is the last day to purchase Parish Ball tickets
- We have 120 silent auction items not including class baskets.

- Amy Burns will be playing the piano at the ball.
- Family Picnic is going to be different this year, the room parents have decided to have a Mardi Gras theme family event at school on February 12th. There will be games and a cake walk....lots of fun

Principal Report: Dr. McDermott

- All families should have received building committee survey, please fill out and return as soon as possible. In January the building committee will make statement regarding decisions made. Construction to begin 5/31/10.

Teachers Report: Kim Rich

Preschool Report:

- The preschool would like to give kudos to our room moms for working so diligently on the parish ball baskets.
- A hamster was donated to the preschool.
- We will be having a Thanksgiving celebration with our parents on Tuesday, November 24th.

Kinder Report:

- Kindergarten just celebrated our reading train reaching all the way around the classroom with a Curious George reading party. It was great fun and all of the students were very proud of their accomplishment.
- We are learning about Thanksgiving in both religion and Social Studies, as well as practicing for our Thanksgiving program during music. We will be completing these units with a vegetable feast next Tuesday afternoon

First Grade Report:

Second Grade Report:

- Second grade during Social Studies has been learning about three different Native American Groups; Powhatan, Sioux and Pueblo and will begin preparing for the Thanksgiving Program on Nov. 24th at 2:00 p.m.
- They have also been reviewing Pictographs and Bar Graphs in Math.

Third Grade Report:

- Jacques Guillemette attained 500 SRC reading points last week. First STAGS student to do so. Yippy! The program is a stellar asset to the school based on ITBS scores this fall.

Fourth Grade Report:

- The fourth grade has been very busy this Quarter writing and illustrating a picture book. The book has an Arizona theme.
- We have combined writing, grammar, art, and social studies curriculum into this project.
- In October we took a field trip to St. Mary's Basilica where we toured the church and learned a great deal about the history of the oldest and first Catholic Church in Phoenix and why it is a Basilica.

Fifth Grade Report:

- Fifth graders are working diligently on planet books that we will share and read with their second grade buddy. They've done the research on the planet and now are working with Microsoft Publisher to create a 12 page book complete with a Catchy Title Page, Table of Contents, 4 Chapters, a Glossary, a Bibliography and graphics to accompany their fine writing.

Sixth Grade Report:

- Sixth grade just finished up a big unit report.

Eighth Grade Report:

- In religion 8th grade is studying the history of the early Church.
- We are corresponding with nursing home residents in Illinois who are in Sister Fran's order.
- In Social Studies, we took a field trip to see a courtroom in Superior Court, visited with a Justice on the Arizona Supreme Court, and toured the Capitol Museum.
- We are finishing a unit on Arizona government
- In Algebra we have seven out of 22 students who are working ahead
- For first quarter, 64% of the 8th graders were on "Straight A", "A", or "B" Honor Roll!! 32% were Straight A Honor Roll!!

Closing Prayer

In the spirit of Thanksgiving Lord we thank you for the blessings we have received this evening, the wonderful talents of the children and Mrs. Burns, the companionship of good friends and families who came together this evening for the good of STAGS. We thank you for the gift of Catholic Education. Thank you for allowing our children to learn in a wonderful and rich Catholic environment with teachers who share God's word with the children each and every day. Lord Jesus, we thank you for our children; they are a gift and a constant reminder of your love. Thank you for the families of STAGS who have chosen this school for their children. May our children see us as people who are loving and forgiving, peaceful and just, compassionate and generous, prayerful, full of fun and full of hope for their futures. In your name we pray. Amen.