

Home School Association School Meeting Minutes
11-18-09

Dear St. Paul's Families,

Here are the minutes from this month's Home School Association meeting:
We started with an opening prayer by Linda Beck.

Principal's Report: Mr. Meagher gave his report and he had some great news to share. Parent/teacher conferences went well and the 5th Grade just completed the New York State Social Studies test. In the past, the school has done very well and we expect to do the same this year. Mr. Meagher also informed us that the school will be having an all day dress rehearsal for our Christmas play at Mt. St. Mary's and will include Grades K-8.

He addressed questions from Mr. John Murphy about what is being done as far as marketing and advertising for the school. There were some great ideas presented some of which were starting a journalism club with the upper grades and doing things like contacting local newspapers asking to put small articles and pictures of activities from St. Paul's School. Many of the local papers are happy to oblige, as stated by Terry Downey. Mr. Meagher stated that the website, e-mail, and possible face-book are also good ways to get the word out. Another idea was to have some flyers pasted out by our students and parents in their own neighborhood.

Mr. Meagher informed us that there is a new program being put in place by the Catholic Dioceses to promote Catholic Schools. They received a grant from a donor and it involves professional people. The Buffalo Diocese is one of seven dioceses participating. This advertising will include T.V., radio and print advertising. This will make it possible to get some free advertising for our school and possibly solicit donations.

Recruitment: David Clark stated that we have a tentative date scheduled for a presentation to the Pre-K and Universal Pre-K classes on December 1st. He would like to give a talk to these perspective parents, offer tours of the school and invite them for our Open House in January. Letters are also being proposed to the 3rd and 4th grade Religious Ed students who attend St. Paul's. Another recruitment idea was to visit day care centers with some literature and reach out to this upcoming school age group. Promoting the school and a good first impression is our aim. We are the first Catholic school out side the city line, and there is a lot of potential students we can harness with some marketing and advertising.

Fundraising: Linda Beck stated that at this time, the board is re-evaluating some of its proposed ideas /goals and fundraisers. We need to work out some issues in order to proceed. As with any new ideas and goals, it is a growing process and we are trying to take steps and move forward. We appreciate your patience and ask for your involvement at striving towards our goals.

The Fruit Sale is being wrapped up. We need all the help we can get to undertake this big process. Truck loading is taking place on **Wednesday, December 2**. We need some men (and women) to volunteer for this task. Bagging night will take place on Thursday, **December 3** from about 6 to 8 PM. This is a family affair, the more people the faster it goes. It is a great opportunity to join together as a school family.

Bill Naab asked for any feedback and suggestions on what you, the school families, think about some of the proposed fundraisers. As we have stated before, this is a learning process for all of us and we are trying to take steps forward. We are looking for any input from you. If you have anything you would like to share, please send it to school in your child's communicator.

Teachers' Christmas Luncheon: The luncheon is scheduled for **Friday, December 18**. Jessica Stockmeyer and Jennifer Parry are willing to help out.

Scrip: We would like to thank Lyn Leopold, and Dawn O'Donnell for taking over scrip for the school.

The Meeting was closed with a prayer from Maria Clark.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday, and we are grateful to have all of you here at St. Paul's School. Our next meeting is **Wednesday, December 16** at 7:00 PM. God be with you.

Respectfully submitted,

Maria Clark
Secretary