

St. Matthew Parents' Club
January 13, 2010, 7:00 p.m.
St. Mark Room
Meeting Minutes

- I. Call to Order and Opening Prayer – The meeting was called to order by Ryan and Tece Hendrickson.
- II. Roll Call – Erin Arie, Cindy Brya, Lisa Crawford, Stacey DeLorenzo, Jen Fackler, Cindy Feeney, Kim Fritchey, Beth Haken, Kristin Hummel, Julie Hansen, Ryan and Tece Hendrickson, Blanche Jones, Bobbie Jo and Justin Kirby, Laura Madden, Denise Martin, Mary McMillen, Msgr. Merdian, Jennifer Mulcahey, Karen Pickard, Karen Pollard, Margo Robinson, Suzanne Rodawig, Lea Rossi, Kathy Scherer, Gabrielle Schmitt, John Schmitt, Topper Steinman, Bill Vavrik, and Angie Washburn.
- III. Approval of Minutes—November 2009 minutes were approved as written.
- IV. Peaceable Schools

At the teachers meeting, the vote was unanimous to continue with the Peaceable Schools Program. The Peaceable Schools program has received \$5,200 from a donor to continue the program for the rest of this year and next year. Topper Steinman thanked Parents Club for funding and support. There are 39 students training to be peer mediators in grades 5-8. The Peaceable Schools program and school discipline policy are designed to complement each other. The goal of Peaceable Schools is to develop students who respect each other and respect peace. Junior high detentions are down from last year by around 85%. Parents discussed how to let parents know how Peaceable Schools is working. Suggestions included having younger students teach parents something they have learned, an interactive homework assignment, more communications including the school newsletter and website, and better marketing of the program. A summary of the Peaceable Schools program is attached.

- V. Principal's Report – Kathy Scherer

School Reach is a calling system that will contact parents instantly if the school needs to reach them. The school will use School Reach for an emergency such as a snow day but can also be used to remind parents of field trips, etc. School Reach is being paid for with safe schools grant money.

Catholic Schools Week starts with the Winter Carnival on Saturday, January 30. On Sunday, St. Matthew students will represent the school at every mass. Kindergarten registration will be after the 9:30 mass. There will be lunch for teachers on Monday. Bishop Jenky will celebrate mass at St. Matthew at 9:30 Monday for 8th grades from 14 schools in our region. The students will work with their Saint families to make shamrocks for soldiers on Tuesday. The parent reception and Open House will be held on Wednesday. Students do not need to wear uniforms on Thursday and will get to watch a performance by the Little Theater on the Square. Friday will be Spirit Day and the students will watch the 8th grade boys vs. girls volleyball game. Mrs. Scherer requested \$700 from Parents Club to pay the Little Theater for their performances on Student Appreciation Day.

Tece Hendrickson brought forth how Parents Club would like to pay for it. Bill Vavrik, Treasurer, indicated there was a large surplus and it shouldn't be a problem. Tece then directed Mrs. Scherer and the Treasurer to discuss it and find a budget line item that it could fit under for this 09/10 year.

VI. President's Report – Tece Hendrickson

The Parents Club has made an effort this year to do more outreach to families going through a hard time. We have sent cards and taken meals, and the response has been very positive.

Parents Club is planning on a family volunteer opportunity for the end of February or March and is continuing to promote Adoration Hour.

Enrichment – Chess Club is up to 40 kids, and the Drama Club plans a talent show and a play in the spring. In February we will hold a Family Science Night.

A committee will be formed to discuss the new Peacemaker Award. We will get input from teachers on the award. School volunteers are encouraged to enter the monthly drawing for a \$10 gift card.

Bill Vavrik suggested a new service to send email to families. The service is free if the mailing list is under 500 email addresses and you send under 6 messages/month.

Karen Pollard is starting to work on a slate of Parents Club officers for the next school year. Parents who are interested in serving on the Nominating Committee should speak to Karen.

VII. Treasurer's Report – Bill Vavrik

Apparel sales are above what was budgeted. Scrip is making huge strides forward, almost \$6,000 has been raised so far this school year. Tece indicated a Parishioner (non-school) purchased \$3,000 for Provena Program and that we are continuing to work on Parishioner involvement in Scrip. All committee chairs and Mrs. Scherer should send budget items for next year to Bill and Liz Vavrik. The 2010-2011 budget will be presented at the April Parents Club meeting. Parents Club was audited by the Diocese.

VIII. Committee Reports

Book Fair – Laura Madden

We took \$1,500 in Scholastic Dollars. Mrs. McMillen is keeping track of the credit. Teachers will be able to buy books as well as other classroom supplies. We took \$1,381 in cash and used part of the profit to buy the remaining teacher wish list books and all books on the library wish list that had not been filled. It worked well to have the Book Fair in the Great Hall.

Winter Carnival – Jen Fackler and Stacey DeLorenzo

Dyan Jones won \$100 in the Early Bird drawing. The Winter Carnival will be held on Saturday, January 30, from 5:00-8:00 in the Great Hall, lower classrooms, old gym, St. Mark Room (6th grade games), and St. Mark Room (7th and 8th grade dance). Games close at 7:00. The raffle and auction will be pulled at 6:45 and winners announced at 7:15.

Box Tops – Amy Hubbard

The school collected 9500 box tops. Mrs. Marietta's classroom collected over 1,000 box tops. One student collected 300 box tops! Students should turn in their box tops in a ziplock bag with their name on it.

IX. New Business

Margo Robinson asked Parents Club for a storage cart to hold used uniforms in the Parents Club closet. A storage cart or storage units for the Parents Club closet will be considered a 2010-2011 Parents Club budget item.

Cindy Feeney and Kristin Hummel encouraged Parents Club to get involved in Disciples in Mission. Families can participate in small groups or by using the Family Activity Book during Lent. Over 400 parishioners were involved in Disciples in Mission last year.

X. Pastor's Report – Monsignor Merdian

This year is the Year of the Rosary, pray a decade as a family.

XI. Meeting adjourned at 8:44 p.m. Next meeting will be February 3.

St. Matthew Peaceable School in a Nutshell



Peacemaking vs. Peacebreaking ~
Thoughts/words/actions

Talking & listening respectfully

Rights & Responsibilities

Peacemaking vs. Peacebreaking
Thoughts/words/actions

Find win/win approaches ~
Negotiation
Mediation
Group Problem-solving

Cooperative Climate ~
Respectful Communication

Conflict is a part of life ~
not good or bad, but something to be resolved
With soft/hard/principled responses

Christ as our Center ~
In a trinity of
Educators/Students/Parents

Focus on common interests,
Not on differing positions

Value & accept
our differences

Resolve to be more Christ-like:
"As a child of God, I will ..."

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall
be called children of God."
— Matthew 5:9

Basic Human Needs ~
Balancing the legs of the chair:
Belonging/Respect/Freedom/Fun