

**PTO Meeting**  
**April 6, 2009**  
**7:00pm**  
**Blessed Sacrament School Library**

**Present at the meeting:** Nels Benson, Valarie Warburton, Maddy Mitchell, Dave Fenimore, Anne Hoffman, Jack Stephens, Blaine Lankford, Mary Gately, Missy Wojciak, Vince Garlock, Mike Haas, Renee and Tony Burchard Valerie Garcia, Kelly Brinley and Joe Ferrara

**Principals Report – Presented by Valerie Garcia**

- Registration is healthy for 2009 – 2010. There are 49 applicants for 28 kindergarten spots
- Facebook seminar went very well. Important to stay on top of technology. Plans to repeat seminar in the fall
- Lots of great events lately: Math madness, Band Fest, Living Stations by 3<sup>rd</sup> graders, Lenten Reflection Day in Middle School (taught younger students about hunger)
- Last day of school is Thursday, June 11 at 12pm
- First day of school for new school year is Monday, August 31 which will begin the 60<sup>th</sup> year of BSS
- May 4 is the Leslie George Memorial Scholarship Dinner fundraiser at Mango Mike's

**ECC Report – Presented by Kelly Brinley**

- September 8 will be the first day of orientation for the 2009 – 2010 school year
- The ECC collected baby items for Mariah Center and food for Christ house during lent
- Earth Day on April 22 – plants are doing well in ECC playground
- There will be spring pictures for the ECC only on April 29 and April 30 by the Picture People – 3 proofs with no prepay obligation

**Diocesan Update – Presented by Mary Gately and Maddy Mitchell**

- Sister Bernadette has been named the new Superintendent
- Have added 10 new schools in 12 years
- Catholic average on the SATs is 1716, national average is 1511
- Diocese score is 83<sup>rd</sup> percentile for Terra Nova
- Thinks each school should have an enrollment marketing team
- Diocesan auditor indicated with have to be careful with new fundraising – suggested Escrip is dropped – fear is unrelated business income

- Also indicated that staff should no be involved in Land's End certificates again for concerns about unrelated business income
- Plans to produce a PTO Management Handbook

### **Enrichment Day**

- 14 presenters comprising of sports/athletics, arts and crafts, etc.
- May 15 is enrichment day
- Plans to reach out to Bishop Ireton and the Little Theatre in Alexandria
- Need more volunteers for day of – about 15 more needed
- Enrichment Day for 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and up
- Revisit plans for Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade

### **Fundraising**

- Need to get more strategic with fundraising
- Need to cast a wider net
- We don't ask enough from Grandparents
- Special appeal to get playground and other things and connect with recent Blue Ribbon Status
- Create a brochure to target Grandparent database
- Reach out to alumni in conjunction with 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary – use facebook to connect with alumni
- Reach out early possibly use a telethon
- Tony and Renee Bruchard will work on database
- Golf Tournament has been moved to Pohick Bay on June 8<sup>th</sup>
- Fall Festival – October 24, 2009 (October 23 is a day off of school)
- There was a meeting held in March to discuss possibly updating the software for the Auction
- It was discussed whether or not we could move the auction to either the fall or can we possibly have the auction during lent
- The amusements that were rained out in the fall will take place on Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup>
- We need volunteers – especially for food
- May 9<sup>th</sup> is also the night of the ECC sock hop
- Car raffle is not going well
- Last year, we had sold 3972 tickets at this point – this year, only 1620 tickets have been sold
- All tickets need to be returned on April 20<sup>th</sup> – you don't need to buy all 20 tickets

**Playground Update**

- Pond must be cleaned. City has many restrictions on what can be done – zoning, etc.
- City calls it a detention pond for evaporating water
- Talking to two different vendors
- 2 broad options (Learning Structures and Vendor Built)
- Mulch or soft surface is still up for debate
- Should we pay \$2500 to Learning Structures to consult on playground building

**PTO Succession**

- Joe will send out an email to get an idea on a slate for next year
- Joe said that he would accept a third term as president

The Meeting was adjourned at 8:40pm by Joe Ferrara