

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

HSA NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2009

Dear Parents and Staff,

Welcome to St. Mary's! Returning staff and families it is good to see you back. To the new staff members and new families we are glad you chose to come to St. Mary's. Here is to us all working to meet the new goals and challenges that come with a new year. There are many things we would like to accomplish this year through the HSA. The main goal this year, as in all years, is to make St. Mary's the best possible experience for our children. If we can keep that thought as our focus for each of our fundraisers, family events and school activities we will have a successful year.

The key to all our activities the HSA has planned this year is volunteers. The math is simple and logical, the more volunteers we have the better the outcome of the activity. This is true of lunch room volunteers to Casino Night. If you have turned in your volunteer sign-up sheet, thank you. If you have not decided on where you can help out please help with whatever you can. Every bit of help, large or small, is a piece of gold. If you have not heard from Kasey German or Diane Hammond you can be expecting a call. We have two events coming up just around the corner. On Sept. 10th there will be an open house and a spaghetti dinner. The next day is our Grandparent's Day celebration at school. Please plan to attend the events and if you can volunteer to help that would be great.

Following these two events our next big function will be Casino Night. This fundraiser goes a long way in determining how we will be able to help out the school. Please keep October 24th as an open date. It is a great night of fun.

Finally, I would like to give you an update on a couple of projects. First, the stage mats for gym have been ordered. The logo has been sent and we are hoping to see the mats before the open house and grandparent's day events. Also, if you have not been to the back of the school go check it out. The School Board has taken action on a request by teachers and parents. They have begun to work on the playground area. They have begun to tear up the old asphalt which will be replaced with a combination of grass and new asphalt. As the project progresses we may need to pitch in with some manpower. We will keep you informed. Thank you for your time.

Greg Orr

HSA President

TAKE NOTE!

SEPTEMBER

- 7 LABOR DAY
- 8 MID-TERM GRADES
- 10 OPEN HOUSE / SPAGHETTI DINNER
- 11 GRANDPARENTS DAY
- 14 EARLY DISMISSAL 11:15

Hello everyone!

We are already hard at work planning for our first school wide event. The Spaghetti Dinner/ Open House is set for 10 September. This is a great way to meet the other parents and your child's teacher. Not to mention, everyone has a great meal.

Casino Night, our biggest Fundraiser of the year, is coming early this year. Please remember to send in your items for the class baskets. If you have never been to Casino Night, you are definitely missing out on all the fun!! Mark your calendars and make plans to be there.

Michelle Dorsey and Cathy Amabile

Casino Night and Silent Auction

St. Mary's is holding its annual Casino Night and Silent Auction on Saturday, October 24th from 7pm – 12 midnight at the school. This is the biggest adult fundraiser of the year raising between \$14,000 and \$16,000. The proceeds go to fund classroom programs, computer lab software, accelerated reader, and extra- curricular activities. It is a fun evening of music with the Beagles (local band), free food and "funny" money gaming (blackjack, poker and craps). Soda, beer and wine will also be available. Our silent auction items include theme baskets (one per class), student-made items, community business donations featuring event tickets, gift certificates and a variety of items such as jewelry and home décor. We also receive cash donations (usually around \$200+) from many businesses including but not limited to doctors, dentists, small business owners and individuals who like to support our school. Without the community support of sponsorship and donations we could not put on such a successful event.

Each year we like to come up with new auction items as well as add to our list of corporate sponsors. That's where you can help. If you think of someone that might like to donate an item or make a cash donation please let us know. Since this is the biggest fundraiser for the school, we will be asking a lot of the parents including food donations, basket donations, ticket sales and time. I know together we can make this another successful Casino night.

Michele Wieber, *Casino Night Chair*

Scrip Scraps....

Just a reminder.... Scrip orders go out every Monday at 10 am. The cards will be in your brown folder at pick up on Fridays. Check out the rewards on gas cards, Wal-Mart, and restaurant gift cards.

Scrips website: www.shopwithscrip.com

St Mary's school code: 74523L941722L

Cards will be placed in the brown folders, unless you specify differently.

Happy Shopping - The HSA Board

Well it is hard to believe the first month of school is nearly over, time sure flies when you are having fun!

My name is Diane Hammond and together with Kayce German, we are your In-School Volunteer Coordinators. We would like to thank those of you who have already begun volunteering. We truly appreciate everything you are doing for the school and the children. If you have not yet turned in your volunteer form, you may get an additional copy from the office or if you would prefer you may complete the volunteer form on the St. Mary's website: www.stmaryscatholicsschool.com/giving.htm . You may also contact either me or Kayce directly at: hammonddiane@bellsouth.net or kmgerman@bellsouth.net and let us know when you are available and what you are able to do.

As you may already be aware we have several events coming up that we need volunteers for: the book fair 9/4-9/18, Open House/Spaghetti Dinner 9/10, Grandparents Day 9/11 and especially Casino Night 10/24. If you can volunteer for any of those events please let us know as soon as possible.

Whether you are available for an hour or a day, once a month or every week no amount of time spent volunteering at St. Mary's Catholic School goes unnoticed or unappreciated.

Thanks again,

Diane Hammond and Kayce German

Notes from HSA meeting 13 August, 2009

The HSA general meeting was held Thursday August 13, 2009 in the Chapel. Father David opened the meeting with a prayer and comments. Greg Orr called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM and approximately 40 people were at the meeting. Greg Orr introduced the new members of the board.

2nd Vice-President: Kayce German and Diane Hammond

1st Vice-President: Michelle Dorsey and Cathy Amabile

Treasurer: Shannon Crawford (Shannon Crawford is completing the term for Jackie Finken).

Gregg Orr then presented the budget. All teachers must turn in all receipts by September 18 to be reimbursed. Gregg Orr proposed the HSA order new gym mats for the stage. Kayce German seconded the motion. There was then a vote on the measure which passed. Amy Watkins will order the mats as soon as possible. They hope to have them before Grand-Parents Day if possible.

Michelle Wieber agreed to chair Casino Night again this year. She presented a basic overview of the event for all new parents at the meeting.

Kayce German presented the information for the Chuck-E-Cheese fund raiser nights. They will be 8 February and 8 March. The school will receive 15% of the sales.

Mrs. Jasper made a motion that the HSA provide \$200 to fund Grand-Parents Day. Stephanie Stafford seconded the motion. There was then a vote on the measure which passed.

Questions concerning the \$10,000 school yard improvement allotment were raised. Gregg Orr explained the proposed improvements to the playground area of the school. Not all at the meeting were in favor of the allotment. Nancy Moran proposed a motion that the budget be accepted as written with the school yard improvement to be determined in the future, Jill Johnson seconded the motion. There was then a vote on the motion which passed.

The meeting was closed at 8:00 pm.

Mary Hodge *HSA Secretary*