

HOLY NAME OF JESUS  
PTO MEETING  
Tuesday, September 6, 2011  
7:00 p.m.

**ATTENDANCE:** Sister Rita, Principal, Tara Benkovic, PTO President, Susan Mula, Vice President, Venus Grella, Treasurer, Melissa Zeplin, Secretary, Christine Zeglen, Teacher Sponsor, Paula Shermeyer, Teacher Sponsor, Danielle Guyer, Jennifer Kelemen, Jen Roush, Diane McCloskey, Anna Lucas, Jessica Hollinger, Tom Shingara, Jill D'Amico, Donnie Zeplin, Jess Kiely, Molly Starsinic, Franka Maerz, Bob Hauer, Carmen Lawrence, Jen Stagias, Steffi Devine

**OPENING PRAYER:** Sister Rita

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**I. Welcome/Introductions**

Sister Rita, Principal and Tara Benkovic welcome everyone for attending the first PTO meeting of the 2011/2012 school year.

Introductions were made by everyone in attendance to meet new members.

**II. Ice Cream Social Recap**

The ice cream social this year was a big hit this year in the social hall/cafeteria. Minor complaints, it was too congested in the middle section where the classroom schedules were. Any thoughts on adjusting it for next year should it be held in the social hall/cafeteria next year. A suggestion was made to have it on Sunday.

Jane Hair lost her camera. If anyone found one, kindly take it to the school office.

**III. Kindergarten & Preschool Orientation Recap**

#### **IV. Election of New Officers**

- A. President: Tara Benkovic
- B. Vice-President: Susan Mula, Co-Vice President
- C. Treasurer: Venus Grella
- D. Secretary: Melissa Zeplin

#### **V. Other ways to help**

- A. Newsletter Writer – Melissa will work on the newsletter. Deadline is the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month. Email write-up to Vicki in the school office.
- B. Smart Money help – Molly Starsinic reported smart money is going well. Slow periods are over the summer through September. Smart money is busy October, November and December. There was mention about posting a picture of each card on poster board in order to keep track of the cards being sold. Smart money came up short the last few times, due to the possibility of cards sticking together. Sign-up sheet for masses was passed around, kindly remember your date. If you cannot handle smart money on your allotted mass, kindly email/call Molly for a fill-in. Mention was made to send a mass email to those signed up to see if anyone can cover. Remember cash and checks benefit the school more, however, credit cards are never turned away.
- C. Giant/Karns coordinators – Giant, Gina Reece and Jessica Hollinger; Karns, Diane. Remember to re-register your Giant cards, forms were sent home with students in the big packet last week. Karns is moving toward a voucher week – HNJ will pick one week during the school year and everyone will receive vouchers to purchase groceries during that week with a portion of the profit going to HNJ. Trac will make slips to put on the Giant Bonus card box in the lobby.
- D. Teacher Rep – Christine Zeglen and Paula Shermeyer.

#### **VI. Fall Festival – Friday, October 14, 2011 from 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. in the Gym**

There was talk about possibly having the girl scouts, boy scouts, student council members and 8<sup>th</sup> graders who are in need of confirmation hours to help volunteer during the Fall Festival. This would be a big help so that parents can help with the little ones going from station to station at the Festival.

- A. Kitchen – Trac will be in charge of the kitchen again this year. He will get a list together of volunteers and things needed to get the kitchen up and moving. Some volunteers signed up during the meeting for soups.
- B. Cotton Candy/Popcorn machine – Cotton candy and popcorn will be done again this year. Need volunteers.
- C. Baked Goods – a table for baked goods will be set up. We are in need of volunteers to man the table and also in need of families to make/buy/donate baked goods for the sale. Possibly a note sent home with students for volunteers to donate items. Terry Lewinski said she would take charge of this.
- D. Face Painting – Face painting will held again this year. Need volunteers. Possibly Ms. Mahoney will be in charge?
- E. Pictures to Color – Venus will handle this table and purchase items needed, also in need of volunteers.
- F. Family Pictures – This was a big hit last year so we will keep this running this year. In need of volunteers to help.
- G. Raffle Table – Instead of doing the pencil pull, we will extend the raffle table. If you or anyone could donate a basket or items, please do so. If anyone comes up with ideas for baskets, please let us know. Baskets suggested were movie tickets/gift card in a cup; coffee gift cards in mugs; theme baskets, stuffed animals, etc. We would like to have baskets for all ages, i.e. small children, boys, girls, adults. Jill will be in charge of this.
- H. Pencil Pull/Prize Table – We will not be doing to pencil pull this year. However, we are in need of donated prizes for the prize table should there be games with “winners”.
- I. Scarecrow Contest – Since the kids loved doing this last year, we will be holding the contest again. Christine Zeglen offered to help with this. Lists/items needed will go out to all homeroom moms to make sure each class has what they need. Student council will do the judging. Money buckets will be placed in front of each class’s scarecrow. It was mentioned that an incentive for the class with the most money, their teacher will get an item/items on their class “wish” list.
- J. Game Truck – The game truck will be at the festival from 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. This is for grades 4-8. Games will be chosen, non-violent and Holy Name approved. Cost of the truck is \$295. The Mula’s have

graciously offered to cover that expense. The kids will be cycled through every 20 minutes in order to accommodate everyone signed up for this event. Mention was made to provide the students with wrist bands with their time written so as not to get confused or miss their scheduled time slots. Jen R. and Diane will coordinate this.

- K. Band – Bob Hauer will be handling obtaining entertainment. Thank you Bob.
- L. Other Games – Mention was made about someone who makes balloon animals. If anyone knows of anyone, kindly contact Tara. Any ideas for games will be greatly appreciated.

## **VII. Summer 60 Reading**

Only 18 children thus far have completed the Summer 60 Reading Program. Each student who completed the Summer Reading will receive \$8 toward the book fair.

## **VIII. Kids' Stuff Books**

The Kids Stuff books were handed out Monday to each student. PTO will make a 50% profit off the sale of each book. Should you have out of town/state relatives, there is a list of books that can be purchased in their area. Kindly check the list that was sent home with each book. These make great gifts and can save families some money for items needed.

## **IX. Back to School Night – Tuesday, September 13, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.**

- A. Sign up to man table – the PTO will have a table set up with information. Need volunteers to man the table during Back to School Night. The more people that sign up the less time you have to be there. Please make sure you also get to your child's class room.
- B. Send in baked goods – there will be a baked good table set up with snacks, drinks, etc. Need volunteers to make/buy the goods. Send all goodies Tuesday to Paula Shermeyer's class or bring it with you that night.

## **X. Goals for the Year – 2011-2012**

- A. Finish desk project – There is one room left and this project will be finished.

- B. Website – the Church and school is in need of a new website. Proposals have been made for approx. \$4,500. Franka is working on that. Mention was made to set up a Facebook webpage which is free, however, this will be up to Sister Rita and the Harrisburg Diocese. We are also trying to put smart money on the website for purchase.
- C. Pursue grants – Tara has researched some grants for the school. She needs help with this in order to apply for some.
- D. Library books –The library also is need of new books. Some are old, outdated and in bad shape. Mention was made to hold a book drive for anyone who has extra books at home that they don't need that the library can have. Mention was made to also purchase e-readers for the students. Need to coordinate with Mrs. Tomeck about the possibility of having a book drive.
- E. Family Fun Nights – Mention was made of holding a bowling night. In past years a skating party was held. If anyone has any new ideas, please let us know.
- F. Restaurant Nights – Restaurant night was a big success. This year we will try to hold 3 separate nights. One in late November and 2 in the spring. Definite restaurants will be Under Dog on Paxton Street and Sandellas at the Susquehanna Shops. Should a 3<sup>rd</sup> night come into play, Red Robin was mentioned, however, if anyone has any suggestions, please let us know.
- G. Speakers – Last year a speaker on Cyber bullying was held. Trac mentioned the FBI on safety, social media, predators and sexting. He will meet with Sister Rita to come up with a speaker. Also mentioned was a motivational speaker for the students, something light and fun. Possibly contacting Tom Russell, newsman for Channel 21 to speak about weather.
- H. Walks – Mention was made about the possibility of doing a charity walk during the year.

## **XI. Miscellaneous**

- A. Thank you cards – Thank you cards from teachers were passed around last night. It should be noted that all the teachers love and appreciate what the PTO does for them.
- B. Recycling Updates - HNJ recycles cell phones, ink jet printer cartridges (no toner cartridges). There is approx. \$167 in that account from families

handing in their recyclables. Also, Capri Sun foil packs (these must be rinsed out) and Honest Tea items are also recyclable. There is approx. \$200 profit from these items. Franka has been collecting the Capri Sun packs, however, is in need of help. Jessica Hollinger has offered help to Sister Rita with recycling for the school. Sister Rita looking into obtaining bins for the school. Thanks to all who recycle.

- C. Coke Rewards/Tyson Rewards – We need to discuss whether we want to start collecting these items. Further discussion will be at the next meeting.
- D. Literacy Night – Literacy Night will be Wednesday September 28<sup>th</sup> beginning at 6:30 pm for parents with students in K-3<sup>rd</sup> grades.

The meeting ran overtime and adjourned at 8:35 p.m.