

Parent School Organization Monthly Newsletter

November 2002

Letter from the PSO

The purpose of this newsletter is to ensure all parents of St. Mary Magdalene are kept abreast of activities sponsored by the Parent School Organization. You will see that all the committees have been busy planning and organizing activities and events.

In addition to the many committees this year, the PSO has set aside \$10,000 for teacher grants. The purpose of the grants is to allow teachers to ask for funding of specific projects, items, or events that were not planned in their budget. A Teacher completes a grant application and then is invited to present their request at a PSO general meeting. Since September we have approved the following grants; Mrs. Senn's ordered a set of eight Bible Story Big Books and two sets of Bible Story flannel board stories for preschool at a cost of \$275, Teri McFaul's (Technology Manager) \$1900 to upgrade the mobile computer lab to Windows XP, Mrs. Madsen and Mrs. Zeh \$446 to purchase a religious magazine that is based on the readings for the next Sunday, Mr. Nelson \$600 to purchase percussion equipment ie: suspended cymbals, bass drum, Mrs. Sosnowski was given \$200 to purchase books for the Battle of the Books program, Mrs. Ruse received \$250 for audio books to assist the students in our school who are auditory learners, and Mr. Cadran \$550 for CPR training for STMM staff.

Come join us for our next PSO General Meeting on December 3rd at 7pm in the Parish Hall. We will be hearing from two teachers for the grant program; Ms. Blum for funding for the 6th grade field trip to the Trinity Center in Salter Path, NC and Mrs. Chanelli who is asking for funds to complete three gardening projects with the kindergarten, second grade and third grade classes. Also there will be reports from all the committees and a brief Principal report from Mr. Cadran. Join us and see what is happening with the St. Mary Magdalene Parent School Organization.

Should you have questions, feel free to contact any of the members of the Executive Committee located at the end of this communication. Or you can go to the PSO Committee Information link <http://www.stmm.net/school/hsa/committeetbl.htm> for specific chairperson(s) contact information. The below updates have been submitted from the various PSO Committees.

Fundraising Committee

Two fundraisers are being planned. The first being a magnet program that will give parents the opportunity to purchase magnets and other items with their children's artwork. We hope these will make great gifts for Mothers and Fathers day. The second program will be to sell bulbs to be planted in the spring. Look for information on this in February.

Cultural Arts Committee

The Cultural Arts Committee is having a great year. We have a wonderful committee with diverse connections and interests. We have had and will continue to have a variety of events for our children throughout the year. We are working with the teachers to provide a diverse, educational and enjoyable year for our students. We have added an evaluation system to get feedback from our teachers so that we can learn and evaluate each event for future years. In October, we had Jason Schmidt, a percussionist, come to perform for the whole school and educate our children on drums from all over the world. November, we had a wonderful performance by the Cary Ballet Company. A large number of students and their parents came on their day off from school to perform for us. We also had a few students from STMM as well. MANY thanks to Mrs. Malit for organizing this and bringing this experience to our school. This week, we are going to have a friend of Mrs. Rosko's here who is part Cherokee Indian to educate our children. She is going to set up a real tepee along with a real fire outside on our school grounds.

On December 13th, we are having a "life-size puppet" Christmas show called "The Legend of La Befana" performed by the Red Herring Puppet Co. This performance will be an inspirational and spiritual experience for our children.

Business Relations Committee

Thank you letters have been sent out to past donors of the many St. Mary Magdalene functions for their support of our school. Please look for a short letter with a list of these generous businesses in a Take Home Tuesday Folder. We ask that you consider patronizing these establishments when you start your Christmas shopping or for any special event in the future. The committee is also busy organizing and keeping track all donations as we move forward.

Staff Appreciation Committee

The Staff Appreciation Committee kicked-off the 2002-03 school year with an early morning breakfast for all faculty and staff on September 23rd. Based on the smiling faces, it seems the yummy treats made everyone's day! We didn't forget our terrific staff on Halloween with a special treat for their desks – and who said Halloween was just for the students. Our Committee has a few other surprises up our sleeves for Thanksgiving (can't let all our secrets out of the bag). We are also planning a festive Christmas Luncheon for Monday, December 16th for the faculty and staff to keep everyone's spirit bright during the hectic holidays. Our hope is that through these activities the faculty and staff of SMM understand how very much the students and their families appreciate them. More to come in 2003...

Room Parent Committee

In September, the Room Parents kicked off the new school year with an orientation meeting. Since then, they've met with the teachers to discuss classroom needs and are now busy with classroom activities, fall festivities and organizing classroom volunteers.

Parent Social

After roll call was taken, it was found that approximately 300 people had signed up for the refresher course in Catholicism on Friday, November 8th. Fr. Staib was otherwise engaged that night so "Sister" taught the special Late Nite Catechism class. Despite the large attendance, Sister was well able to control the class and everybody paid attention to her every word. Classroom rules were enforced throughout the night, such as asking for permission to go to the restrooms and not eating gum in class. During the break, the class enjoyed wine, beer and hors d'oeuvres while discussing whom Cain and Abel married.

During the class, we all learned about the Catholic faith and Sister also gave advice about lay matters such as how to sell your house. Although no collection was taken during the class, the night did raise approximately \$3,000 for the Phase II building fund.

Faith Enrichment

With much excitement, we begin our new school year with almost 20 members! Everyone has great ideas on how we can assist Bob, the teachers and the students in building the Kingdom of God at St. Mary Magdalene.

In September, the children remembered our troops and sent them a little pick me up postcard. These postcards had a very special delivery man – one of our Dads from St. Mary Magdalene who is serving overseas. Please remember to pray for our troops and their families. October is the month of the rosary and Mrs. Usischon's fifth grade made rosaries. These rosaries are being sent to the men and women serving our country overseas. Look for the Thanksgiving Tree in the main lobby and read all the warm, caring and sometimes humorous things our children are thankful for!

Heroes for Holiness is a monthly project featuring a Saint. Saints are such a wonderful way for our children to learn about our faith. We hope to highlight each Saint's life and their heroic virtue. St. Therese "little flower" exemplifies the virtue of humility. She was our first Saint. November features St. George "the Dragon Slayer". Read about this courageous Saint on our bulletin board in the main lobby. As a special remembrance with each Saint your children receives a holy card. Hopefully, this can be the start to their collection!! Look for St. Joseph who will be arriving for the month of December.

May God Bless St. Mary Magdalene!

Field Day

The Field Day Committee plans and coordinates all of the Field Day activities, currently scheduled for Friday, May 23. This year the Field Day will be for grades PreK - 7. We will start planning the games and events in January. Anyone interested in being involved in this fun-filled day, contact Deb Purks at dpurks@nc.rr.com.

Yearbook

Class pictures have been taken. The yearbook elective for middle school is busy planning their strategies for a successful book. Mr. Cadran is teaching this elective and the committee will gear up one month before the yearbook deadline.

President <i>Kathleen Loeschorn</i> 363-6516	Vice President <i>Natalie Forslund</i> 362-7657	Recording Secretary <i>Sandy Daussin</i> 522-1938	Corresponding Secretary <i>Linda Annunziata</i> 387-4780	Treasurer <i>Andy Sabol</i> 362-4204
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