

We Pray  We Learn  We Care



President's Message

Sharon McConnell

It is hard to believe we are already one-fourth of the way through our academic year. It seems as though the school year just started! During this time, the Parent School Organization (PSO) has been busy with a full range of activities. Read more below to learn about some of the great things you and your fellow parent volunteers are accomplishing.

When this year's PSO Executive and Managing Boards started work in earnest during August, we determined that our focus for this year would be to continue to build and strengthen St. Mary Magdalene as a *community*. While we have all come to St. Mary Magdalene from different places and for different reasons, I hear a common thread woven into what parents and children say about our school – an appreciation for the community we are. All of us have been a part of making great things happen at our school in its short history, including building two beautiful, highly functional buildings. Along the way-- sometimes purposely and perhaps sometimes inadvertently -- we have also built a nurturing, faithful, enriching community to support our children's learning and growth.

One of the biggest challenges of any community is the need to meld differing viewpoints into a unified effort that furthers the common purpose. In their work so far this year, the members of the PSO Executive and Managing Boards have been extraordinarily selfless and collaborative, resulting in many exciting accomplishments. You will see some of those accomplishments in this newsletter and even more of them in the coming months. There has been much hard work, but volunteers have had much fun doing it. Many of you have and will continue to put in your own hard work, without which the PSO could not realize its successes. Remember to have fun too!

This year, the PSO is launching a new community tradition that we plan to make an annual event – *Santa's Village*. More than just an amazing holiday shopping experience, Santa's Village will literally have something for everyone, including volunteer opportunities!! Please see the flyer attached to this newsletter for all the details, and mark your calendars for December 4th and 5th to shop, eat, and help the PSO make Santa's Village become the way that our community looks forward to starting the holidays for years to come!

Contents

President's Message	1
VIPS	2
Cultural Arts	2
Community Relations	2
Special Events	3
Room Parents	3
Santa's Village	3
Staff Appreciation	3
Booster Club	3
Faith Enrichment	4

VIPS

Patty Wangen

If you have a Safe Environment Application in process you may continue to volunteer in the classroom through December. An approved list of volunteers has been provided to Kathy Detchemendy, Teachers and Room Parents. If you want to volunteer and have not yet filled out an application, please pick one up in the office. Effective January 1, the following need to be completed to continue to volunteer for the remainder of the year:

- VIPS Training
- Completed Application on file
- Three Reference letters
- Back Ground check C volunteers only
- Safe Environment Training



Writer-in-Residence
Tony Peacock was here
November 8 - 12

January 1, all approved volunteers will have personalized badges color coded for their volunteer level. The generic volunteer badges will no longer be valid. You will be responsible to keep your badge and have it with you when you volunteer. If it is lost you will be able to purchase a replacement.

If you have met the Safe Environment requirements in another location (with the exception of St. Andrew's) please have verification of training and volunteer approval level faxed to the attention of the Safe Environment Committee. We have already received St. Andrew's approved volunteer list.

Any questions can be directed to Patty Wangen, VIPS Coordinator at pwangen@bellsouth.net

Cultural Arts

Cheryl Kelly

The "Writer in Residence", Tony Peacock was in the 3rd and 4th grade classrooms November 8 – 12. We have heard from many students, Mrs. Parks and Mrs. Reese, and they loved him. The students learned a lot about writing. Mr. Peacock is also a National Hollerin' Champion, so they got a sample of that too.

On December 10th at 1:00pm, the entire school will have the pleasure of a presentation of Annette Hagopian's dance company, "Triangle Academy of Dance" rendition of the Nutcracker! We are looking forward to this holiday treat!

Community Relations

Patricia Sullivan

The Community Relations Committee is currently in the process of updating the Business and Babysitting directories. If you would like to be included in either directory, please forward your information to Patti Sullivan at phoule@nc.rr.com. The PSO is sending out holiday cards to local businesses and services as a way of reaching out to the community. St. Mary Magdalene middle school children will be assisting local merchants at "Christmas on Salem Street" on December 3. They will be collecting for Toys for Tots.

Special Events

Kristen LaViolette

TIS THE SEASON TO BE JOLLY...

Santa's Village is coming to STMM the week of December 1 – 5. Please come and join us to kick off the Christmas Season with fun shopping, pictures with Santa, Christmas trees and much, much more!

Volunteers are needed during the week, Wednesday – Friday (December 1-3) and on Saturday, Dec. 4. If you would like to volunteer, please e-mail Kristen LaViolette at klaviolette@nc.rr.com

Room Parents

Andrea Taggart

The Room Parents have been generous with their time coordinating volunteers for the Book Fair. The next volunteer effort will be for Santa's Village (see below). Room Parents will also get volunteers to cover classes for the staff luncheon on December 14.

Santa's Village

Andrea Taggart

A sub-committee of Special Events, the Santa's Village committee is busy planning for the event which will take place in school December 1-3 and for the school and parish on December 4-5. Parent volunteers are needed to make this event fun and successful. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Kristen Laviolette at Klaviolette@nc.rr.com. Thank you!

Staff Appreciation

Laurie Wendt

The Staff Appreciation Committee will be hosting a Christmas Luncheon for the staff on Wed., Dec. 8, 2004.

Booster Club

Steve Werner

The purpose of the Booster Club is to raise funds to support the Athletics program at STMM and to help drive school spirit around our sports teams. Our school has 10 sports teams that play throughout the year. It is a proven fact that participation in sports as well as other extra-curricular activities really helps fuel the growth of our children, this is why we see this as an important activity to maintain at our school. Our philosophy for fundraising is not to solicit funds from parents except for goods or services they would normally buy anyway. We are also trying to get support from the local business community.

The Booster held our first Spirit Day of the year at the end of October and it was a resounding success, we raised almost \$1,000.00 and the kids had a blast. Our next Spirit Day will be hosted by the Cheer Team in the spring. We are



Santa's Shop
kid-priced gifts for family
Dec 1-3, 2004

Santa's Workshop
Christmas crafts kids make
Saturday, Dec. 4

Santa's Village
30 different vendors for
"grown up" shopping
Saturday, Dec. 4
Sunday, Dec. 5



The finest trees from the mountains of North Carolina at discounted prices

PSO Managing Board meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 7pm.

Any parent is welcome to attend.

Next meeting Dec. 14th

Booster Club

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currently selling Christmas trees as our major fundraiser of the year. These are the finest trees that you can get from the mountains of North Carolina and we are selling them at discounted prices. Part of the purchase price may qualify as a tax deductible donation to STMM for the purchaser. We are donating a 16' tree to the school and church for the lobby of the new building from the profits we expect to earn. The Booster Club is also selling sponsorship signs for the soccer/lacrosse field, you will start to see these signs on the field within 30 days. Sponsors pay the cost of the sign plus a donation to have the sign displayed on the field. Rufty Homes, Carolina Foot Specialists, Bill Fritz Sports, and Eurosports are our first field sponsors.

Basketball season starts 11/30 and we will be back selling concessions and seat pads for the new bleachers. We will also start giving out gift certificates to local restaurants selected by the coaches at each game. Our first sponsor is The Bermuda Room in Cary. Come out and cheer for the Monarchs!

Faith Enrichment

Paula Hils

In the hope of enriching everyone's celebration of advent, the faith enrichment committee will be preparing a display for the board in the lobby and giving the staff information to share with the students. Four traditions of Christmas preparations from various cultures will be presented, one for each week of advent. Included is the St. Nicholas as the Hero for Holiness.