

St Mary's Academy Parents' Guild Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 10, 2017
Durocher Library

In attendance: Kelly Moon, Christa Giesbrecht, Ramona Thomson, Pam Knysh, Joanie Smalley, Connie Yunyk, Mirtha Villacres, Kristi Cumming, Colleen McFadden, Melanie Jones, Carmela Buccini, Devon Ostir, Anna Stipanovic, Annette Gargol, Candace Partyka

1. Meeting called to order at 7:02 pm
Opening Prayer by Connie Yunyk
Introductions around the table
2. Approval of Agenda
Motion to accept by Christa Giesbrecht and seconded by Pam Knysh
3. Approval of Previous minutes – September 12, 2017
Motion to accept by Christa Giesbrecht and seconded by Pam Knysh
4. Executive Committee Reports

President – Kelly Moon

Mix and Mingle:

- Held on Sept 21st. Huge thank you to Stephanie Gordon and Debbie Styles for coordinating and planning a very successful event for new parents. There was a lovely cocktail reception and all the parents participated in a Scavenger Hunt throughout the school which was planned by Mrs. May and Mrs. O'Leary. Christa Giesbrecht was there on behalf of the Executive and she was able to connect with some new parents to volunteer with the Guild.

Corner Store:

- Lots of exciting changes are occurring at the Corner Store. They were open during a variety of events in the month of September including: Parent Event on Sept 8th, Evening uniform sales, and Homecoming. Last year the committee was brainstorming about some alternatives to the candy that has typically been sold. At the end of September the store launched the sale of TCBY frozen yogurt and snack bags of Kernels popcorn which is being trialled for Fridays in the month of October. TCBY sold out on the first Friday (150 containers). Also looking at bringing in a variety of hot tea and hot chocolate.

PG Cash Lottery:

- Cash Lottery will be launched with a small assembly on Friday Nov 3rd. Tickets will be sent home with the girls that day. Girls will be informed of items that have been purchased with the funds in the past as well as what we are hoping to be able to purchase this year. We will be involving the Leadership Council Co-Chairs (formerly known as Head Girls) in promotion of events. Variety of incentives are planned which include: weekly draw for prizes for those that return sold booklet, cupcake party for each grade that hits their quota (1 sold book/student), pizza party for top selling class and cash prizes for the top 3 sellers. Draw will occur on Dec 22nd during Advent to Christmas Service.

December's Parent Guild Meeting/Party December 5th at 6:00pm:

- A short meeting will be held where the results of International Day will be shared followed by a fun interactive evening in the Foods and Nutrition Lab. Mrs. May has graciously agreed to facilitate the evening and assures it will be a fun interactive event! Refreshments and appetizers will be served. Sign up will be required for the event so please watch for invitation via e-mail. Cost will be \$20.00 per person.

VP Volunteers – Christa Giesbrecht

International Day

- Received the blue forms back from most of the convenors on Oct. 6th. As of today (Oct 10th), there are 54/80 signed in for Nov. 4th – Set up day and 135/225 signed in for Nov. 5th – Event Day. Most of these are from pavilion/areas signing up their own volunteers or family members.
- Once the rest of blue volunteer request forms are received, Christa will send out the link with the remaining open volunteer slots to the 50 volunteers who have said that they want to volunteer during International Day in one way or another. This should get us close to the amount needed.
- Oct. 13th, there will be a request in the communique for Bakers for the International Day Bake Sale.

SignUp.com

- Christa had emailed signup.com about one of their pop up ads and explained to them that some of our parent and student volunteers found it offensive. She included a screen shot of it and as of last Friday (Oct 6th) it's been blocked.

Treasurer's Report – Pam Knysh

Financial report for September was reviewed.

5. SMA President's Report – Connie Yunyk

Strategic Plan:

- Deferred to Colleen McFadden to give update.
- Pillar 4 – beginning work of Codes of Conduct – request for a parent volunteer to sit on this working group.
- Pillar 3 – Well-Being – lunch time restorative yoga sessions for faculty/staff, every 2 weeks – time donated by alumna Larissa Yunyk.

School academics and all programs:

- All in full swing.
- Current enrollment at a glance – 569 total.
- Grade 7 students settling in, especially following a very successful Camp Arnes experience.
- Grade 9 Welcome Night helped build community between our current students and all those new to the grade 9 program – the evening was topped off with scary stories and campus tours.

- Grade 12 Retreat and Reflection, a great way for our senior class to build harmony and unity, brief presentation by Kerri Moore, Alumnae Relations Coordinator regarding mentoring support for senior students (well-received by parents and students)...all parents joined them at the evening prayer ritual at Camp Assiniboia.
- Super-Sixer pin presentation at MMR Mass Oct. 5th – 62 students received pins.
- Volleyball, Cross-country running, Prep and High School hockey all in full swing schedules as well as all major school clubs, Cinderella! Tickets go on sale November 1st (production dates: November 30, December 1 and 2).

Advancement and Development:

- Very successful Donor Wall unveiling event took place October 3.
- Homecoming event on Sept 30th well attended (175 for commemorative years breakfast and more during our Open Campus in the afternoon).
- Once again Georgine Van de Mosselaer and her team will set up Barista for Bursary espresso bar at International Day.
- EVENING AT THE ACADEMY - Saturday January 27, 2018 – all net proceeds benefit the Bursary Fund...80% sold out as of October 10th.

Varia

- SMA hosting Huron Carol with Tom Jackson on December 7th. Tickets available by mid – October.
- Gonzaga Middle School – year off to a great start (20 Grade 7 students and 12 Grade 6 students currently). Community BBQ was hosted by the school last Tuesday – great showing and support from local community. There was a fiddler and jig dancers as well – very festive! SMA will host the next Board meeting on November 27th at noon.
- Archdiocese of Winnipeg Board of Consultors – Connie missed the September meeting due to a school commitment but will attend November 22nd meeting.
- Connie will be hosting Meghan Murphy, ED from National Coalition of Girls' Schools the following week – in Winnipeg for the CAIS Conference (Canadian Association of Independent Schools) which begins Sunday October 15 – 17. Connie will be attending this National Conference.
- Looking at recruitment campaign ideas for SMA.

6. Committee Updates – 2nd VP Ramona Thomson:

Tartan Shop

- New for this school year; uniform pants will be available by special order. Orders will be taken during Parent-Teacher conferences. Sample pants will be available to try on at that time. There may be a second opportunity for pant orders Jan. 19th, 2018.

International Day

- Need a food permit. Food only to be prepared/cooked in approved facilities. There will be a food handling meeting on Oct. 12th.
- There will not be a Rainbow Auction this year.

7. Board Liaison Report – Colleen McFadden

Strategic Plan (2016-2020)

- Strategic Plan tasks underway focusing on the five pillars (goals)
 1. Identity
 2. Academics, Learning and Innovation
 3. Well-Being
 4. Governance and Leadership
 5. Stewardship
- Well-Being - third pillar - underway
 - There was great input from students from surveys.
 - Parents - Focus groups - need more time to get more feedback.
 - There will be another well-being survey for teaches in time as there are 8 new staff members to be included.
 - Lindsey Fennell was hired as Academic Advisor. Lindsey is also working with Alumnae Affairs to keep open communications/resources available for grads/alumnae.
 - Goal by 2020: to have a well-being plan for students, faculty and staff that also includes crisis management for students.
- Colleen McFadden, Connie Yunyk and others shared in a positive supportive discussion of the challenges and opportunities of change and to shepherd through change, staying focused on following the directions set forth in the Strategic Plan.

8. Miscellaneous/New Business


nil

9. Action Items for next meeting:

nil

Meeting adjourned at 8:19pm

Next Parents' Guild Meetings:

 Parents' Guild Christmas Celebration & Meeting (sign-up required, \$20/person): Tuesday, December 5, 2017 Time: 6:00pm Location: Foods and Nutrition Lab RSVP by Dec. 1st to Devon Ostir at dostir@me.com	Parents' Guild Meeting: Tuesday, February 6, 2017 Time: 7:00pm Location: Durocher Library
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