

St. Joseph PTF Meeting – October 12, 2022

Attendance: Mrs. Schaaf, Fr. Von, Renee Moeckel, Annie Dickens, Paige Wriston, Deborah Joellenbeck, Melissa Thomas, Amanda LaBrier, Andrew LaBrier, Kim Wyman, Sarah Wiskamp, Katie Welsch

Opening Prayer: Our Father

Secretary's Report (Katie Welsch): Brief review of the September meeting minutes, including approval of the 2022-23 PTF budget. The September meeting minutes were approved, with a motion made by Deborah Joellenbeck and seconded by Renee Moeckel.

Treasurer's Report (Sarah Wiskamp): The beginning balance was \$15,443.71. We had \$183 in income (\$63 from the uniform store, \$100 on spirit wear at the picnic, and a \$20 reimbursement from Eckerts). Expenses totaled \$5,420.30 (\$31.98 for Grandparents Day, \$17.32 for Water Play Day, \$2,000 for teacher startup funds, \$600 for the field trip to Eckerts, \$2,771 for the rubber mulch for the playground). The ending balance is \$10,206.41. The treasurer's report was approved, with a motion made by Annie Dickens and seconded by Paige Wriston.

Principal's Report (Mrs. Schaaf): Clubs started back up in September and went well. Next Thursday, October 20, is the next club day. Service club will be making fleece blankets to donate. Today was a 2 p.m. dismissal day; for early dismissals, they are alternating between faculty meetings and professional development. Today Chief Schutzenhofer came to lead them through intruder drills. There will be a hard lock-down intruder drill happening at school sometime before Christmas break. Mrs. Schaaf will send out an email to families, and teachers will talk to their students. Orders from the Bobo's fundraiser were delivered yesterday. Fall Picture retake day is Wednesday, November 9; it will be a free dress day for those students. There will be a Smencil Sale this Friday, along with Spirit Wear Day. Grades 3-8 will be going on a field trip to the Old Cathedral (changed from the Cathedral Basilica due to a scheduling issue). The Christmas Cash Raffle will start soon, and each family will be given 5 tickets to sell. Quarter 1 ends October 17, with report cards emailed October 24. On October 20 the school will have an earthquake drill (at 10:20). Parent/teacher conferences will take place on Thursday, October 27 and Friday, October 28. Signups will go out over email. The music lady, Janet Wolf, has been coming to the PreK classes once a month to lead a music class; she will come twice in November instead of coming in December. On October 30, St. Joseph students are going to be the ministers at the Sunday masses at St. Joseph (8 a.m.) and St. Agatha (10 a.m.). We will do this again at least two more times--at least once during Catholic Schools Week and again on May 6. There will be an all-school mass on November 1 for All Saints Day. The Veterans Day program is also coming up on November 10.

Teacher's Report (Mrs. Thomas): Thank you from the teachers for the startup checks as well as the September staff lunch and the support for field trips. The older kids are looking forward to their turn on Friday. PreK4 is working on numbers and is going to be doing a Spookly the Square Pumpkin activity Friday. Kindergarten has completed their first iReady test for reading and math. First grade is getting ready for their first social studies test. Mrs. Zeveski has learned how to use Kahoot as a review game for them, which has been fun. Second grade is piloting a new language arts curriculum, and they're getting into a nice routine with that. Middle school is learning about English colonies in the Americas and working on group research presentations. For STEM, the first chunk of August/September was lots of

teamwork and growth mindset projects. Right now, the middle school is trying to build bone bridges out of Q-tips and glue...which is also teaching them perseverance 😊. Grades 3 and 4 are working on building a stand to hold a mini pumpkin, working with constraints. Kindergarten and first grade usually do projects tied to a book; today's was "I Need My Monster," and the kids had to go through the criteria for what they want in their monster, then used Playdoh to create it.

Standing Committee Reports:

RaiseRight (Kim Wyman/Katie Welsch): Payouts will soon be processed for the period running from April 1 through September 30, with some nice tuition credits earned. As a reminder, families receive 80% of the RaiseRight percentage for online card purchases and 50% for physical card purchases. It's worth keeping an eye on the website/app for bonus offers, when the percentages go up. Sarah Wiskamp is working to add RaiseRight to the ministry scheduler so that people can sign up for shifts selling the cards after the Sunday masses. Fr. Von offered for him or Deacon Corby to take the binder from St. Joseph to St. Agatha on those Sundays.

Monthly Teacher Luncheon (Paige Wriston): October 27 will be our next Teacher Luncheon to coincide with the parent/teacher conferences. As an extra treat, Paige is going to arrange for pizza for lunch and Chick-fil-A for dinner. We will send out a Signup Genius if needed to cover drinks and desserts.

Family Dining Nights Out (Cheryl Sinn/Paige Wriston): Chick-fil-A is next up! Paige has been in touch with them and waiting to hear back for confirmation of the date. Details will be coming over email, including whether we need any parent volunteers to help out. Renee Moeckel offered to make signs for us to put up in the drivethru to promote the event.

****Post-meeting update:** This month's Dining Night Out will be Village Pizza in New Athens on October 25.

Uniform Store (Sarah Wiskamp/Clare Schilling): There's some new spirit wear available in the store, and a motion light has been installed upstairs.

Spirit Wear (Torrey Welsch): Fall orders were delivered. Nothing more to report until spring!

Old Business:

Race Like a Hawk (10/15): We currently have 90 registrants (including 40 kids), plus quite a few sponsors. Renee made coolie cups that will be attendance prizes, along with some inspirational bracelets. Snacks and fruit are also covered, along with water (between some extras from the golf tournament and volunteer signups). They are making signs for the route, since it loops through the park, and the Freeburg football team will also be helping to guide people. The race starts at 9 a.m. Saturday at the park in Freeburg.

Trunk or Treat (10/22): Planning is going well—we're up to 13 trunks. Paige heard back from someone from Red Bud who does balloons and will be coming to this year's event, and there will also be someone dressed as Rapunzel who will do face painting. Trunkers have been sent details for the day of the event, which will run from 10-11 a.m. (hopefully outside, but the parish center will be the rain location).

By-law amendment vote (officer credentials): The proposed change to the PTF bylaws affects ARTICLE VI - OFFICERS AND THEIR ELECTION, SECTION V. The new wording reads: "Officers shall be a parent or legal guardian of a student at St. Joseph Catholic School. A paid regular employee, excluding substitute teachers and coaches, of St. Joseph Catholic School is ineligible to serve as an officer." The change from the previous wording is the removal of Parish employees from the list of individuals ineligible to serve as an officer.

Andrew then called for a voice vote approving the amendment to the by-laws. The change was approved by a unanimous vote of those in attendance.

Family Scavenger Hunt: The date will be April 1. The plan is to use an app-based program, rather than having to manually tally scores. Deborah will monitor the scavenger hunt from her phone and be able to provide feedback in real time to participants. It costs \$80 to do the Scavenger Hunt in the app, and it can accommodate up to 100 clues and 100 participating teams. She will plan to have the clues be in the Freeburg city limits. The cost is \$25 per team/carload. Further discussion is needed to determine if we should have some sort of after-party/gathering at the end for participants, and whether to have prizes.

New/Other Business:

Halloween Party/Fall Festival (10/31): Update from Deborah: She has been working on plans with the other parent volunteers. Mrs. Schaaf noted that kids will be allowed to wear costumes, so long as they can put them on over their clothing. There will be a costume parade as part of the event. The parking lot can be used for the event, and setup can begin as early as needed. Deborah reached out to Tom Range at Braeutigam Orchards about a potential donation of small pumpkins so they could have a pumpkin decorating station. Another idea is to have a little kiddie pool of corn for a sensory play station for the younger kids; Sarah Wiskamp offered to provide the corn. Other plans include a photo area, a snack spot, additional game options, and possibly using straw bales to create a maze. For the games, they might ask parents to sign up separately to bring a game or look into having each class set up a game. Kim also has some Halloween decorations to share, and Paige offered a couple of games such as Halloween Plinko.

Hole-y Hawks hole hosts (11/5): Update from Kim: Things are going well, although they still need 3 more holes. Promotion will gear up more after the 5k, although the event was included in today's Flocknote and flyers are ready. The after party will take place at Catholic War Vets on 159, on the screened-in patio, and they generously provided a deal on drink tickets.

Thanksgiving Lunch (11/22): Torrey Welsch is chairing this and will talk to CountryMart soon to see if they'd be willing to provide us much of the meal at a discount this year. We could still use a few parent volunteers to help at the lunch itself, and we also need a total of 5 turkeys (assuming they're bigger turkeys that are 15+ pounds).

PTF Trivia Night (11/23): Andrew LaBrier is heading up this event. He's currently planning on setting up 4 screens in the gym, with 20 to 25 tables of 8 per team—so looking for 160 to 200 people to sign up. He would like to make this a fun family, so 2-3 categories might be kids-themed, and he is going to ask the teachers if any of them would be willing to help come up with questions or serve as judges. One category they'd like to do is an "Are you smarter than a fourth-grader?" Some discussion of balancing the desire for a family-friendly event with the timing of the event (the night before Thanksgiving), so

aiming for an earlier event (6-8 p.m.) might be ideal. Other suggestions included ordering questions from a trivia expert in St. Louis (approximate cost of \$300), offering people the chance to buy challenges and/or mulligans, having a couple of raffles (50/50 and possible a “wheelbarrow of fun” to gear toward a family crowd), and finding some other fun little games in between. Additional discussion, as well, about how to structure registration to make the process low-key. Still need to finalize details on things such as seating capacity, pricing, etc.

Santa’s Cottage (12/14): Amanda LaBrier has offered to chair. No updates yet, but stay tuned! Parents interested in helping can do so through the main PTF Signup Genius.

Extra item: Kim asked about looking into a tetherball to replace the “spinning chair” on the playground.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 8, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.

Closing Prayer: Fr. Von

Meeting adjourned