

St. Gabriel Consolidated School



# PTO Pawprints

## Principal's Column



Our new website is up and running, thanks to many hours of work by Laura Hendy and members of our technology department, especially Joanne Gerth. If you have not had the opportunity, please look at our website at [www.stgabeschool.org](http://www.stgabeschool.org). You may also find opportunities to recommend the site to family members, neighbors, friends and church contacts, as moms and dads begin to make decisions about schooling for their children for the coming years.

While our enrollment has been fairly constant for the past six or seven years, we need to continue to be proactive by emphasizing the many benefits of the sound, challenging and positive Catholic education which St. Gabriel Consolidated School provides for the families who attend here. We embrace a diverse population of parish and non-parish students; also, remember that SGCS is the parish school for St. Maximilian Kolbe, St. John-West Chester; St. Martin dePorres, St. Matthias and St. Gabriel.

Learn more about our new website in Laura Hendy's article and check out the site!  
*Sincerely, Joe Epplen*

**Don't Miss 'Romeo and Winifred'** ... our 8th grade students are putting the finishing touches on their annual play, which this year is a comedic parody of Romeo and Juliet and other well-known Shakespeare greats. Thespians will take the stage at Glendale Elementary on Thursday, November 3, and Friday, November 4, at 7 pm. Admission is \$1 or a canned good for the needy. The production is directed by Mike and Diane Breen with assistance from Celeste Teaford. **DON'T MISS IT!**

Issue 2 2005/2006  
October  
St. Gabriel Consolidated School

### Same Address, New Look!



*Our website has a new look—it is now a reflection of our school pride – past, present and future. We've dug through the dusty boxes, and for the first time, we have a consolidated school history! Read how it all began on the "History" page. Then see what our students have done by reading "SGCS in the News", showcasing newspaper articles about our students. Don't forget the "Did You Know?" page, highlighting successes of our past students. We're always looking for additions so let us know what our alums are doing!*

*There are also many ways to see what's happening in the present at our school. An all-event school calendar, PTO minutes, announcements, Booster information, Pawprints– it's all online! We've also compiled Activities, Clubs and Awards. "What's Happening by Grade" provides an overview of curriculum and highlights. Currently under construction is an "Our Best Work" page, which will highlight student work and special events.*

*To continue our strong tradition, please direct friends and prospective students to our "Frequently Asked Questions" page and "Kindergarten" information page. Both are excellent places to learn about our school – as is the "Did You Know?" page.*

*Please send updates from your committees or calendar to [computer.lab@stgabeschool.org](mailto:computer.lab@stgabeschool.org).*

*— Laura Hendy, Community Relations*

# Happy Halloween!

## From Melinda Yonchak, PTO President ...

Happy Fall! October is my favorite month as by now we are almost settled into the back-to-school routine and no one is complaining about anything significant!

We are less than two months into the school year and have wrapped up our M&M sale, which went exceptionally well. Congratulations to co-chairs Laura Ernstes, Debbie Tunnacliffe and Amy Zimmermann for completing one of the most organized and well-run sales I have seen! A special thanks also goes out to all parents who helped sell M&Ms and counted money. The good news is we met our goal of raising over \$9,000, with our three top student sellers being Liam Davis of 2K, Michaela Fetter of 1H and Austin Bullock of 3H. There are a few boxes of Peanut M&Ms left, if you would like a box contact Amy Zimmermann. M&M proceeds will fund most PTO activities between now and Cougar's Night Out in January. Speaking of Cougar's Night Out, we have already started working! This year's theme is Mardi Gras. This will be a fun-filled night celebrating the spirit of the city and people of New Orleans. We plan to kick off the evening with a prayer for those affected by Hurricane Katrina, and we hope to have special guests from the region. Please mark your calendars for Saturday, January 28, 2006. You won't want to miss this party! If you would like to get involved and volunteer to help prepare for CNO, please contact Karin Zuber or Cheryl Sargero.

We've heard many positive comments regarding PTO e-mail reminders. Believe it or not, I even learned something I didn't know from one of them! If you haven't already signed up to receive e-mail announcements, it's easy to do! Simply send an e-mail request to reminders@stgabepo.org. If you choose not to sign up, you will still not miss important information, because everything is also communicated to parents in some other fashion.

Nine people have stopped by during PTO office hours so far! Their questions have ranged from "Are the Buckeyes going to win this weekend?" (sadly, that was a no) to questions about the school and PTO. An officer is available every Friday morning from 7:30 until 8:05 outside of the cafeteria.

Our first PTO meeting covered lots of ground, so it ran a bit longer than I would have liked. We voted and approved an unbalanced budget for the '05-'06 school year. Since that meeting, we went back a few years to examine previous PTO budgets and found that, except for one school year, the PTO has been approving unbalanced budgets since '01-'02. The '03-'04 budget is the exception, showing higher than usual income. That year, we kicked off Cougars' Night Out, and we had many more fundraisers which have since been phased out. It is interesting to note that in many years, deficit spending was well above \$5,000. Historically, PTO's reserve funds have covered these overages, but these reserves have been depleted. We must stop spending more than we earn. You should expect a significant reduction in PTO spending going forward unless we add income. I am confident we can reach a happy medium between cutting expenditures and adding revenue, and the PTO board proposes the following steps to help get us there:

- **By Halloween** – Determine exactly how much reserve we have. This school year's PTO budget is largely based upon the reports and accounting systems of three different treasurers in the past year. It is imperative that we consolidate these numbers onto one standard accounting software platform. We have targeted Halloween to have this complete.
- **Prior to Thanksgiving** – Determine a cash reserve amount that must be brought forward to start each school year. Each new year, we have bills to pay before fundraising money comes in. PTO boards have always left money in the bank to cover these bills, but the amount left over—the cash reserve—has historically been subjective. No one has identified how much money we've needed to cover our next year's expenditures, basically because we've always had significant reserves. But, as reserves dwindle, identifying an amount to be brought forward each year is imperative. We have targeted Thanksgiving as the date to have this complete.
- **Prior to Christmas Break** - Send all PTO members a detailed accounting of our budget, current financial situation, fundraisers available, and potential cost-cutting measures. We target the week before Christmas break as the time by which we sum up our options and present them to you.
- **January PTO Meeting** - Discuss the financial information sent prior to Christmas break. Discuss and vote on adding the minimum balance and the cash on hand balance of the PTO account to the by-laws. Discuss the proposed cuts and/or additional fundraisers and vote to approve them for next year.

As you can see, we have our work cut out for us but we are confident of a positive outcome. Please do not hesitate to contact any PTO Board member anytime. We are here for you.

***BoxTops are easy money ... Keep saving BoxTops labels from General Mills products! Also, don't forget when shopping online to go through the BoxTops website at [www.boxtops4education](http://www.boxtops4education), because a percentage of every purchase goes to St. Gabriel. We've earned over \$80 from people doing this (and thanks to them for taking the extra couple steps to do so! Do to confidentiality rules, I have no way of knowing who they are!)***  
- Teri Dean

**Support your room parent teams ...** Kathleen Bueter did a great job coordinating room parent leaders, teams and suppliers! If you're a leader, don't forget reimbursement forms after class parties. Leader spots are full, but chances are good that leaders will appreciate all of the donations and support they can get. Ask your child's teacher or Kathleen who your leader is, and offer to lend a hand!



## SCRIP is a Hit!

The SCRIP program and PTO thank parents for purchasing SCRIP so far this year. The sale of Kroger cards has been great, please purchase one for your Kroger shopping trips! Look for the bright yellow order form in the Thursday envelope each month or print one off our school website. Log onto [stgabeschool.org](http://stgabeschool.org), click on forms, then click on SCRIP Order Form. Orders are placed every Friday and are sent home in Thursday envelopes the following week. Thank you for your support!

— Ann Albers

## Get Your ZONE BOOK ... Before It's Too Late

Please contact Michelle Danhoff if you would like a **Zone Book**. The books are \$25 each. We earn \$12.50 per book sold, so this is a great fundraiser with valuable coupons for you! We have profited \$462.50 so far and if just three more books sell, we will earn an even \$500.00. First come, first serve ... only three books are left. You can reach Michelle at 755-2408, 505-5344 or via e-mail to [mich7030@zoomtown.com](mailto:mich7030@zoomtown.com).



## Keep Our New Library 'New'!

Everyone has been great about not eating/drinking in the new library. And, we have wonderful volunteer librarians—thank you, parents! The kids have been reading a great deal and we have very few 'late' books. However, please remember to do a better job leaving the library the way you find it--don't leave books on the floor and don't put books back in the wrong place. Parents of younger students, especially kindergartners, please talk to your kids about the importance of respecting library books when they're at home. No eating, drinking, writing in them, setting things on them, don't dog-ear pages, or leave them where little siblings or pets can find them and damage them.

Thanks, Gail Motz

## It's YOUR school ... get involved!

The school year is buzzing right along with lots of activity – and lots of volunteers helping to make it all happen! Hopefully, you noticed the September volunteer appreciation display located between the computer lab and the music room. We will continue with different displays throughout the year as a way to recognize your dedication and hard work. While it's difficult to adequately express our thanks for all that parents do, we hope that this display helps to acknowledge how important that support is in creating a strong learning environment for our children (and the students enjoy looking at the displays as each new one appears). Thank you very much for sharing your time and resources with SGCS; you are truly invaluable! If you are looking for ways to volunteer, please let a PTO board member know, or email the PTO at [reminders@stgabeppto.org](mailto:reminders@stgabeppto.org). Fresh faces bring fresh ideas and we would LOVE to help more people get involved!

—Ann Everly, PTO Vice President

## Our new teachers! Please join us in welcoming:

? Mrs. Julia Bethune, K-8th Music Teacher, a graduate of Miami University in Music Education. Julia attended Our Lady of Lourdes and Mother of Mercy High School. Mrs. Bethune has studied music for over 10 years including studies in Italian opera where she performed at St. Peter's Cathedral in Rome.

? Ms. Christine Archibald, 7th and 8th grade Science and 7th grade Religion, a graduate of Miami University and McAuley High School. She is a long time resident of Ohio and grew up knowing in her heart she would always be a teacher. Ms. Archibald loves the outdoors and looks forward to cheering on the Cougars!

? Mrs. Christie Kresky returns to 6th grade after working in 3rd and 4th grades at SGCS. Plans to move to Wisconsin fell through for the Kresky family, and we are the beneficiaries! An avid reader, she enjoys working on reading and language arts fundamentals. Mrs. Kresky recently gave birth to her second daughter.

? Mrs. Yvette Schnegg, 7th grade teacher and also a Miami graduate. A 12 year Cincinnati resident, Mrs. Schnegg took a few years off to raise her children, who are now in kindergarten and first grade at SGCS. When she's not working, she loves to read and play golf!

## St. Gabriel Scouts in Action

? Cub Scouts: Our Popcorn Sale continues through October. Don't forget to purchase popcorn from your favorite Cub Scout or by using the form sent home in the Thursday Envelope. Our boys recently enjoyed a campout at Sargero's Horse Farm, which included pumpkin painting, hayride, bonfire, learning how to care for horses and learning about farm equipment. The Webelos cooked dinner and breakfast!  
-Coreen Brown

? Sally Kolks is our kindergarten Daisy leader. Thank you for volunteering!

? We have two-first grade Brownie troops looking forward to tackling their first Try-It badge. Our troops are led by Angela Bill, Teri Dean and Lana Schneider.

? Kim Ceccoli's second grade troop has 14 girls who are focusing on earning badges. They plan to attend the Nutcracker ballet this holiday season, visit a nursing home and a camping overnight next spring.

? Third grade Brownies made blankets for Project Linus and learned from a representative how Project Linus benefits the local community. We enjoyed a Halloween visit to Camp 'Spookybrook' and attended Core Camp at Camp Stoneybrook. In November we will host a school bake sale and attend a *Children Just Like Me* exhibit and *Culture Fest* at the Cinergy Children's Museum. In December, we will attend a Children's Theater performance of "Frosty: A Magical Adventure" at the Taft Theater. —Darlene Lewis, Amy Husvar, Julia Kurta, and Cheryl Beyer.

? The fourth grade troop led by Maria Laib, Laura Ernstes, Teri Dean and Teresa Kraimer held a campout at which they planned their patrols for the year.

? Fifth grade Juniors led by Phyllis Cowan and Kathy Utrecht have already enjoyed a low ropes challenge course at Camp Stonybrook, archery at Camp Butterworth and are going horseback riding at Camp Campbell Gard in November. We have also been corresponding with two servicemen in Iraq and working on badges.

? 8th Grade Troop 5380 has just entered their 9th year of Girl Scouts with 11 girls, many together since Daisies! We welcome Linda Hatfield as new co-leader. We've been busy! We had a 'Blanket Making' party, creating 30 fleece blankets for "Project Linus" which will be given to children displaced from their homes because of the hurricanes. A bake sale helped pay for blanket materials. We also had several girls provide babysitting at the PTO meeting. Other activities planned include Silver Award projects, Orienteering Weekend, Mother/Daughter and Dad/Daughter activities, Self Defense and Skiing. We hope to plan a big end of year trip and are considering New York, which will mean earning a lot of money (selling more cookies)!  
- Marianne Lingardo

Join YOUR PTO ... it's only \$5 and you'll receive our directory. It's chock full of important names, dates, events, class lists and of course, the names and numbers of your children's classmates! Membership also gives you the right to vote on PTO matters. Contact Eileen Hoffman today 742—5057 or through Emily in 2M.

## Cougar's Night Out 2006



Mark your calendars for January 28! This year's Mardi Gras theme will allow us to celebrate the spirit and courage of the people of New Orleans. We promise more auction items... baskets... games... friends... food and drink... more FUN!!!!!!

We are currently actively seeking auction items and basket donations. If you have an idea, let us know. We will gladly accept your donation, pick it up if necessary, and make money for our school! Use the form in your recent Thursday envelope, or contact Michelle Danhoff at 755-2408 or Nancy Young at 755-5440. Want to help obtain donations? We need you for that, too!

## Boosters are Busy!

St. Gabriel Boosters thank the school community for your support of our recent fundraisers. We made around \$600 on the Buddy Cards and the spirit wear sales are going well. We purchased new basketball uniforms for the girls' 8<sup>th</sup> grade, 7<sup>th</sup> grade, and two 4<sup>th</sup> grade teams. We plan on purchasing some new boys' basketball uniforms and completing the girls' volleyball uniforms in the upcoming season.

Our next meeting is Monday, November 14, 7:30 PM in St. Mary's Hall. Join us!

## St. Gabriel 2005/2006 PTO Board

- **President:** Melinda Yonchak  
phone: 887-6117/e-mail: myonchak@fuse.net
- **Vice President:** Ann Everly  
phone: 759-5451/e-mail: aeeverly@cinci.rr.com
- **Secretary:** Patty Klaus  
phone: 772-8789/e-mail: pat.klaus@aecmagnetics.com
- **Treasurer:** Larry White  
phone: 851-4885/e-mail wenlar1@fuse.net

**2005/2006 PTO Meeting Dates: January 11, May 10**  
**Wednesdays at 7:00 pm in St. Mary's Hall**