

St. Gabriel Consolidated School PTO

- ❖ **Call to Order & Welcome:** SGCS PTO president Melinda Y. called to order the spring meeting of SGCS PTO Wednesday, May 10, at 7:00 p.m. Melinda then welcomed parents and teachers to the meeting, and reminded attendees free babysitting was available in the school cafeteria.
- ❖ **Prayer:** Melinda introduced Ms. C., SGCS director of religious education, who presented an opening prayer.
- ❖ **Membership:** Melinda invited everyone to take advantage of early PTO registration for next year. She said tonight's \$7.00 membership fee represents a \$3.00 savings over the \$10.00 PTO fee that will be charged next fall. Melinda directed members to PTO membership chair Eileen H.
- ❖ **Secretary's Report:** PTO vice president Ann E. presented the secretary's report in the absence of PTO secretary Patty K. who was excused due to illness. Ann requested, and received from Aimee D., a motion to waive reading the January meeting minutes. Melony F. seconded the motion. Members unanimously approved the motion. Ann reported Patty received 155 e-mail messages to the PTO e-mailbox, new to PTO this school year. Messages included various questions and feedback from PTO members. Ann said it seems to be a good method of communication, and she reminded the group that the SGCS PTO e-mail address is **reminders@stgabeppto.org** PTO meeting minutes will be posted at the school Web site, **www.stgabeschool.org**; posted on the flag door bulletin board; and via e-mail if requested from the PTO secretary at **reminders@stgabeppto.org**
- ❖ **Treasurer's Report:** Coreen B., who assumed PTO financial duties, presented the PTO financial report. The latest P&L statement reflects a total income of \$98,217. Coreen reports \$9,922.12 as new profit. Coreen directed members seeking reimbursement to new PTO Cash Request forms handed out in the announcement packets or on the school Web site.
- ❖ **Principal's Report:** Mr. E., SGCS principal, presented the Principal's report. He announced a committee looking at the school dress code recommended no major changes, but rather tightening up enforcement of current dress code commencing this fall. Mr. E. explained a new state law that would require our school to have in place a "wellness policy." Focus areas include increase in exercise, limitations on snacks, and perhaps a reduction in the number of bake sales. Impact, if any, on the PTO M&M sale is being evaluated.
- ❖ Mr. E. updated parents and teachers on Smart Board acquisition. A letter was sent home soliciting donations; the response will help the school install six additional Boards this August. Classrooms in which the new Boards will be installed have not yet been determined. The Smart Boards are good for students who are "visual learners."

- ❖ Mr. E. announced that a new, part-time Spanish teacher would begin teaching at SGCS, scheduled for four half-days per week. Kindergarten through third- grade will receive 30 minutes of Spanish instruction each week. Fourth- through eighth-grade students are scheduled to receive 45 minutes per week as part of their language arts class.
- ❖ With regard to the new playground equipment, Mr. E. said it is scheduled for installation July 28, pending enough parent volunteers to help. Mulching is scheduled the day after installation. Jan H. is organizing parent foremen and helpers. Those who wish to volunteer are asked to call Jan.
- ❖ Volunteers are also being sought, Mr. E. said, for summer painting of the school hallways from 5:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. weekdays, and perhaps additional weekend hours. The work is scheduled to commence sometime after St. Gabriel Church's festival Father's Day weekend.

- ❖ **Presentation:** St. Gabriel Consolidated School seventh- and eighth-graders presented a report on their mission work and project with Ugandan children, "The Invisible Children." The students explained how children, forced into fighting in the Ugandan Army, are often abused and forced to kill and suffer other atrocities. The students directed parents and teachers to learn more at the Invisible Children Web site, <http://www.invisiblechildren.com>, and announced that money will be collected at FunFest to help support the suffering Ugandan children.

- ❖ **Active committee reports** included Cougars Night Out: Tiffani W. is our new Cougars Night Out co-chair. Tiffani gave a thorough report on CNO status for next year: The date has been moved to November 4; the theme is "All American," the target is \$20,000 income for SGCS PTO, and volunteers are still needed. Specifically, Tiffani charged PTO members with securing donations, donating goods themselves and ensuring friends, families and neighbors come. Tiffani said all future CNO correspondence would be on red paper.
- ❖ Another active committee report from Marketing & Community Relations chair Aimee D. said SGCS has a Cougar mascot, but needs a logo that will embody the spirit of the school...something contemporary yet still celebrates tradition and heritage. The Angel Gabriel will be used on all letterhead, etc., in the future.

- ❖ **New Officer inductions:** Principal Joe E. presided over the swearing-in of the 2006-2007 SGCS PTO Board: Ann E. as president, Maria L. as vice president and Coreen B. as treasurer. (Due to illness, Patty K. will be sworn-in as secretary at a later date.)

- ❖ **General Announcements:** Chairpersons are needed for various committees. A co-chair to join Kris K. in heading up FunFest; Help with various Cougars Night Out committees, such as Silent Auction and Raffles; Directory chair is sought to take over Ann A.'s position in the future; Kim C. seeks a Mentoring co-chair to take over Mentoring Families after this year. Please contact Ann E. to volunteer.

- ❖ **Appreciation:** Thank you to all committee chairs! Gifts for committee chairs for their hard work this school year may be picked up in the Enrichment Room.
- ❖ **Open Forum:** Question on why girls wear pants only certain times of the year Mr. Epplen explained that this policy preceded him. The uniform committee will be looking into it. Question on why babysitting not being considered for CNO at St. Max (liability issue, but if it is a concern, write it down on your CNO feedback form for consideration) and a recommendation to tap into the Red Cross Babysitter list in PTO directory.
- ❖ **Split-the-Pot:** Teacher: Mrs. S. won \$30. A first-grade parent won \$30.
- ❖ **Closing:** Mr. E. read “The Gratitudes,” available as an addendum to these minutes. Maureen B. moved to adjourn; Kara R. seconded the motion, and members voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maria L. for Patty K., SGCS PTO secretary

Addendum A: Announcements

Addendum B: “The Gratitudes”