



PTO Meeting
January 10, 2007
St. Mary's Hall
St. Gabriel Consolidated School

Call to Order & Welcome

- PTO President Ann E. called to order the meeting at 7:00 p.m.
- She reminded those in attendance that childcare was available in the cafeteria.
- Ms. C. led the opening prayer.

Secretary's Report

- PTO vice president Maria L. filled in for PTO secretary Pat K., who was absent due to her son's birthday.
- Maria requested, and received from Laura E., a motion to waive reading the minutes. Sue K. seconded the motion. The membership voted to waive the reading; the motion passed and the reading of the minutes was waived.
- Maria announced PTO would no longer hold office hours Friday mornings in front of the cafeteria. Questions, comments and complaints to PTO may still be registered in person, via email (reminders@stgabeppto.org) or through school mail.
- Those wishing to receive weekly email reminders from PTO were encouraged to sign up through the link at our school Web site (www.stgabeschool.org) or to email PTO directly at reminders@stgabeppto.org.

(more)

PTO Board :

President
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Vice President
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Treasurer
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Secretary
Pat Klaus
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(Sec'y's report, continued)

- (Sec'y's report, cont'd) Maria conveyed Pat's apology for not sending out reminders the week before, and after, Christmas break. They will resume Friday.

Treasurer's Report

- PTO Treasurer Coreen B. shared financial highlights of the first half of the school year.
 - Cougars' Night Out: PTO Secretary Coreen B. reported that CNO provided SGCS with an excellent event and significant profit. She thanked everyone for contributing, recognizing CNO co-chairs Nancy Y. and Tiffani W.; all CNO committees; CNO volunteers and all who attended and/or contributed to the event.
 - M&M Sales: Coreen reported M&M sales were up \$3,800 from the previous school year, and thanked co-chairs Amy Z., Laura E. and Debbie T. for their effort.
 - Market Day: Coreen reported Market Day sales up more than \$304, plus a new freezer, thanks to the hard work of co-chairs Mary B., Janet B. and Cindy L.
 - PTO membership: Coreen reported PTO membership up more than \$580, partly due to the increase in the cost of membership but also due to the marketing and incentives provided this year by Eileen H. and Pat K.
 - Campbell Soup labels & Target Take Charge of Education: Coreen pointed out that these programs provide to us products in lieu of cash; this results in savings to both school and to PTO.
 - School Logo Items: Coreen said sales of logo items are up \$500; this, she said, is due to the entire PTO Board showing up at every event to sell these items. Coreen also mentioned that license plate holders, magnets, pencil bags and book covers are available all year long. Those interested in purchasing them should contact any PTO Board member.
 - School Supplies: Coreen reported sales up more than \$230, and thanked chairperson Jane G.

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(Treasurer's report, continued)

- (Financial highlights, cont'd) Scrip: Coreen reported Scrip sales up more than \$7,600. She pointed out that Scrip's annual profit was budgeted at \$3,000 but already, as of the end of December; profit has topped \$2,400 due to the enthusiastic work of Scrip chairperson Melinda Y.
- Coreen reminded members of the many other income opportunities for SGCS PTO: Boxtops for Education, Birthday Book Program, Magazine Sale (now a very simple online process), Meijer Rewards (sign up at your local store and use our school code!) and Tyson Project A+ (we earn 24-cents for each label).
- Check Request Forms: Coreen thanked volunteers, teachers and staff members for submitting Check Request Forms promptly. Because of this diligence, Coreen said, we have very accurate record keeping. She asked that everyone please continue to be prompt especially as we head toward the end of the school year.
- Finally, Coreen pointed out that, as an organization, PTO is responsible for handling more than \$120,000 annually—money raised by the very hard work of parents and volunteers. With that in mind, she asks everyone to spend this money wisely: buy the best possible products and services at the most economical price.

Principal's Report:

- Mr. E, SGCS principal, pointed out that enrollment forms for next year were in this week's Thursday envelope. He sees an increased interest in our school by outsiders: he is giving tours daily, even several per day.
- January 21, Mr. E said he and SGCS administrator Cheryl B will be at St. Max to register new students, and to speak to potential new families. A breakfast there that day kicks-off Catholic Schools Week.
- Mr. E and Mrs. B. will be at St. John's January 27 to register new students and to speak to potential new families.
- Mr. E. said SGCS registration for parishes other than St. John and St. Max would be through their usual parish registration process.
- The all-school Mass for Catholic Schools Week will be February 1 at St. John. Fr. Mark Berger, from St. John's, will be the celebrant.

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- (Mr. E., cont'd) Catholic Schools Week Open House at SGCS is January 31. Mr. E. encouraged everyone to please come, and those who can volunteer are urged to please do so because help is still needed.

Active Committee Reports

- CNO: Ann E., SGCS PTO president, reported for the CNO Committee, conveying thanks from co-chairpersons Tiffani W. and Nancy Y. Changes to this year's event, a DJ and sound system and live auction, were positive. CNO netted \$15,600 in profit. The call for volunteers is already going out for next year's event. A member asked how this year's profit compared to last year's; Ann replied we made close to \$1,500 more this year. A member asked if CNO would be the same date next year; Ann replied yes.
- Catholic Schools Week: Chairperson Aimee D. reminded members CSW is January 28 through February 3, and its theme is "Good News in Education." She scheduled a kick-off assembly with a service project, adopting a Catholic School affected by Katrina. Aimee reminded everyone that there will be an Open House at SGCS January 31, invited everyone to the all-school Mass at St. John's February 1, from 7:00 p.m. until 8:30 p.m.. and asked all to keep our school in their prayers and to remember the blessings we have at SGCS.

Guest Speaker

- Mr. E.n introduced a special discussion topic, "Internet Usage and Safety." He pointed out the increased interest in technology by our children requires us to learn about it, too.
- Three guests addressed the meeting: Joanne G., from SGCS technology department; Officer Walsh, our school's DARE officer; and Detective Osdenmore, from the Regional Electronics and Computer Investigations Unit.
- Mrs. G. talked about the filters St. Gabriel Consolidated School puts on its Web sites. She said the school has a very good system.
- The officers suggested that parents take a proactive approach with your kids on their home computers.
 - Take the time to find out what the abbreviations are.
 - Know whom they are communicating with.

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(Guest speakers, continued)

- (Officers' suggestions, cont'd) Child guardian software is good but only if maintained daily, due to new Web sites being added every day—80 percent of which are porn sites.
- The officers said Facebook, Livejournal, myspace, etc., are all alluring sites, especially to teenagers.
- Every computer has an IP address and it is easy to trace your location.
- You need to be familiar with the filtering software for your kids.

- Helpful information can be found at www.naturalplace.com/netsafety
- Presearch allows you to see all images that were run on their hard drive. Or, perform a Google search on the term, "the wayback machine," to see old entries.
- Most myspace-type sites require participants to be 14 years of age to have a personal Web page; some high schools and college reject kids as a result of misrepresenting your age or posting false information about yourself or your activities.
- Be a benevolent dictator, an officer suggested. Set boundaries; tell them you will have access to all of their email and Website pages and their friends' as well. Make that clear up front.
- To learn netspeak, go to the Web site www.cyberangels.org
- Something concerning to you? Report it to the parents of the child or report it to your local police agency.

General Announcements

- Volunteer Opportunities/PTO Board Nominations: Ann reminded members that nominations for next year's PTO Board would be coming in March. She encouraged everyone to consider running.
- Thanks: Maria thanked all involved with Cougars' Night Out, especially Co-chairs Tiffani W. and Nancy Y. She directed members to our school Web site to check out the Kudos section to see all of the hard-working volunteers for this event. Maria also thanked all of the fundraising committee chairs, including: Scrip (Melinda Y.); Market Day (Mary B., Janet B. and Cindy L.); Box Tops (Teri D.); Campbell's Labels (Joanne G.); Tyson Project A+ (Nancy S.); and Zone Books (Melony F.). In addition to the Web site's kudos page, Maria directed

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SGCS PTO Meeting January 10, 2007 (General Announcements, continued)

- (Thanks, Cont'd) everyone to see the recognition display on the wall outside of the cafeteria. The wall is in need of some repair, but will soon be fixed.
- (General Announcements, Cont'd) Watch the wall continue to grow with the addition of names, or bricks, as the volunteer list expands. Maria thanked each and every volunteer who has helped SGCS whether in a big, or small, capacity each person's effort is appreciated.

Open Forum

- A member wanted to know if follow-up information was available on the technology discussed at tonight's meeting. Mr. E. indicated such information would be available. Another member asked if such technology discussion(s) could be made to be an ongoing part of the PTO structure. It was indicated that PTO would take this under consideration.
- Ann asked for Split-The-Pot and attendance results. The Split-the-Pot winner was Ann E., and Mrs. S.'s class won the Cougar for most parents in attendance.
- Ann reminded all the next meeting date is May 9, 2007.
- Ann asked for, and received, a motion to adjourn; so motioned by Aimee D., seconded by Jeff F. The SGCS PTO meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat K.
SGCS PTO Secretary

Minutes Addendum 1: '06-07 SGCS PTO Financials
Minutes Addendum 2: Announcements