

Parents Club Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, September 2nd, 2009

**Call to Order**  
**Opening Prayer**  
**Welcome to Parents Club**

**Peggy Schifferdecker**  
**Fr. Steve Beatty**  
**Peggy Schifferdecker**

Welcome to all of our new and returning Cathedral parents.

Introduction of 2009-2010 Parents Club officers:

Peggy Schifferdecker- President

Amy Bonta- 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

Amy Toenjes- 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

Julia Piper Jung- Secretary

Nancy Schmidt- Treasurer

Parents Club Goals:

Have every parent become a member of Parents Club

Have every parent become active in Parents Club

Promote a closer union between home, school, teachers and parents

Use email as our main source of communication

Increase family involvement at school and parish events

Welcome to all of our returning teachers, our new teachers and Sr. Tess. This year we have 105 families and I'd like them all to join and be active in Parents Club. Our goal to keep meetings to an hour, hour and 15 minutes tops. We appreciate your time.

On Tuesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, we will host a Welcome Back Parent Social at Big Daddy's on East Main Street. This was very well attended last year and we felt that we couldn't do better, so we're doing again.

**Principal Update**

**Dr. Kay Bennett**

I'm looking forward to working with you all. I'd like to read a letter from Fr. Myler.

"I am sorry that I can't be at your Parents' Club Meeting tonight. Wednesdays are usually my day away from the parish -- but I had planned to be there this evening...

But I just found out that I must represent the Diocese at a meeting at Washington University this evening.

"Just three quick things:

First,

my gratitude to the Parents who helped at this year's Summerfest. And to the Athletic Committee for all their hard work. I hope that the final proceeds (after the bills are paid) will help us get our new bleachers as soon as possible.

Second,

I am very happy and grateful that Dr Bennett, after discussions with the Parish Board of Education, has made our Early Learning Center more available to more children and their families. Please spread the word -- that's the future of our school!

Finally,

please know how much I enjoy visiting with the children -- along with Fr Beatty and Deacon Abraham --at School Masses on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, and when we visit the classrooms as well as the times for Preparation for the Sacraments (which has already begun). There's not another school in our Diocese that has two priests and a deacon visit regularly, virtually every school day. And we are happy to do it.

Thanks again to the Parents Club -- Fr John Myler

Introduction of teachers and staff:

Patty Birkner, Pre-K

Sandy Casson, 6<sup>th</sup> grade

Megan DeGroot, PE

Gail Fietsam, Pre-K

Patty Freuler, music

Linda Hobbs, 5<sup>th</sup> grade

Debbie Hoffman, 8<sup>th</sup> grade

Mary Pat Kuebel, 1<sup>st</sup> grade

Sharon McCormack will be our part time reading resource teacher

Denise Meile, Kindergarten

New this year, Amanda Niedbalski, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade

Laura Oughton returning to ELC and also teaches PSR at St. Teresa's

New this year, Susan Ratkewicz, 4<sup>th</sup> grade and coaching girls volleyball

Bert Scannell, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade

Marvin Thien, 7<sup>th</sup> grade

Linda Van Loo and Sandra McNease administrative support in the office

New this year, Dave Sebescak, from Althoff, will be working with our band

Also new, Michael Towle, who will be teaching religion to 5<sup>th</sup> thru 8<sup>th</sup> grade

Dr. Ann Bachman, a psychologist with Catholic Social Services will be returning as our school counselor

Mrs. Kosco will be returning to the Atrium

We are introducing a new lunch program this year, which has started off with a bang. There are a few bugs still being worked out. The kids are liking the choices and we are working on a system for seconds, which will be \$2 extra and will include an entrée and a milk.

We have a new band director, which is a cooperative effort with Althoff. A lease to purchase program for instruments will be available for older students.

ELC has some changes. A ½ day option will be available for either 3 days or 5 days a week. A possible ½ day two days a week may become available. Please contact the office with any interest.

Cathedral has the best website I've ever seen for a school.

Please take a look at our Random Acts of Kindness "click on" to see who's been caught! Check the bulletin board across from the office for certificates on Friday's.

Every 5 years, we have a State Evaluation accountability with curricular and health records. We're getting ready for that in January and will keep parents updated.

Concerning H1N1: please check the website for the county health department and diocesan facts. In the mean time, we have been cleaning desks, door knobs and water fountains. Also educating students to cough into their sleeves and hand washing, hand washing, hand washing! Student must remain fever free, without medication, for 24 hours before returning to school. For more info, check [www.flu.gov](http://www.flu.gov)

Parent volunteers for lunch: Please fill up when it's your month. The new time is 11:45 to 12:45 PM. Thank you again for all you're going to do!

## **Technology**

**Linda Van Loo**

Gradebook Wizzard: turn in your paper work, we need your email to assign a password. If you are a returning parent, your password remains the same, unless you have changed your email address. The MESSAGES feature goes straight to the teacher's email. Grade Quick is for ELC and Kindergarten and Grade Wizzard is 1<sup>st</sup> thru 8<sup>th</sup> grades. You can go to the Cathedral website to log in.

Thanks to a \$2500 diocesan grant and money from Parents Club, we've been able to purchase 3 wireless tablets and 2 sets of responds. We are the only catholic school in the city to have an interactive white board in every classroom, thanks to Parents Club! We also have projectors and ebeam. New this year are

the tablets and ebeam respond. It looks like a remote, flat with numbers. The hope is to increase attention and encourages involvement. It delivers an immediate feed back and allows participation without being in the spotlight. We will be holding Tech Nights, by grade levels. Check the website for more info to follow.

### **Treasurer's Account Update**

**Peggy Schifferdecker**

Project Account: 2008-2009 fund Allocation

The goal of Parents Club is to fundraise for the club. We do that thru a number events, including the auction. The recent allocation includes technology, online video streaming and contracts to keep tech systems running and upgrading systems. It also includes field trips and the library; books and AR tests, Pro Teach work shops, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade scholarships and marketing/PR.

### **Volunteer Hours**

**Amy Toenjes**

For every 5 hours volunteered, parents receive one chance in the end of the year tuition raffle. Parents must have current dues paid to be eligible. There are 3-\$500 tuition vouchers drawn. If you have hours for either the school picnic or Summerfest, please record them on the volunteer sheet being passed around.

### **Room Parent Update**

**Amy Bonta**

All head room parent spots have been filled! Thank you to all! Parents are mainly responsible for securing volunteers for playground duty during your month and reminder calls. Also organizing the 2 class parties for Halloween and Valentine's Day. There is room for helpers in 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades.

Room parents:

Mary Konrad:8H

Sandy Dahm-Schell:7T

Barb Stock:6C

Angel Ackerman:5H

Kim Luecking:4R

Sue Pederson:3N

John Wheaton & Paul Lindauer:2S

Jill Lugge:1K

Barb Eilerman:KM

**Candy Drive****Sue Pederson**

The Kathryn Beich candy drive is underway and ends on Friday the 4<sup>th</sup>, please return the order forms by then. The online ordering has a quirk, you must click on "SHOP". The goal is for each family to sell \$150. It will be delivered Oct. 8<sup>th</sup> and yes, we will need volunteers! We never know when the truck arrives, so we will also need "on call" volunteers. There are competitions for classrooms. The class with the highest sales will receive a pizza party.

**Market Day****Amy Gould**

Market Day is a monthly fundraiser with restaurant quality food. Order forms go home with your kids and the delivery is one Saturday a month. The first pick up is Sat. Sept. 19<sup>th</sup> from 8 to 9am. You can order online at [www.marketday.com](http://www.marketday.com). Order forms usually go home the Thursday after Parents Club. The deadline to order is Mon. Sept. 14<sup>th</sup> by 11pm online. Volunteers are needed from roughly 6:30 to 8:30am once a month.

**Together We are Better Program****Sandra McNease**

It's coupon/gift card program that is easy and many types are available. Each company gives a different % back for each purchase. Half of the % goes to the school and the other half gets credited to your lunch account. There are a variety of restaurants, grocery stores and gas. Check the list in the office. We can accept credit/debit card payments for your purchase. Farmers Market no longer participates and has moved to a scrip program similar to Schnucks. Look for a flyer to come home with a Farmers Market card. The 8<sup>th</sup> grade is using Farmers Market scrip to fundraiser for their trip.

Child Protection: Renewal for the Bullying not necessary if you did it last year. If you only did the Initial Child Protection Training, then you need to do the Bullying renewal this year. This is something you need to do if you are helping with AR testing.

Sweatshirt orders are due Friday and we only have 3.

## **S.S.N.D. 150 year Celebration**

**Sr. Tess Markus**

The School Sisters of Notre Dame will be celebrating 150 years of teaching at Cathedral. Both Kay and I were on staff in the 70's. Mother Caroline began a grade school for girls in 1859, we are celebrating 150 years of nuns teaching. 56 women entered the SSND from Cathedral. 289 Sisters have taught in this school, which was the largest school in the diocese. At one time, there were 1200 students, with 3 classes in each grade and 2 kindergartens, an AM and a PM. I am very proud to be here to coordinate the sacraments for the school and PSR, help the children practice for mass and as a resource for the teachers. An invitation is out for the celebration on October 4<sup>th</sup>. A mass at 10:30am and reception following in the undercroft of the church. I'm hoping that Parents club can help with the reception, please see Peggy to do so.

## **Miscellaneous**

**Peggy Schifferdecker**

Concerning the out of uniform pass given for Parents Club attendance: We hope to instill pride in wearing our school uniform and take pride in our children attending a catholic school. We will not be able to offer out of uniform passes this year. We hope that you will all come to support the school.

Mike Phillips Athletic Director: Tickets are on sale now for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade boys baseball game against Queen of Peace, at Grizzly Stadium, on the 19<sup>th</sup>. The game starts at 7pm and tickets are \$4. Dr. Bennett will throw out the first pitch. Look for a flyer to come home. Also, on the 25<sup>th</sup>, consider attending Cathedral Night at Althoff's Homecoming game against Centralia at Lindenwood (the old Belleville West). Dr. Bennett will do the coin toss.

Friday, Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup> will be kick off the Family Fun Events with the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Bon Fire and Haunted Hayride at the Millstadt Eckert's. Ticket price is \$8 per person, over the age of 2. Flyers are coming home. If you RSVP ahead, your tickets will come home on the Thursday before, which makes entry at the gate faster. Families can pay at the gate as well. The admission fee includes everything offered. Families can BYO coolers, hot dogs and s'mores, but no alcohol is permitted.

Nancy Harmon would like to remind parents to bring in their aluminum cans for Mr. Thien, who uses them to help fund the science lab.

## **Attendance & 50/50**

We had 58 parents in attendance, representing 92 students.

Two classes tied, KM and 4R

Greta Stock won the attendance prize with #2

50/50 brought in \$60 and the winning ticket was 798128, Amy Gould

**Closing Prayer**

**Amy Bonta**