

St. Odilia Parent Action Association (PAA)
Meeting Minutes for September 8th, 2009

1.) Welcome, Prayer, Introductions

- PAA co-chairs, Ann Heller and Jacki Wings welcomed and thanked all attendees. They expressed thanks to all that are volunteering and look forward to the 2009-2010 school year.

2.) School Report-provided by Mr. Fink

- Mr. Grose and Mr. Fink would like to thank all for a great start to the new school year.
- Mr. Grose and Mr. Fink would like your feedback regarding starting school before Labor Day. Please send an email to them if you would like to express your thoughts.
- As of today, there are 551 students enrolled at St. Odilia.
- The St. Odilia preschool has expanded. There are currently two full day sections and two _ day sections.
- A new computer server was installed for the school. This should resolve the difficulties Comcast customers experienced when using the PowerSchool system.
- A teacher was hired for the before school Spanish enrichment classes for grades 3-7.
- The expanded concrete area outside the school's main door was done by the St. Odilia Parish maintenance committee.
- A committee has been meeting over the summer to create guidelines for the school in regards to dealing with students' allergies. There will be more information to come.
- St. Odilia received a check for the amount of \$6, 232 from Target for Education. Thank you to all that designate St. Odilia as their school on their Target Visa.

3.) Treasurer's Report-provided by Deb Jeziarski

- See attached Cash Summary

4.) School Council Report-provided by Mr. Henrich and Mrs. Munson

- There are currently two positions open on the school council. Please consider offering your time to this important role. Please contact Mr. Grose for details.
- St. Odilia has received notification that they are in compliance in all areas of the accreditation policies.
- This year, 8th grade students will receive one semester of Spanish. Spanish will be taught in the Language Arts class by Mr. Stangler. Other classes will be absorbing the Language Arts curriculum that will not be covered.
- The school council is addressing concerns regarding the H1N1 flu. They are compiling policies and preventative measures that will be taken. Detailed information will be passed onto parents soon.

- The 50th St. Odilia All School Reunion will be April 30, 2011. All former students, teachers, and supporters are invited to attend. A link to the invitation can be found on the St. Odilia school website.
- An on-line survey and a parent blog are being developed by the marketing committee.

5.) Co-Chair report-provided by Ann Heller and Jacki Wings

- The New Family Welcome reception was a success. Thank you to Camille Weier, Cori Duffy, and Jodie Lafeber.
- Thank you to Laurie Zastrow and Kristin Storrar for coordinating a successful Swap Sale. Many families took advantage of this opportunity to sell or purchase uniforms.
- There is a great need for someone to chair the PAA Parent Education program. This would include coordinating with Faith Formation to schedule speakers on parenting topics. For example, this is the program that brought Dr. Kahn in to speak to parents. Please consider volunteering, it would be a shame for our community to lose such valuable parenting resources due to lack of a volunteer. Please contact Ann Heller of Jacki Wings for more information.
- Concerns were discussed with how PAA can help support the school with creating a H1N1 flu prevention plan and policy regarding communications and procedure during the flu season. Mr. Fink explained that school staff will be meeting with the school nurse to discuss and create a plan. The CDC guideline and Mounds View school district guideline will be followed. There will be a communication sent to all parents detailing the guidelines following the staff meeting. Already some preventative measures have been put in place; hand washing is stressed to all students, a daily custodial service has been added to clean the office, nurse area, and preschool. PAA is waiting for guidance from the School Administration as to supplying hand sanitizer in the classrooms and lunchroom. Parents please encourage your students to wash hands frequently and to use hand sanitizers.
- Parent volunteers are needed for library bulletin board decorating. Please contact Mrs. Conway, our new librarian.
- Thank you to Keri Olufson for offering her assistance with coordinating hospitality for the monthly Family Faith program.

6.) Committee Reports

- **Staff Appreciation**-provided by Ann Heller and Jacki Wings
The first Staff Appreciation will be Wednesday, September 23rd.
- **Parent Nights**-provided by Kari Pfenning
K-5 Parent Night is Monday, September 14th at 7pm
Middle School Parent Night is, Thursday September 17th at 7pm.
- **Marathon**-provided by Molly Wurst
The 2009 Marathon, kick-off is September 9th. The Marathon Day is Saturday, October 3rd. Parents should have received an information packet with all marathon dates and details. The 2009 Marathon

fundraising goal is \$70,000. Prizes are still needed, volunteers are always welcome. Please contact Kim Schweiters at 763-208-4082.

- **New Parent Resources**-provided by Camille Weier
30 new families to our St. Odilia School were welcomed with a phone call over the summer and invited to attend the New Family Welcome reception before the open house. There was a great turn out at the welcome meeting. It was an opportunity for parents to ask questions and learn the ins and outs of the school community. Camille Weier will continue to be a contact for these families throughout the year. Thank you to the middle school students that offered their time to help entertain young students and siblings
- **Art Adventure**-provided by Angela Thelen
The Art Adventure program is in desperate need of volunteers to teach in the lower grades. Teaching involves a 2 hour training program at the Minneapolis Institute of Art and a short training at school. Without enough teachers our students will miss out on a valuable and enriching program. The Art Adventure program runs two times a year, fall and spring. The teacher shares with students eight pieces of art and then allows the students to create their own artwork. This fall the Art Adventure topic for K-6 is “Sources of Strength”. The 7th and 8th grade students will study the Special Louvre Exhibit and have the opportunity to see it in person at the Minneapolis Institute of Art. Please contact Angela Thelen for volunteering.
- **Lost and Found**-provided by Sandy Halseth
Parents please continue to label all of your students clothing, jackets, lunch boxes, etc. If you are missing something please check the Lost and Found. It is located in the breezeway near the lunchroom doors.
- **Public Relations**-provided by Nicole Blaska
Nicole Blaska will be coordinating a newly created PAA position, PR. She will be responsible for sending information regarding our school’s activities to local publications. If you have a school event that you would like published please send your article text and pictures to Nicole Blaska at nicoleblaska@msn.com.
- **Swap Sale**-provided by Laurie Zastrow
Almost \$2000 worth of clothing was sold at the Swap Sale. Left over clothing was donated to Joseph’s Coats and Savers. Swap Sale checks will be available in the school office in a few weeks. You will be notified when checks are ready.
- **Campbell’s Labels and Box Tops**-provided by Linda Lockwood
Please continue to cut labels and drop off in the bin provided at the school’s main door. A flyer detailing what can be saved and how to cut the labels will be sent home with students in upcoming Wednesday papers.
- **School Store**-provided by Pam Sherril
School Store volunteers are needed. School store opens in October. It is open Wednesday and Friday, 8:45-9:30. Two people are needed

to help with scheduling, opening, and buying. New ideas and volunteers are needed to keep the School Store up and running. Contact Pam Sherrill at 651-484-6702 if you can help

- **Book Fair**-provided by Lisa Handrick
Mark your calendars for the fall Scholastic Book Fair, “Destination Book Fair – Read around the World” on October 26th-November 2nd. Please contact Lisa Handrick to volunteer. Volunteers work short flexible shifts and have a great time getting to know other parents. Due to the success of last year’s event, St. Odilia will have a Barnes and Noble Book Fair on December 4th. Details will be sent home.
- **Balance is a Beautiful Thing series**-provided by Vicky Cherne
A brochure will be coming home with details regarding the lecture series of Balance is a Beautiful Thing. Please note the Family Faith series held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, the early childhood classes, the MOMS group, and a special marriage program in February watching and discussing the movie “Fireproof”.

Meeting Attendees: Mr. Fink, Mr. Henrich, Mrs. Munson, Ann Heller, Jacki Wings, Ann Anderson, Lisa Handrick, Celine Donhue, Michelle Corcoran, Kari Pfenning, Deb Jezierski, Molly Wurst, Cori Duffy, Nicole Blaska, Linda Lockwood, Sandy Halseth, Julia Erickson, Phillip Lies, Angela Thelen

Submitted by Celine Donohue, PAA secretary
Distributed September 16, 2009

The next PAA meeting will be Tuesday, October 6th, 2009 at 7pm in room 2308. Free childcare is available in the nursery. All parents are welcome. Please consider attending and getting involved. Future meetings will take place November 10th, January 12th, February 9th, March 9th, April 13th, and May 11th.

PAA NEEDS YOUR HELP!!!!

There is always a need for volunteers! Currently, we desperately need volunteers for Art Adventure, Parent Education, and the School Store. Please contact Ann Heller or Jacki Wings if you can volunteer your time.