

PTO NEWS

December 2009

A Newsletter for the Parents and Teachers of St. Mary School

*(Last) Message from
(this) President*

Did I hear *celebration* and cheering that this is my last newsletter? I will no longer torture you with silly statements and continuous begging! That is cause for celebration.

On a more serious note...I have enjoyed my time as President. The **PTO** is a well-oiled machine of which each member can be proud. We have an unbelievable group of parents who are willing to volunteer for everything. The **PTO** could not operate without them and we are most appreciative of each one!

The **PTO** will continue to be amazing under the guidance of **Kathy Masraum** and her board! Please support her as she takes over on January 1st! Merry Christmas to all and have a great New Year! *Beth*

PTO Meeting Highlights

- ❖ Mrs. McBrayer reported that she is continuing to work on Kindergarten assessment strategies; new policies for behavior, truancy and removal; and preparing the budget.
- ❖ Based on the 2008-2009 budget, the school was \$61,000 *under* budget.
- ❖ OriginalWorks will earn approximately \$2000 for the Art Department.
- ❖ Our financial status is great!

Winterfest

Thank you to the following families who have already donated to **Winterfest** . . .
Ankenbauer, Barnaclo,

Beckmeyer, Cleary, Conte, Corwin, Gibbons, Grimaldi, Hoffman, Kurz, Montag, Olson, Rose, Rouse, Ruggieri, Strietmann, Tengen, Wahl, Wilker and Younger. So far, *Winterfest* has collected over \$4000 in donations from school families!

The following businesses have already donated...**Arthur's, Baldwin Music Center, Blue Manatee, Bona Decorating Hardware, Castle House, Children's Theater of Cincinnati, Cincinnati Hilton Netherland Plaza, Cincinnati Taekwondo Center, Columbus Museum of Art, COSI, Covedale Center for the Performing Arts, Crystal Clear Science, Curves, EDB Diamond Showcase, Envy!, Gameworks, Glamour Shots, Graeter's, Hamilton County Park District, Henry Insurance, Hyde Park Painting, Jiffylube, LaRosa's, Lewis Animal Hospital, Matt Bradley Salon, Mio's Pizza, Morgan's Canoe, Mt. Washington Jeweler's, Musical Arts Center, Newport on the Levee, Rainbow Car Wash, Scarlet O'Hair's, Skyline, Soho, The Complete Outdoors, The Pet Spot, The Top Drawer, Widmer's Dry Cleaning, and Wimberg Landscaping!** Please patronize our supporters and let them how much we appreciate them!

WinterFest will be held on February 27, 2010 at 7pm in Robisch Hall. This is an adult only affair with a silent auction, some live auction items, dinner by the bite and entertainment. **Save the Date NOW!**

Kathy Masraum is accepting donations and she wants to hear from you! Don't return that unwanted Christmas gift – donate it for a good cause!

Winterfest tax donation letters will go out in early January for those who have already donated!

Volunteering at Walnut Hills Soup Kitchen

For the past two years, St. Mary School has staffed volunteers to serve breakfast at Walnut Hills Soup Kitchen. Originally the program started as part of a larger initiative to encourage junior high students to volunteer and has grown to include any student at St. Mary. To date, 48 students and their families have provided the food supplies and served breakfast to over 900 individuals.

Five students enjoyed it so much they have served more than once! We recently asked the student volunteers two questions, what were you expecting the experience to be like and what it is really like, to understand their perspective. Here are few snippets of what we heard:

- "I am not sure what I expected...but what I learned is that people are really nice."
- "I feel bad saying it but I thought it would be scary but it wasn't at all."
- "It's my turn to serve others like a cafeteria lady."

- "I learned how much fun it was to work as a team to help people in need."
- "I feel joy in helping people out."

The universal positive feedback we received from the students and their families is why we have signed St. Mary up for a third year. The dates St. Mary will serve in 2010 are 2/27, 4/24, 8/28, and 10/23. For each date, we recruit six students to provide the food (\$35 dollars worth) and serve with members of their family.

If interested, please encourage your child to volunteer. Rose Lytle will continue to be a co-chair and **Diane Habel** has graciously stepped in to take **Roberta Fiore-Kittell's** place as co-chair beginning in February 2010. *Interested in the February 27th breakfast? Please have your child sign up on the 3rd floor bulletin board or email rfiore@current.net.*

Fundraising Events

Spiritwear will be available for purchase on Friday, December 18th during the 8th grade Christmas play. There are plenty of pink paw shirts, brown shirts, blue tie-dye shirts, and surfer shorts! These make great last minute gifts!

Order the **Cookbook** for a gift! It makes a great hostess gift. Tie a wooden spoon with a ribbon to it and it's an instant hit! Call **Beth Murray** at 265.1298 or fill out the form attached to the Wednesday Notice.

Wellness Websites

With the New Year right around the corner and many of us beginning to formulate our New Year's Resolutions, the Wellness Committee would like to present some websites to get us ready to step into a new exercise routine or revamp an old one. Here's to a Healthy, Happy New Year!

1. www.freetrainers.com – As the name suggests, Free Trainers offers most of what you'll find on the majority of paid subscription websites, but for free.
2. www.fitness.com – large selection of exercises, fitness articles, and healthy recipes to choose from.
3. www.fitday.com – tools for tracking your foods, exercises, weight loss, and goals.
4. The Fitness Jumpsite – this site provides articles and links about health/fitness. The experts at this site are all certified or degreed fitness professionals and make it a point to cover the health issues everyone's talking about.
5. www.fitwatch.com – this site offers free fitness and nutrition tracking that allows you to keep track of your exercise and diet. There's also a paid version that offers more features.

Kudos Korner

A huge thank you to the following volunteers:

Regina Yearout for chairing the *Sally Foster Wrapping Paper Sale!* She was a force of one and did a great job!

Anne Cavellier for bringing joy to the children of **SMS** by organizing and staffing *Santa's Workshop!*

The **crazy crew** that sponsored the Paddle Party at CCC! It was a rocking time!

Linder Hunt and her amazing committee, who provided dinner for the teachers during Parent-Teacher Conferences. It was hugely appreciated by the teachers!

Jim Hofstetter and **Clint Reese**, who hosted the Father/Daughter Scallywag Party.

Upcoming Events

12/17 – Papa John's Night

12/18 – All School Mass
10:30 8th Grade Play

Noon Dismissal

12/21 – Winter Begins

12/24 – Masses @ 4 & Midnight

12/25 – **CHRISTMAS DAY!**

1/4 – *Classes Resume*

1:30 PTO Board Mtg

1/7 – CiCi's Pizza Night

1/8 – Spiritwear Day