

Home and School Association Meeting

October 12, 2011

- Opening Prayer
- Intro/Warm-up/Welcome Mary Scavilla, President
Warm up winner Vicki Wrisk
- Reports
 - Administration – Mary Jo Warthen, Principal.
 - Accreditation Team Visit from archdiocese will be visiting 12 schools at random. St Mark has not been chosen for evaluation this fall.
 - Project Oldest Character- Provides a lot of resources for teachers. Themes communicated over the morning announcements. Example- How to make the world a better place. “The journey of a 1000 miles begins with a single step.”
 - Technology Committee (NEW)- Members have been chosen and hopefully will meet this month.
Parent: Goal for technology? Answer: To be decided by committee. Will be able to answer better at next HASA meeting.
 - Student Advocacy Committee (NEW)- A resource for teachers, who have students above grade level, struggling or who have “holes” in their education, to develop strategies in order to meet these needs.
 - Aquapartners (NEW)- offering wonderful hands on learning for 4th and 5th graders.
 - Odyssey partnership (NEW)- going well.
 - Factors of Viability. We are focusing on 4 factors. (1) educational programs, (2) governance, (3) development/ marketing, (4) technology.
 - Continuous Improvement Team (NEW)- Not yet formed. Planning on speaking with archdiocese for direction on how to structure the school committee.
Parent: What do you envision that would look like? Role for parents? Answer: A good question for archdiocese. Not sure how all this fits into the factors of viability.
 - KIND campaign- Campaign against meanness towards each other. Anti-bullying. Originally structured around the social development of girls. Now is

formatted as an assembly for middle school parents and their children, followed by 1 hour of discussion.

- Mrs. Taylor- Teacher Liaison. Start to year is going well. Nothing large to update. Thank you for HASA money allocated to teachers and classrooms. Working on a few projects for an Aquarium visit and cultural arts assembly.

- Mary Scavilla-President. Sets the stage for HASA meetings.
 - HASA has a handbook. Overview given.
 - Monthly educational component combined with business meeting.
 - Parent Suggestion: To post at what time speakers are starting, in order to include those not able to attend business piece starting at 6:30p.
 - Regular announcements through Email blasts- thank you Tony Morea.
 - Money expenditures- Money for teachers \$300/per teacher/curricula/classroom.
 - Cultural arts- Kelly Reichardt. Working with teachers on possibility of having steel drum band, African dance troop. Speakers are to match curriculum.
 - Fundraising monies allocated for things like:
 - classroom supplies
 - new lighting for drama club
 - supporting other clubs - ex. Party supply tub for ecology club
 - Mobile science lab
 - Technology
 - AquaPartners and aqua theme day
 - Luncheons/recognition for teachers
 - 'Fun'raising Events- Family Literature Night, Family fun bingo, movie nights, Fall fest, Science night, Barnes and Noble Bookfair, Scholastic Bookfair, etc.
 - Fundraising events – Innisbrook sales, Spring event are the two major events; other events provide smaller amounts of revenue.
 - Classroom moms – please give them your support!
 - ***HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED? Please fill out the volunteer form.
 - WAYS TO STAY INFORMED? Email blasts, St. Mark HASA facebook, Weekly Lion, school calendar, school website, HASA website.

Contact the HASA board if you would like an agenda item to be brought up at next meeting.

- Wil Gavin – treasurer.
Fundraisers raise the money for our budget. Budget is derived based on historical averages. Innisbrook is our biggest moneymaker and its numbers look similar to last year's. Everything we raise goes directly back out to the school.
New things this year: Cultural Arts, AquaPartners, Mobile science lab, and increased teacher funds. If you have in mind a new project for the school, you can submit your idea “new proposal form” on HASA website. Working on a more formal procedure to propose on what HASA spends their money.
- Upcoming Events:
 - Fall Fest October 15th. Dee Dorschel-Clary. Overview on what Fall Fest is, the need for volunteers, and snack donations. See Wendy D. for volunteering.
 - Science Night October 27th. Kate Allen. UMBC students from the Chemistry dept come and set up for science stations.
 - Monster Dash October 29th. Ginny O'Malley. 1st Annual Running Event. 40 registrants so far Register online at runningmd.com Looking for volunteers, would love to see teachers. Anyone can run in costume.
 - Lunch and recess schedules have gone out for October. **NEED VOLUNTEERS EVERYDAY AND EVERY LEVEL.** Even if you are not on the schedule please come out anyway. Please feel free to come on out- **ALL NEED TO BE STAND TRAINED.**
Parent: Can the recess/lunch schedule be posted on the school website?
 - B & N Night November 18th. Mary Scavilla. Held at the bookstore. Featuring readings by teachers and St. Mark Chorus. Looking for volunteers.
- Guest Speaker Mr. Pat Cullen. Presentation on The Top 10 Strategies for Helping Your Kids Succeed in School.