

St. Austin Catholic School

Parent's Club Meeting

Tuesday, January 12, 2010

Welcome – L. Lucero opened the meeting by welcoming the parents and thanked people for participating in the Pizza Hut benefit night. Lucero noted that this was the first Parent's Club meeting since Fr. Jim's passing and acknowledged all the effort Fr. Jim put toward the school. Fr. Hurley, who has stepped in as the administrator, continues Fr. Jim's supportive nature toward the school community. Fr. Hurley is working with the Parish Community to determine how to memorialize Fr. Jim and the school will have a significant role in that memorial.

L. Evans opened the meeting with a prayer.

L. Lucero read the mission statement of the school to the parents gathered.

Principal's Report – B. Kennedy wished everyone a Happy New Year.

- Textbook Update – A generous donor who has a connection with the system in Texas for textbooks offered to have teachers develop a wish list of textbooks and that donor would try to secure them from the surplus in the Texas public school system. Over the break, the teachers did research and developed their wish lists by grade and subject matter. The teachers decided to use the opportunity to get new math books for all levels. Middle school will be getting new language arts books. The science books were the same ones we already use and so we did not get them but instead replaced the damaged books we had. The school will get all new social studies books and the 6,7,8 grades will get a life skills book that teachers can use as supplementary material. For Art, we will get one of every book as a resource. The books will be issued for next school year.
- Technology Installation – Ms. Kennedy shared an update about the technology. She reported that from the "Paddles Up" at the St. Austin City Lights, \$25,000 was raised for new technology. St. Catherine's of Sienna's Knights of Columbus donated \$600 toward new projectors for the classrooms. A professional installer will install all the equipment this year.
- Enrollment Numbers – Ms. Kennedy reported that Pre-K added one new student and Kinder added a new student as did 4th grade. Two students left the school to return to Spain; they were in 2nd and 5th respectively. The total enrollment is 207.
- Parking Garage – Ms. Kennedy reported that the Cub Scout Fall Service Project was collecting funds at the new parking garage during UT home games. The

Scouts raised \$10,000 for our community this year. It is unlikely the school will be able to benefit from that collection next year.

- H1N1 Virus Update – Ms. Kennedy reported the same procedures with hand washing and use of anti-bacterial liquid will apply. And, children must be fever free for 24 hours without medication before returning to school.
- Ethics & Integrity in Ministry (EIM) Training – Ms. Kennedy reminded everyone that they must be in compliance with EIM training. Parents must take a refresher course if it has been 3 years since their last course. Parents will not be able to volunteer or drive children to school events if they are not in compliance.
- Altar Server Training – The school is trying to reschedule the 4th altar server training.
- Austin Diocese Dinner Celebrating Catholic Education will be held on January 23, 2010. L. Lucero will be honored at the event. Please consider attending.
- Catholic Schools Week: January 31 – February 5, 2010 – The kick off for Catholic Schools week will be at the Masses Jan. 30 and 31st. Volunteers are needed for each Mass. Please plan on attending in St. Austin's uniform and/or St. Austin gear. Ms. Kennedy outlined the activities for each day of the week for Catholic Schools Week. Parents are encouraged to attend Mass on Friday of that week at 9 am.
- Open House for interested families is February 1, 2010 from 5:30-7:00 pm

St. Austin's City Lights – T Churchill, Chair

The Churchill's shared the video that was shown at the event and prepared by Coach D's production company. The event raised \$68,000 for the school; 60% of the funds were collected from people outside of the school; \$45,000 was raised in the auction. The Churchill's thanked everyone for their help and support to make this first event so successful. Planning has begun for next year. If you would like to volunteer, contact T. Churchill.

Grand Tour – L. Esparza, Chair – Grand Tour is March 27, 2010 at the VeloWay in Southwest Austin. On the weekend of February 20-21, 2010, the children will be allowed to utilize the second collection to raise money for Grand Tour. The reward filed trip is scheduled for May 21, 2010. Two committees need chair people – medical and treats. Please contact L. Esparza if you are interested. T. Sims is heading up sponsorship; please contact T. Sims with potential donors.

Announcements – J. Corroa has returned to school. Please keep her in your prayers and send positive thoughts.

The meeting closed with a prayer.