

GREENWICH
CATHOLIC SCHOOL



PA Meeting Minutes
December 5, 2018
Meeting called to order: 8:36am

Jesus, you are light even in the darkest places.
Help us to trust in you, when we are lost or lonely,
And shine hope into our hearts.
You are peace even when there is hatred.
Help us to forgive like you, when we are hurt or wounded,
And bring peace into our hearts.
You are joy even in the saddest times.
Help us to praise you, when we are upset or grieving,
And shine joy into our hearts.
You are love even if we are afraid.
Help us to pray to you, when we are scared or fearful.
And bring love into our hearts.
Light in our darkness, peace in our conflicts, joy in our sadness,
And love in our fears.
We celebrate your birth this season.
Amen

Our Mission:

Greenwich Catholic School provides students with a life-long intellectual and spiritual foundation through a rigorous and innovative curriculum focused on faith, critical thinking, responsibility and service.

Our Motto:

ROOTED IN FAITH - SURROUNDED BY COMMUNITY - COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE

Approve minutes of the November meeting: 1st: Nina Balestriere 2nd: Katherine Blanding

PA Board Members: Nicole Hartman, Maria Elena Gaztambide, Magda Chrostowski, Meg DeCaro, Susan McKee

Excused Members: Stacy Mack, Matt Hershey, Pilar Quartarolo, Meghan Novack, Audrey Sepulveda

Correspondence:

PA Members: Jen Koenigsberger, Melissa Kennedy, Kim Higgs, Nina Balestriere, Katherine Blanding, Jennifer LaPietra, Raul Perez, Maria Perez, Alexis Paksi, Maura Lynn, Diego Londono, Elaine Guiffreda, Tami Allen, Laurie Schick, Andrea Kopilak, Kimberly Garcia, Brigid Futch, Pierangelo Corticelli, Diane Mannello

Important Dates:

Dec 6th PreK Parent Coffee w/Mrs. Kopas, 8:45am
Dec 7th Angel Day, 9am, Gym
Early Dismissal, 12pm (After Care until 1pm)
Dec 10th Kindergarten Parent Coffee w/Mrs. Kopas, 8:45am
Dec 12th SPLURGE for a Cause shopping event, 8:30-10am
Dec 13th PreK 3 & 4 Christmas Show, 9am (Dec 14th Snow Date)
Dec 14th Weekly Rosary, 8:30am
Lisa Reigel, Curriculum Update, 8:45am, Cafeteria
Christmas Collection \$ Due
Dec 15th Breakfast with Santa, 10am - 12pm, Convent
Dec 18th 1st Grade Mass, 9am
Christmas Concert, 6:30pm (Dec 19th Snow Date)
Dec 19th 2nd Grade Mass, 9am
Dec 20th 4th Grade Mass, 9am
Dec 21st School Mass 10am, Festive Dress Down Day
Early Dismissal, 12pm (No After Care)
Dec 24-Jan 1 Holiday Break - Merry Christmas and Happy 2019!
Jan 2nd Return to school
Jan 4th Weekly Rosary, 8:30am
First Friday Mass, 10am, Full Dress
Jan 9th PA Meeting, 8:45am
Jan 11th Weekly Rosary, 8:30am
5th Grade Mass, 9am
Second Quarter Ends
Jan 15th 1st Grade Mass, 9am
Jan 16th Greenwich Symphony, Grades 6 & 7
2nd Grade Mass, 9am
Jan 17th 4th Grade Mass, 9am
Jan 18th Weekly Rosary, 8:30am
3rd Grade Mass, 9am
Jan 21st No School - MLK Day
Jan 24th Middle School Science Fair, 6:00pm
Jan 25th Weekly Rosary, 8:30am
Kindergarten Mass, 9am
Jan 28th-Feb 1 Catholic Schools Week
Jan 28th Pep Rally, 1pm
Jan 31st Teacher Luncheon
Feb 1 Weekly Rosary, 8:30am
First Friday Mass, 10am, Full Dress

Feb 2

Back To Basics Benefit, 7pm, Gym

President's Report:

We hope everyone had a nice Thanksgiving! We are at the beginning of a very busy, yet beautiful month. A huge thank you to our Beautification Committee (Trip and Raul) who spent last weekend transforming our campus for Christmas!

As you know, we are doing a voluntary Christmas collection. Envelopes went home in the backpacks last week and an email was also sent out from the Room Parents with the online option this year. You received a letter with 2 envelopes attached per child. If you have multiple children, you can combine the Specials money but you will want to keep the homeroom money separate unless you are in middle school which is done all in one. This year, to make it easier, we've put a locked box in the front office for the envelopes if you choose that route. No need to track down your room parent or send the envelopes through backpacks. Simply drop your envelopes in the box and we'll collect them. We need to have your contributions by Friday, December 14th in order to have time to do the next step so please get those into the box as soon as possible. We get a lot of questions about what is the right amount to give and that is very hard to answer. A little of it depends on what grade we are talking about but in general, I usually consider what I would have spent on a gift for each teacher if I had purchased something and give that. In the upper school, it breaks down 9 ways. In the lower school, it is done per class. Again, gifts are voluntary and anything is appreciated. You are also welcomed to add special instructions if you like. We would just like to thank all of you in advance. We do believe that the Christmas collection goes a long way toward letting our teachers and staff know how much we care and appreciate what they do. There are about 22 specials and staff.

A big thank you to Kim Garcia and Andrea Kopilak for all of their hard work with the Thanksgiving Food Collection, Turkey Drive, and recently the Christmas Toy Drive and Angel Tree. They donated 56 Turkeys and 40 Baskets donated. The students earned a "Festive Dress Down Day for 12/21.

Mrs. Garabedian and Mr. Smart wants everyone to know that the school just installed new Defibrillators...we now have all new models of AED's...Front Entrance, 2 in the Gym, Hallways, etc.

PA By-Laws have been updated and are now on the website. The By-laws were voted on and were approved.

Please note that next month's January PA meeting is the second Wednesday of the month on January 9th due to the return from Christmas Break on a Wednesday.

Nicole reminded everyone to follow us on Instagram: GCSCT and Facebook: Greenwich Catholic School.

VP Report:

No report

Treasurer's Report: Meg distributed the Income Statement. She reminded people that she tries to get expense to people as fast as possible but the check distribution process is a little different this year because there is a different process this year to the Academy model. Pam Carragher, the school's Business Manager now cuts the checks for the whole school so it may take a bit longer to get through the process.

Meg also discussed the Wait Until 8th program. It is a pledge that parents take to wait until 8th grade to give your child a smart phone. A group of mothers who started it in Texas who encourage people to wait for a smart phone with internet access. It is focused on the safety access as well as the distraction of having a smart phone. You can go on the website and fill out the form. Once 10 kids in the grade have taken the pledge and then you will get an email stating who the other families are who have decided to wait.

Old Business:

Faith-Service-Outreach - Kim Garcia and Andrea Kopilak thanked everyone for all of their donations for the Christmas Collection. We filled 75 Angels and had over 100 gifts for the general collection.

Beautification - Trip and Raul thanked everyone who came to help decorate. A special thank you to Audrey for her help with her help with the wreath. They will be adding some things for Angel Day as well. They will also be hanging the Nativity Banners for Angel Day.

Book Store - Pilar is out sick today, but would like everyone to know that the bookstore will be open this Thursday and on Angel Day this Friday. It will also be open everyday the week before Christmas break so kids and parents can buy gifts. They have ordered a lot of new items that will be here in the next week.

New Business:

Angel Day - Maura Lynn and Jen Koenigsberger discussed Angel Day. It is this Friday. Thank you to Beautification for their help getting ready. There is a meeting tomorrow right after drop-off. They would appreciate any help that they can get with set up. If anyone has questions, please contact them. The PreK 4 students will be signing during brunch.

SPLURGE for a Cause Event - Megan McHugh discussed the Splurge shopping event. It is a great store in Greenwich. It has home goods and girls' clothing and children's gifts. They will donate a percentage of all sales to charity. They normally open at 9am and they are opening at 8:30am. There will be some foods and drinks.

Back-To-Basics Benefit – Elaine Guiffreda discussed Back To Basics. It is February 2nd. Diane Mannello and Mary Scelsi have some great acquisitions. They have some great things like a ride to school in a police car, some birthday parties, pizza parties, etc.. There will be a packet going out to the youngest or only child explaining what the night is all about. There will be extra flyers in the hall.

Principal's Report:

Mrs. Kopas mentioned how much she loves the Wait until 8th pledge. Mrs. Kopas congratulated Mrs. Chrostowski on the robotics competition success. We are having the National Day of mourning today so the children are going to mass this morning. She has had every coffee except K and pre-school. The longest one that she had was an hour. She feels very good about what she is seeing and hearing around the school. They just finished the MAP testing and they are just starting to look at the results. The 4th and 5th grade has shown improvements in math as compared to last year. There is a half day for Angel Day, they staff is going to be doing Professional Development. They will be doing Lisa Reigel mapping. The goal is to be done by January with all of the curriculum mapping. In the new year, she will be much more involved in the classroom. She will be here every month from January to June. My remarkable self will be back in the new year and they will be meeting with the parents to review what they are seeing. The Upper School needs help understanding conflict resolution and understanding how relationships change. Mrs. Walsh is having a hip replacement. She will be on medical leave. Mr. Hershey will be subbing for her.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:09am