

GREENWICH
CATHOLIC SCHOOL



**October PA Meeting Minutes
November 7, 2018
Meeting called to order: 8:34am**

Opening Prayer:

Act of Faith:

O my God, I firmly believe that You are one God in three divine Persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. I believe that Your Divine Son became man and died for our sins and that He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe these and all the truths which the Holy Catholic Church teaches because You have revealed them Who can neither deceive nor be deceived. 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 October meeting: 1st: Kat Blanding 2nd: Tricia Caputo

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

Excused Members: Meg Caraher, Pilar Quartarolo, Christine Keen

Correspondence: Mrs. Fata, Ms. Walsh, Miss Welge

PA Members: Melissa Kennedy, Jen Koenigsberger, Tess Smith, Maura Lynn, Raul Perez, Trip Curtis, Kim Garcia, Jan Montana, Kim Higgs, Meghan Novack, Liz Rogers, Susan Turcotte, Julia Kemmerer, Alexis Paksi, Janine Corticelli, Jennifer LaPietra, Nina Balestriere, Marlo Tamilio, Katherine Blanding, Kristi Nguyen, Karla Quesada, Stacy Mack, Veronica Buzzi, Audrey Sepulveda, Maureen Parker, Meghan McHugh, Brigid Futch, Tami Allen, Chrisa Smullen, Keith Merriman, Laurie Schick, Valerie Rickens, Diane Mannello, Mary Rose Driscoll,

Tricia Caputo, Marie Rocha, Marissa Cortese, Yanuba Zappulla, Iryna Lencyk, Liza Sama, Christa Fredrickson, Mary Wilcox-Scelsi, Cristina Hamel, Raneer Lleva, Paul Lleva, Mary Beth Brown, Kristen Galvin

Important Dates:

Nov 7th	Report Cards Distributed
Nov 8th	Bookstore Open for Parents (after PA meeting) GCS Parent Open House, 9am - Full Dress Uniform
Nov 9th	Bookstore Open, 7:30-8:20am GCS Weekly Rosary, 8:30am
Nov 12th	School Mass/Veteran's Day Presentation, 10am - Regular Uniform, students can wear red, white & blue accessory Veteran's Day - School Open
Nov 15th	Thanksgiving Meal Collection Begins, Nov 12-16th Parent/Teacher Conferences, 5:30-8pm
Nov 16th	4th Grade Mass, 9am GCS Weekly Rosary, 8:30am
Nov 19th	3rd Grade Mass, 9am Early Dismissal Teacher Conferences 12pm (Extended Day until 3pm) Turkey Drop-Off, 8:30am, car line
Nov 20th	8th Grade Parent Coffee w/Mrs. Kopas, 8:45am Winter Afters Registration Opens 7th Grade Parent Coffee w/Mrs. Kopas, 8:45am
Nov 21st	1st Grade Mass, 9am School Mass, Full Dress Uniform, Time TBD Early Dismissal, 12pm (No Extended Day)
Nov 22nd	School Closed - Happy Thanksgiving
Nov 23rd	School Closed
Nov 26th	6th Grade Parent Coffee w/Mrs. Kopas, 8:45am
Nov 27th	1st Grade Parent Coffee w/Mrs. Kopas, 8:45am
Nov 28th	2nd Grade Parent Coffee w/Mrs. Kopas, 8:45am
Nov 29th	3rd Grade Parent Coffee w/Mrs. Kopas, 8:45am
Nov 30th	GCS Weekly Rosary, 8:30am
Dec 3rd	5th Grade Parent Coffee w/Mrs. Kopas, 8:45am
Dec 5th	4th Grade Parent Coffee w/Mrs. Kopas, 8:45am Parents Association Meeting, 8:45am, Cafeteria Advent by Candlelight, 7pm, Gym
Dec 6th	PreK Parent Coffee w/Mrs. Kopas, 8:45am
Dec 7th	Angel Day, 9am, Gym Early Dismissal, 12pm (Extended Day until 1pm)
Dec 10th	Kindergarten Parent Coffee w/Mrs. Kopas, 8:45am
Dec 13th	PreK 3 & 4 Christmas Show, 9am
Dec 14th	PreK 3 & 4 Christmas Show, 9am (Snow Date)
Dec 15th	Breakfast with Santa, 10am, Convent
Dec 18th	Christmas Concert, 6:30pm
Dec 19th	Christmas Concert, 6:30pm (Snow Date)

President's Report:

October went by so quickly! A giant thanks to our hard-working Book Fair Committee: Pilar Quartarolo, Brigid Futch, Jen LaPietra, Katherine Blanding, Sarah Gengo. It was a busy and successful four days. They opened with a breakfast on the Monday morning and also had another evening event on Tuesday that brought families here to enjoy hot dogs and story hour...Clifford even made an appearance! The kids loved it!

Also, a huge thank you to Kim Garcia and Andrea Kopilak who are the Co-Chairs of our Faith-Service-Outreach Committee. This year Kim and Andrea transformed the back part of the gym during the first morning of the Book Fair into a Community Service Fair. The main purpose of this even was to connect our students and their families with local non-profit organizations that need volunteer support and share our values. It was a nice morning hosting these organizations and learning how we can help out in our community.

Thank you to Magda Chrostowski and Stacy Mack, our Halloween Party Chairs, for handling some major changes in their event just 2 days prior. They did an amazing job and worked extra hard so the kids could have some part of the Halloween celebration at school.

We had our first lice check on October 8th that went well. Out of the entire school, only 3 cases, 2 of them mild (and also a tick found) which is very good for a school this size.

There is a correction from our October meeting regarding the recent updates to the PA By-Laws. There was a delay in getting them posted on the website, but they are up there now. We will delay voting on them today until our next meeting on December 5th.

VP Report:

Maria Elena Gaztambide reminded all committee chairs to get in touch with the PA contact assigned to their committee as their event approaches or for regular updates. She asked that the committee chairs Cc the PA contact on all updates and communications to their volunteers as well.

We are looking for a volunteer to Chair this Boxtop committee. This committee counts the box tops that are turned in throughout the school year and turns them in for money back to GCS.

Magda Chrostowski discussed the Halloween party. She thanked Stacy Mack for all of her help co-chairing the committee. She thanked each volunteer who helped out, especially Diane Mannello, Andrea Kopilak, Sophia Youm, Kat Blanding, Tatiano Quesoda, Maren Tripolitsiotis and the other women working the party last Wed.

Treasurer's Report:

Meg DeCaro to distribute the Income Statement. She discussed the budget that was given to the room parents in each grade to use to hold an event for their grade. She gave some examples of the events that the Room Parents have done this year. She mentioned that she doesn't have numbers on the Book Fair yet. They should be coming in the next few weeks.

Old Business:

Book Fair - Jen LaPietra thanked all of the volunteers who helped during the event. The event generated \$16,700 in sales. The All For Books fundraiser for The Malta House raised \$2,100. The Book Fair will be back in the spring. She also mentioned that the two third grade classes won the Malta House challenges. Cici Coutant explained that the money that was raised last year from the Book Fair allowed GCS to give \$250 each to the teachers to purchase supplies for the classroom.

Faith-Service-Outreach - Kim Garcia discussed the Malta House fundraiser. She and Andrea Kopilak delivered the books to the Malta House and a bookcase. They gave about 30/40 bundles of books for the new babies. She talked about the Thanksgiving meal collection that will start next week from Monday-Wednesday. Each Class will be assigned an item of food to bring in. They put together 30 meals last year. The frozen turkey collection will be the Monday before Thanksgiving. They will be in the carline to collect the turkeys. She also mentioned that the Angel Tree will happen again this year. The requests will be on signup Genius by the end of next week. Anything not taken online will be on the tree outside at pickup from the November 26th- November 30th. The gifts will be due on December 3rd.

New Business:

Open House - Marissa Cortese discussed the Open House on Thursday for prospective families. She said they have great interest this year primarily due to current parents spreading the word. She also mentioned that they do one on one tours on Monday or Wednesday at 9am or 1pm. They are done by appointment.

Angel Day - Maura Lynn discussed the 25th Annual Angel Day. Tickets are on sale until Friday. Jen LaPietra sent out the FAQs to new families so they know what this event is all about. She said that the event is not for parents, but for someone special in their lives. Parents are welcome to join in classrooms after. Mass will be held at 9:30am and brunch will be at 10:30am and then Angels will head to the classroom after.

Breakfast with Santa - Maureen Parker discussed Breakfast with Santa. They have found a new Santa this year and they will have it catered again. The event goes up until 3rd grade. Tickets sales will start soon.

Back-To-Basics Benefit – Cici Coutant discussed Back to Basics benefit. It is the major GCS fundraiser each year. It will be the 3rd Back to Basics Event held in the gym. It is on February 2nd this year. There will be a wine tasting and auction items. Elaine Guilfreda is the chair and they have a great acquisition committee lead by Diane Mannello. Diane discussed the acquisitions portion of the event. She passed out some forms and a letter to give more information about what they are looking for. They are looking for big experience donations. Cici also passed around examples of the journals that they create for the Back to Basics event. They are a keepsake and a great way to support the school and this event.

Cici Coutant also mentioned that Chef Bob wanted to remind everyone that the menu is on the website and it is posted a week in advance of the following month. There are several ways to pay for the school lunches. More details are on the website.

Beautification – Trip Curtis discussed the Christmas Holiday decorating. It will start on December 1st. It will be held on Saturday or Sunday at 10am. Children can get community service hours for their help. Raul Perez will be co-chairing with Trip this year. An email will go out discussing their need for help soon.

Principal's Report:

Mrs. Kopas thanked the parents for telling friends about the school. She mentioned that for the open house tomorrow, it is full dress. Mr. Paksi will be the guest speaker for Veterans Day Mass and then he will be visiting some of the classrooms. Children can also wear red, white and blue accessories. They may also wear accessories on Monday as well.

She discussed the Professional Development Day that was held on Tuesday. Half of the teachers worked on Math Curriculum for Lisa Regal. Then, they went bowling as a team building event. Lisa told Mrs. Kopas that she has never seen a staff that is so committed to making the curriculum work for a school.

She also discussed My Remarkable Self. Last year, they came to the school and did a Calm Parenting Workshop. She had them come to school in the beginning of the year to work with the 8th grade about social issues that the kids are encountering. Mrs. Kopas said she saw a change in the middle school after the students had this workshop. She said she asked the PA Board if they could come back and work with the 5th through 8th grade for the remainder of the year. She discusses some of the techniques they use to work with the children in the different grades. She will also be meeting with the parents to discuss what is going on in the classroom. They will be coming on Friday to work with the 5th grade and then they will work with the 7th grade after mass. A question was asked if we can start the workshops with the earlier kids. Mrs. Kopas responded that the younger kids are not active on social media yet so they find that 5th grade is a good age to start. They will also be working with Joe Pietrafeso who will also work with the teachers. A question was asked about Mr. P's role in the younger grades. He is now forming lunch groups with certain kids. A vote was taken and the \$6,000 to fund My Remarkable Self was approved.

She also discussed an article that she read in the NY Times about ways to be a role model.

-Set boundaries for work time and family time

-Know when you are really busy and need to be plugged in and when you dont

-Use the media the way you want your children to

She encouraged parents to come to the upcoming coffees. She had coffees for new parents and she got a lot of great feedback. She encouraged buddy families to get engaged again with their new families and answer any questions that they have

Mrs. Kopas met with the Greenwich Prevention Council last week. She said Vaping is the biggest issue that they are dealing with now. And the opoid crisis is now pushing down into the schools. She said she is on top of things at school but she wants the parents to be aware at home so they can work together.

A question was asked about deadlines for Secondary Schools recommendations and whether they were in on time and she responded that they school the student is applying to will send a confirmation.

A question was asked about the online component of math and whether the teachers are using it. Mrs. Kopas said they students are using the online portion during the day andd teachers are assigning it for homework and some are not. It is up to the teacher to decide.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:30am