

St. Sebastian Home and School Meeting Minutes

October 14, 2009

Attendance: Julie Baudhuin, Terese Bauer, Cara Bidwell, Shelly DePalma, Patty Doll, Elizabeth Drew, Carol Durian, Laura Ewig, Maggie Hardy, Paul Hohl, Amy Kozina, Paula Krier, Lorinda Liongson, Mary Madigan, Melanie McCauley, Kimberly Nistler, Jenny O'Neil, Pinocchio, Carrie Pruhs, Gloria Rios, Lena Stephenson, Rob Stephenson, Patty Walsh, Tracey Weigel

Call to Order: Patty Walsh called meeting to order at 6:32. Thanks to Patty Doll for prayer and spooky (and yummy) Halloween snacks.

Review of Minutes: August, 2009 minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report

- Magazine sales were significantly below our normal sales
- Looking for someone for Beth Neumann to mentor for next year's magazine sale. If interested, and you know you are, contact Beth Neumann and she'll sign you up.

Principal's Report

- Student Council elections will be this Friday

Updates

- Carrie Pruhs is busy updating our St. Sebastian website with some of the following features:
 - Buzz Book, Newsletters on-line, Lunch information, and much more
 - Carrie continues to coordinate with various groups and people to update as needed
 - Check it out – it really looks exciting! Go to www.saintsebastianonline.net.

Chair Reports

- **Time and Talent** – Dana Biasi
 - continues to update the Pathfinder
 - We are in need of a K4 grade liaison. This is a great way for a K4 parent to get your feet wet in a very simple way. You would be responsible for making phone calls when it is the K4 fish fry, attending monthly Home & School meetings when you're available, and some other minor duties. Please contact Dana Biasi if you are interested. We want K4 to have a voice in our Home & School.
 - Thanks to Melanie McCauley and "staff" for providing babysitting services for the all parent meeting to a few families.
- **Fun and Fellowship** – Lorinda Smrz
 - **Parent Coffee** – Gloria Rios
 - First coffee in the beginning of the school year was very successful. We actually ran out of coffee! The next parent coffee will be on October 29th after the Parade. Look for snacks and soda. Plan on attending the upcoming coffee dates – times and dates will be announced as they get closer.
 - **November Teacher Luncheon** – Jennifer O'Neil
 - Jennifer is getting the particulars and organizing. Plan on a great dinner, teachers.
 - **Open House Hospitality** – Kim Nistler
 - **Girl Scout Dance** – coming up in February
 - **Cub Scout Ice Cream Social** – coming up in spring

- **Faith and Academics – Tracey Weigel**
 - **Character Education** – great kick-off to celebrate our 10th year of Character Ed.
 - **Classroom visits** to center around “responsibility”. Looking for more volunteers to go into classrooms to talk with students about this core value. If we don’t get more adults, we may have to postpone this program. If you’re available on Friday, October 23 for about 20-30 minutes, please contact Tracey Weigel
 - **Lunch Bunch** – mileage club started last Friday. Leah Sealey is looking for help with Lunch Bunch activities. Friday Lunch Bunch will start November 20th. If you are available to help in any way, please contact Leah Sealey. The times would be between 11:00-1:00 and are flexible
 - **Parents and Prayer** – Terese Bauer. Meet from 8-8:30 on Fridays to pray for the needs of the school. All are welcome. Meet in the Library. Prayer intentions for families can be dropped off in the office.
 - **Readers are Leaders** – off to a great start. Wendy Conklin is our *new* Rosie Reader.
- **Loaves and Fishes – Cara Bidwell**
 - Need uniform spirit wear? Get a form from the office.
 - Spirit wear – Julie Baudhuin – Look for the kickoff in the next few weeks and some new items. One will be a red and white tie-dyed t-shirt for students and parents to support the Raiders volleyball and basketball teams.
 - Fall book fair will be held November 9-12, sponsored by Rainbow Booksellers.
 - Auction baskets – Kim McCarthy reports that the auction baskets are ready for wrapping. Thanks to all who donated towards your child’s classroom basket.
 - McDonald’s receipts – Please continue to send those receipts in. Thanks to Jen Sveda for collecting and handling these.
 - Scrap Metal Drive – thanks to our new junk man, Steve Biasi. He’ll turn your junk into cash for our school.
- **Fish Fry Update – Rob Stephenson**
 - Fish Fry season kicked off early October. Because this was our first one for the year, we had extra costs due to start up. Our sales were down some, but we covered all our costs. That’s pretty good for the beginning of the year.
 - Rob and crew are looking into Fry Kids t-shirts. Details coming soon.
- **Chair Reports – Patty Walsh**
 - Mini grant proposal from Mrs. Clermont was approved. She is asking for headphones for the computer lab.
 - AED update – two AEDs are in and waiting for installation. Patty is working on training for school and parish. Thanks to Patty for ALL her hard work in getting these vital medical machines!!

Patty adjourned the meeting at 8:09 p.m.

Our next meeting will be held Wednesday, November 4th at 6:30 PM in the Cafeteria. All are welcome.

Respectfully submitted,
 Laura Ewig
 Communications Coordinator
 Lae/g/H&S Minutes

Library News October, 2009

Welcome to the St. Sebastian School Library! We have a very up to date collection of books and magazines. Our library volunteers are determined to keep the room open all day every day. The library will be a great resource for the students. This is also the home of the Accelerated Reader Quizzes. This is one other location for the students to take quizzes for AR plus in their homerooms.

Here is information about the Library Process and what works best for us.

1. Books **can be returned earlier** than the date stamped in the back of the book. Be aware that holidays or changes in the schedule change the date due. Do encourage your student to read the material they have chosen.
2. Books **MUST** be returned by the date stamped on the book due date slip.
 - K4, and K5 may have their books for one week. They may have one book. They receive no fines for late books.
 - 1st and 2nd Grade students may have two books maximum for one week. Second grade students will receive fines for late books.
 - Grades Three through Eight may have four books out for two weeks. This could vary somewhat depending on the class or the project.
 - Check with your child and /or teacher for the regular library day for that class. Please mark your calendars to help your child remember.
 - A suggestion would be to have the student put the library books in their backpacks in the evening when they are preparing for the next day.
3. If books become torn, pages become loose, or the book receives water damage please put a note on the book notifying us of the problem.
4. Students can carefully return books in the book drop outside the library if the library is closed.
5. When books are returned late the student will have a fine. The charge is \$.10 a day for each day the book is late. There is a one day grace period before the fine sets in.

Please remind your students that it is a goal to have no late books this year. They show real growth when they remember to return the books on time. We may have a little competition to see whose room goes the longest without fines.

Mrs. Maggie Blaha, school librarian



P.O. Box 7857
Madison, WI 53707-7857
www.doj.state.wi.us

J.B. VAN HOLLEN
ATTORNEY GENERAL

For Immediate Release
October 15, 2009

For More Information Contact:
Bill Cosh 608/266-1221

Attorney General J.B. Van Hollen, the Wisconsin Clearing House, in conjunction with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and Adults, along with our State Fire Marshal Tina Virgil and the National Association of State Fire Marshals would like to wish everyone a “ghostly” Happy Halloween. Halloween has been a fun-filled event throughout the state. Traditionally children will dress in costume and go door to door for Trick-or-Treat, communities will attend costume parties, bon fires, and jack-o-lantern carving. Here are a few rules to share encouraging safety to ensure a happy and memorable time for all.

SAFETY

- Use reflective tape and carry a flashlight if going out after dark.
- Be sure that older children take friends and younger children are accompanied by a trusted adult when Trick-or-Treating.
- Accompany younger children to the door of every home approached.
- Teach children never to enter a home without prior permission from a parent or guardian.
- Teach children never to approach a vehicle, occupied or not, unless they know the owner and are accompanied by a parent or guardian.
- Teach children to never approach a home that is not well lit inside and outside.
- Families may want to organize or attend parties at home, in schools, or in community centers as a good alternative to Trick-or-Treating.

COSTUMES

- Please take time and care in choosing the appropriate costumes for your family. Ensure store-purchased costumes are flame resistant.

- Costumes made primarily of polyester or nylon fabric typically do not ignite from a small flame such as a candle and if they do, the resulting fire may burn slowly and may be readily extinguished. If you are making costumes from scratch, choose polyester or nylon fabrics for greater flame resistance
- Make sure Halloween costumes fit properly. Allow extra room for warm clothes to be worn underneath the costume while avoiding long, loose fitting costumes potentially posing a trip hazard or increasing the chances of being ignited by an open flame like a candle.
- Always supervise children as they go Trick-or-Treating, taking special care to avoid lit candles and jack-o-lanterns, high heat or flaming decorations.
- If a costume does catch fire, remember to “Stop, Drop and Roll.” This serves to keep flames away from the upper body, neck and facial areas. It also helps to slow or reduce flame spread and smother the flames.

DECORATIONS

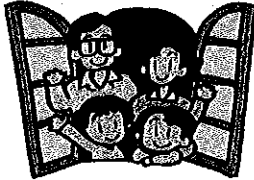
- Keep hay, straw, dried corn stalks and other decorations away from heat sources like hot lamps and candles.
- Keep open flames such as candles away from curtains, decorations or other objects that could catch fire.
- Never leave lit candles unattended.
- Any open flame can be potentially dangerous. Consider purchasing battery operated lights to place inside of jack-o-lanterns.

For more information about Halloween safety and child safety in general, go to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children at <http://www.missingkids.com>.

###

Current information on learning,
reading and parenting issues

Volume 10; Issue 2
October 2009



St. Sebastian School Scholars by Nancy Meier, MA

Preparing for Your Child's Conference

Getting ready to go to parent-teacher conferences is a little like getting ready for a doctor's appointment: We want to be on time, we jot down a few notes so we can remember all the questions we want to ask and we're usually a little nervous!

It goes without saying that **being on time is important** because most teachers have back-to-back conferences. However, before you leave the house, **you might ask your child how things are going.** "What do you like best about school?, What would you change?" Your list of questions will come in handy because rarely will we remember all of them without a list. It's not a bad idea to also bring paper and pen to jot down notes.

For most parents, their child's academic progress is foremost on their minds. **After you've listened carefully to what the teacher has said, you are free to ask questions.** You want to **ask your most important questions first** in case time runs out.

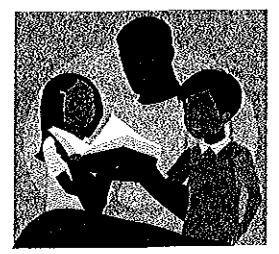
Dr. Tiffani Chin, educational psychologist and author of *School Sense* suggests these questions for parents to ask at conference time:

- Is my child on grade level?
- Does my child struggle with any class?
- Does my child excel in any class?
- Is homework turned in on time?

(continued on page 2)

Conference time is one of the few times during the school year that you are able to sit down with your child's teacher and ask questions just about your child. You might remember seeing the article to your left last year. I had a few parents ask me to rerun it because they wanted to be reminded of the list of questions they might want to ask their child's teacher.

Why is it that we parents talk so much? Is it because we feel we have our child such a short time that we want to impart all of our wisdom? Well, take a look at the article to your left on who our children think listens to *them*.



Being a Good Listener: Who Do Our Children Turn To?

Initially, when Dr. Gregory Ramey, a child psychologist at the Children's Medical Center in Dayton Ohio asked young children the question, "Who do you talk to when you have a problem?," he thought he knew the answer. Parents? Siblings? He was surprised to hear, "Dogs, grandparents and stuffed animals."

What do these 3 have in common? All 3 are "quiet" when your son or daughter is speaking. In other words, "sometimes young kids just need to talk; to

simply say out loud their many confusing and conflicting thoughts and feelings. They don't really know what they think or feel. They just need a friendly presence to listen." Evidently, grandparents are easier to talk to because the child feels loved and accepted and grandparents tend not to overreact. Children also pointed out that their grandparents didn't interrupt. It appears that parents could take some lessons from grandparents!

(cont. on pg.2)

Preparing For Your Child's Conference (continued)

- How will my child be graded?
- Is my child working up to his/her ability?
- Do you take learning styles into account?
- How are my child's work habits?
- Does my child participate in class?
- Does my child need help in any particular subject?
- What can I do at home to help my child?

Now you might want to ask about future projects: what is expected of your child and due dates. If your child received a poor grade, for example, on a book report, this is the time to find out why. This information will help you understand the teacher's expectations and what your child can do to meet them.

You and your child's teacher may also want to discuss his/her social and behavioral issues:

- How is my child's behavior?
- Does she get along with her classmates?
- Is my child bullied?
- Does she bully anyone?
- Do we need to schedule a follow up meeting?
- Will you call me if there is a problem?
- Do you have an email address?

At this time, it would be a good idea to tell the teacher about any changes at home, family problems, illnesses, allergies, changes in work schedules or anything you might think could affect your child at school. You will want to make a plan to help solve any problem. Your interest assures the teacher that you are willing to work together to help your child become more productive.

If you think your child might benefit from enrichment activities, this would be the time to ask the teacher if your child would be a candidate for that.

As parents, we want our child to be cherished for his/her unique personality and gifts. Of course we hope all the news we hear will be good. But "the purpose of the conference is to point out areas where your child has room to develop." It might even be suggested that your child get special help in one area or be tested for learning concerns. Please keep an open mind and recognize that the teacher is trying to keep your child's best interests at heart. It can be agreed that you and your child's teacher have the same goal and that is to help your child succeed in every area possible.

Information taken from *School Sense* by Dr. T. Chin, PhD and the National Education Association.

Being A Good Listener: Who Do Our Children Turn To? (cont.)

It's important to understand why kids want to talk. "Young children sometimes just want to express what they are thinking. They aren't looking for you to solve a problem. Children said they just wanted *"someone to listen and not say anything!"*

When a parent feels it is the right time to talk, Dr. Ramey advises us to use "active listening techniques" by asking open ended questions such as "What do you mean?" or "Tell me more about that." Summarizing your child's thoughts lets your child know that you understand what he is saying.

In addition to the other reasons stated above, when

kids were asked why they preferred their grandparents over their parents, they inferred that it was because "grandparents do a better job of conveying a warm and inviting presence without pressure." Young children hear the message that "I'm here to listen if you want to talk."

If you have a child who is more reticent about sharing her feelings, you'll want to praise your child for coming to you. By respecting our child's opinions, we will probably be able to look forward to more conversation with our son and daughter for a long time.

www.childrensdays.org