

Parents' Buzz Track

Officers:

President
Michele Bulen

Vice President
Anne O'Shea

Secretary
Nilza Lacayo

Treasurer
Pedro Rodriguez

Class Representatives:

Kindergarten
Michelle Barroso
Mary Ann Koory

1st Grade
Maria DiDonato
Teresa Lee
Deborah Fitzpatrick

2nd Grade
Theresa Carias
Ann Powell

3rd Grade
Marie Helms
Anne O'Shea

4th Grade
Kathleen McKeon
Gabriela Rojas-Martinez

5th Grade
Lori Baldizon
Caroline Feeney

6th Grade
Rosie Dittmann
Laure Moon

Mission Statement:

To enhance the quality of our children's education by working with teachers to provide intellectual, social, spiritual, financial support, and encouragement.

Topics:

The meeting was called to order by President Michele Bulen. Vice President Anne O'Shea, Secretary Nilza Lacayo, and Treasurer Pedro Rodriguez were present. Special prayers were said for the victims of the recent Tsunami disaster, for the 2nd graders as they prepare to make their First Communion, for the 8th graders as they await for their high school acceptance letters, and for all military staff abroad.

Treasurer's Report – The current balance is \$5,924.17. Expenses incurred were for the staff Christmas party and fingerprinting, of which 41 new parents participated. The following will be shown as deposits once funds are received: January 19 Chevy's Night (\$285) and December 19 Bake Sale (\$120), of which the Athletic Board graciously agreed to donate the full amount raised to the Parent Group.

Family Bingo – Chair Laure Moon announced Family Bingo will take place on **Saturday, February 26 from 7 to 9 pm**. Ticket price includes two Bingo cards, a raffle ticket, a soda ticket, and ice cream sundaes (donated by Mitchell's). Theme baskets will be auctioned off. Please save the date for some family fun. If you're interested in helping out, please contact Laure.

Walk-a-thon – Chair Laure Moon announced this year's Walk-a-thon is scheduled for **Sunday, April 10, from 1 pm to 4 pm** at Archbishop Riordan's track. In addition to this being the Parent Group's biggest fundraiser, 80% of funds raised will go toward your financial contribution. Profit made from this fundraiser will be distributed as follows: 20% to the Parish and 80% to the School. More information will be distributed as the event approaches.

St. Paul's Chronicles – Editor/writer/publisher Mary Ann Koory spoke briefly about the past two published newsletters and asked parents to please share content ideas with her. She would like to include a variety of issues involving the school, its families, and staff. She's willing to do all the work. Mary Ann can be reached at her new e-mail address: mak@broadviewnet.net

Nominations

Please start thinking about nominations for the Parent Group Board and Class Reps. 2005-2006 replacements are needed!

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7th Grade

Nila Gonzales
Maria Martinez-DiGulio

Box Tops & Labels – Parents are reminded to please save and turn in all box tops, found on Betty Crocker, General Mills, and Pillsbury items; and labels, found on Campbell's and Tyson items. Redemption time is approaching fast!

8th Grade

Veronica Gomez
Noreen McDonagh
Teresa Sampayan

School News:

Federation/Consortium – Principal Bruce Colville discussed the recent federation/consortium opportunity presented to St. Paul's. The Archdiocese's idea of centralizing 13 elementary schools into one school governance comes from a similar program already in place in Washington, D.C. The idea would be to have participating schools benefit from generous benefactors, while centralizing certain functions such as curriculum and finance. Five schools have opted to join this new effort (Mission Dolores, St. Finn Barr, Epiphany, St. Elizabeth, and St. Anthony-Immaculate Conception). However, at this point, both Fr. Mario and Principal Colville have elected not to participate due to lack of information and business plans. Fr. Mario spoke of the widespread problem affecting both public and private schools, that being, lack of enrollment. Private schools need a minimum of 200 students to stay open. Currently, St. Paul's has an enrollment of 256 with a goal of reaching 270 students for next school year.

Survey – Principal Colville distributed copies of last Fall's survey results. Of the approximately 175 school families, 56 responded. The four areas of importance are curriculum, athletic program, leadership, and community outreach.

Parish News:

Parish Raffle – The Parish is sponsoring a raffle on **Sunday, February 13**, in the Parish center to help raise funds to defray the debt of the Church retrofit. The Parent Group voted to purchase one \$100 ticket. A service hour can be earned by donating a food platter for this event. If you have questions, please call the Rectory.

125th Anniversary – St. Paul's Parish is celebrating its 125th Birthday on **Sunday, April 24**. A special mass will be held with Archbishop Leveda and Fr. Kevin Gaffey, former pastor of St. Paul's. The following weekend on **May 1**, a reception will be held at the Pritikin Mansion on Chenery St. Tickets for this event are \$75.