

Parents' Buzz Track

Officers:

President

Rosaura Velasquez

rvelasquez@stpaulsf.net

Co-Vice Presidents

Michelle Barroso

Lory Baldizon

Secretary

Lourdes Mosqueda

Treasurer

Karla Arevalo

CLASS

REPRESENTATIVES:

Kindergarten

Carina Rivera

Ellen Eagen

1st Grade

Peggy Leahy Guinasso

Nicola Emmerson

2nd Grade

Mary Ann Koory

Michele Bulen

3rd Grade

Maria DiDonato

Deborah Fitzpatrick

4th Grade

Sara Guerrero

Nila Gonzales

5th Grade

Anne O'Shea

Ann Powell

6th Grade

Arceli Tabuena

Gabriela Rojas-Martinez

7th Grade

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:

President Rosaura Velasquez called the meeting to order. Co-Vice President Michelle Barroso, secretary Lourdes Mosqueda, and Treasurer Karla Arevalo were present. Rosaura welcomed everyone to this meeting.

Announcements

- **Treasurer's Report**—Karla reported that the balance to date is \$7276.44. 542 ButterBraids were sold with an approximate profit of \$2096.00. Part of this money will go towards fingerprinting.
- **Catholic Charities**—Rosaura reports that Catholic Charities will sponsor a workshop on **Tuesday, February 20th** from 7pm to 9pm. The workshop will focus on improving communication skills with your loved ones. This will be an opportunity for all of us to renew and enhance ourselves. The evening will include refreshments and childcare. More information to follow.
- **Crab Feed**—The first St. Paul's Crab Feed sponsored by the Athletic Board will take place on **Saturday, February 24th**. Come join us in this fun and exciting fundraiser. Adult tickets are \$35.00. This includes fresh crab, side dishes, dessert, and 5 drinks. You can request a child's plate which includes chicken fingers. The Athletic Board would like to use the funds from this fundraiser to provide sports scholarships.
- **Family Bingo**—The tentative date for family bingo is **Saturday, March 3rd**. Volunteers will be needed. More information to follow.

Main Topics

- **Buddy System**—The following ideas were put forth for establishing a buddy system for students and for families:
 - Have established families call new families during the summer and earn service hours.
 - Before the end of this school year, obtain a list of all new registrations and assign them to volunteers from St. Paul's School. Have a get together with the new families.

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Eloice Helms

8th Grade

Laure Moon

- Have a buddy system and pair upper class students with incoming new students from kindergarten and first grade.
 - Invite new families to mass followed by the MOSP's pancake breakfast. MOSP's has offered a free breakfast voucher to new families.
 - Have upper class students write a letter to incoming kindergarten students.
 - Have a potluck in the park for incoming kindergarten families during the summer just before the beginning of the school year.
 - Invite next year's new families to the Parent Group meeting in May.
 - Some parents expressed their wonderful experience during their first year at St. Paul's School. They were personally contacted by a St. Paul's family and were invited to mass and a pancake breakfast. They felt very welcomed into the community.
 - Eve Cervantes volunteered to help coordinate the Buddy System.
- **Parent Participation**-The following suggestions were raised in order to increase parent participation:
 - Make parent participation mandatory.
 - Raise the fee from \$10 to \$20 per hour for non-participation
 - Require mandatory participation for a percentage of the total hours required (i.e. 5 out of 40hrs are mandatory).
 - Provide a list of all volunteer opportunities to families at the time of registration.
 - Require mandatory mass attendance.
 - **Miscellaneous**-The following concerns were raised by some parents:
 - Concerns about class representative's attendance at Parent Group meetings and availability.
 - Questions regarding the grievance process. Please refer to the Student Handbook regarding concerns with staff or faculty.
 - Questions regarding how field trip volunteers are chosen.
 - **School Matters** -Rosaura reiterated the **SCHOOL MATTERS LAW** which states that non-union employees may take up to 40 hours per year of time off to volunteer at their child's school. Union employees must first check with their shop steward.
 - **Raffle**
 - Congratulations to the raffle winners! Four lucky parents

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received one of the following:

- Hello Kitty charm
- Hello Kitty pen & pencil set
- \$10 Starbucks gift card
- \$20 Red Lobster/Olive Garden gift card

The meeting was adjourned at 8pm.