

Parents' Buzz Track

Officers:

President

Rosaura Velasquez
rvelasquez@stpaulsf.net

Vice President

Kate Depman

Communications Officer

Mary Ann Koory

Treasurer

Karla Arevalo

CLASS

REPRESENTATIVES:

Kindergarten

Michelle Barroso
Sara Guerrero

1st Grade

Carina Rivera
Tali Ellison

2nd Grade

Peggy Leahy Guinasso
Nicola Emmerson

3rd Grade

Mary Ann Koory
Michele Bulen

4th Grade

Maria DiDonato
Deborah Fitzpatrick

5th Grade

Nila Gonzales
Theresa Decoite

6th Grade

Anne O'Shea
Ann Powell

7th Grade

Veronica Gomez

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: PTG Vision & Goals; Recent Events

Attending: P.T.G. President, Vice President, Communications Officer and Treasurer; Class representatives from all classes, except 7th gr.; Ms. Guaraglia, Fr. Farana, Ms. Woodall and 40 parents.

Opening

Rosaura Velasquez, President, opened the meeting with a prayer and a warm welcome to the new families, very much in evidence among the 40 or so families represented, and then introduced the new Board members.

Vision and Goals

Rosaura reported on the recent Board meeting in which we reviewed and reaffirmed the P.T.G. vision, building community among parents, families and by extension, among parents, teachers and administration. We talked about social events, fundraising events and services that we might organize in support of those goals, specifically:

- a more systematic network of communication among parents, their class reps and the Board. Each Board member has "adopted" two class reps to better manage the two-way communication: Board members inform reps of Parent Group developments and class reps communicate concerns and developments at the level of classroom communities.

Kate Depman - K, 1st, 2nd

Mary Ann Koory - 5th, 8th

Karla Arevalo - 3rd, 4th

Rosaura Velasquez - 6th, 7th

- At least one class rep needs to attend every P.T.G. meeting.

Implementation: Events and Fundraising

- Kate Depman reported a kindergarten coup: she successfully applied for a grant (funded by tobacco money) of \$1,000 for social and informative workshops for kindergarten families. (The grant money is available for families of children 1-5 years old, so only kindergarten is eligible.) Way to go!
- Karla Arevalo reported on the success of the recent family picnic, which besides being lots of fun and well-organized, also came within a few dollars of being totally financially self-sufficient.

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8th Grade

April Shaw

Maria Fletcher

- Karla also reports that we have around \$8,000.00 in the P.T.G. treasury.
- Rosaura suggested the creation of an informal child care network for random holidays which working parents do not typically have off.
- The Walk-a-thon, a healthy, fun and effective fundraiser, has been tentatively moved to early Spring, but is in need of leadership. This event's inventor and original leader, Laure Moon, reminded the group that it is a remarkably *easy* event to manage, requiring only one meeting. Contact the Board if you're interested in taking this on. By the way, did we say it was EASY? Because it's EASY.
- Complete and updated lists of fundraisers and opportunities to earn service hours will be added to the website soon.
- Michele Bulen reminded us all that the Parish Auction and Dinner Dance, *the* annual Parish social event to raise money to offset the Parish's retrofit loan, is being held on November 3rd. Each class will be donating some special, hand-crafted item or basket for the Auction part of the event.

Small Group Interaction, Raffle, and Closing

Rosaura then directed the meeting to break into small groups in order for the veteran families to meet and greet the new families. The short round of socializing went so well that re-grouping proved difficult.

The raffle was held:

- A pink, fur-trimmed backpack went to a lucky parent.
- Julio Bonilla won a Starbucks gift card.
- Jenny Rudnicki won a travel mug.
- Miss Charlotte Emmerson won passes to the Discovery Museum.
- Joaquin Siu won passes to Zeum.

Special thanks to the 8th graders, led by Maya Siu, Justine Brignoli, Bryan Fletcher and Anthony Shaw, who took good care of the younger children while their parents took care of PTG business.

And thanks to the P.T.G. for providing everyone with pizza!

