

**St. Mary PPA Meeting
Monday February 8th, 2016
Library 6:30 PM**

Deirdre Primrose, President

Tara Piotrowski, Vice President

Kevin McCarthy, Treasurer

Laura Reeves, Recording Secretary

Lori Schulze, Corresponding Secretary

Meeting Minutes

Ms. Schwiebert called the meeting to order at 6:30PM and opened with the Hail Mary.

Welcome and President's Report

Deirdre Primrose

The PPA donated \$300.00 to each class to supplement the cost of field trips this spring. The teachers were very appreciative and their thank you notes were passed around for all to read.

Deirdre Primrose and Tara Piotrowski met with Father Joe regarding the Spring Gala. The Parish will partner with our school for this event and the funds raised are earmarked for science and technology improvements and upgrades.

There have been 6 more winners of Monarch Money. One was even a \$150.00 winner. Congratulations to those who have won.

The Mother/Son event had been a luau in the past, but there will be a different theme this year. There are new chairpersons for the event this year, Tara Piotrowski and Karen Marquis. More information will be available as the event gets closer. The scheduled date is on Friday, May 6th.

There is now a link to an online fundraising store for St. Mary School. To see the variety of "spirit wear", please click here: www.arlingtonink.com. Please be aware that these items are not part of the uniform and cannot be worn in school except for the sweatshirt which can be worn on gym days.

If you have any questions, ideas, suggestions, or would like to be a part of an upcoming event, please get in touch with Laura Reeves laurareeves31@yahoo.com.

Our next social event is The Father/Daughter Dance on February 19, 2016. Invitations have been sent home in the blue folder. This is a fun event for the girls and their Fathers. Please return your response as soon as possible. If you have any questions, or would like to donate a snack item, please get in touch with Tammy Martinez at mugz125@aol.com. We hope to see you there!

Uniform Exchange – if you are in need of uniforms, or have any to donate, please contact: Girls - Cathy Walker walkercathywalker@gmail.com and Boys – Claudine Stackhouse rcssvcso@aol.com.

Our school has an ongoing fundraiser in conjunction with Amazon. Please check the website for more information. This is a great way to donate while doing your usual shopping.

Please continue to check the website for all upcoming events and school information.

Financial Report

Kevin McCarthy

The deposits and expenses for January were reviewed. This included the \$12,500 assessment payment to the Region. Our next payment of \$12,500 is due in June 2016. Take advantage of the Scrip program in order to waive the \$25 PPA membership dues for next year. Information about this and the Scrip program will be sent home in the blue folder as well as on line.

Principal's Report

Ms. Schwiebert

Catholic Schools Week was a great success. Ms. Schwiebert thanked the PPA, as well as all who volunteered their time and gave their support to the events during that week. The Ice Cream Social was a much loved highlight of the week. Open House was well attended. There were quite a few new families who seemed very pleased with what they saw as they walked through our hallways. The PPA provided coffee, pastries and information for prospective new families. The children enjoyed a rousing volleyball game on Thursday. Grandparents Day, which was scheduled for Friday, February 5th, was cancelled due to inclement weather. Unfortunately, it will not be rescheduled.

Registration for incoming students must now be completed online. Re-registration forms were sent to all families on February 8 (delayed from 2/5).

We have received a \$72,000 "Smart Money" grant from the state, which will be distributed in annual increments over the next few years. This money is solely to be used for technology upgrades. Ms. Schwiebert is currently considering options on how the funds will be used.

Catholic Schools Recap

Tara Piotrowski

Catholic Schools Week was a lot of fun for the students. It started off with the Ice Cream Social on Monday. The 4th Grade class sent a lovely thank you note which was passed around for all to see. Stewarts Shop in Hopewell Junction was extremely generous in donating the ice cream, as well as a variety of toppings. The PPA will be sending them a thank you note. In addition, we provided coffee and pastries for the Open House on Tuesday. We had planned to provide refreshments for Grandparents Day on Friday but unfortunately it was canceled due to inclement weather. We would like to thank Kristi Ott and her committee for all of their hard work supporting Catholic Schools Week activities.

Spring Gala

Caryn Morales

The Spring Gala will be held on March 12th at Dutchess Manor. The invitations came home last week. Caryn Morales and her committee were very happy to announce that the honoree this year will be Mrs. Ellen Anderson. Many wonderful prizes have already come in. If you would like to donate an item for raffle, or to become a Platinum Sponsor in the ad journal, please contact Caryn Morales at mcelm@optonline.net. Join us for a fabulous evening of great food, dancing, and friends!

Father/Daughter Dance

Tammy Martinez

The Father/Daughter Dance will be held on Friday, February 19th in the school gymnasium. The invitations were sent home last week. The DJ and photo booth have been booked. We are looking for snack donations, such as cookies, brownies, cupcakes or chips. Kristi Ott will be reaching out shortly if you are interested in making a donation. This is a fun event for both the fathers and the daughters. We hope to see you there!

The 5K is scheduled for April 9th. The committee will be meeting with the town at the end of this month to confirm this date, as well as, the route of the race. Maria Galiano and Jennifer Kozak will be shadowing Yvonne Kasper and Rachel McCaffrey this year to take over as chairpersons next year. This is a 6th Grade event, but many more volunteers are needed. The town requires volunteers to cover every corner, intersection, and public driveway to ensure the safety of our runners. Please consider volunteering for this event when the information is sent home.

Father/Son Event

Trish Silverman

This event is scheduled for April 24th. There are a few different ideas that are being considered. Look for more information on our website and in the blue folder as the event date gets closer.

WCSO Transportation Update

Deirdre Primrose

Deirdre Primrose and Maureen Gilmartin will be attending this evening's WCSO Board of Education meeting concerning the school time change/transportation issue. At the last BOE meeting the item was tabled to allow for more discussion. It is on the agenda tonight for a re-vote.

Ms. Schwiebert closed the meeting with the Our Father.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM.