

Mater Dei PTO Meeting
Wednesday, November 3, 2010
6:30 PM – 7:30PM
Mater Dei School

PRESENT: Andrea Hillebert, Angela Ronsse, Erin McGuire, Lisa Doty, Shelly Jones, LeAnn Crow & Karin Kirmer

ABSENT:

Item	Discussion
Welcome/Opening Prayer	Erin opened with a prayer.
Business:	
Guest Speaker – Dr. Michael Cotter	Delivered presentation on flu prevention and child sleep needs.
Chairs	Angie recognized chairs for various events. A big thank you to all our chairs: David and Kelly Carr chairs for trash bags. Curtis Jones chair for Trunk or Treat. Carrie Stover for chairing Red Wheel. Tammi Beemer for presenting Love and Logic session. And, Kim Raines for coordinating Christmas Sale. The PTO could not have done this on our own, so Thank You!
Christmas Sale	We are still collecting items for the Christmas Sale. Items can be sent to the school. We are still in need particularly of men's items. Anything you can donate will be appreciated.
Class Christmas Parties	Room parents will coordinate with the teachers on activities snacks etc. and will contact other parents for participation. Christmas parties are scheduled for December 17 th at 2:15 pm.
PTO Minutes	<p>I am Shelly Jones, Secretary for PTO. We are trying a new 'format' for the open PTO meetings, and want to give you more information on what the PTO Board does. I'd like to tell you about some of the items discussed in 'closed' board meetings. Last meeting,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catholic Schools Week...as we contribute a set dollar amount for each student • Review all fundraisers (Red Wheel-Trash Bags) • Discuss Spirit Wear...different styles, colors, costs, ordering of extras, etc • Room parent projects...Trunk-or-treat, Christmas parties, sign up-provide info to School office & teachers • Discuss 'speakers' or things that could be 'beneficial/helpful' to parents...like the Love and Logic Class that was done. That class is now done, and has received good feedback. <p>The PTO board works 'in advance' for planning our agendas for the 'next' scheduled meeting. Advanced planning of our activities, like the skating party and bowling parties are also discussed. At upcoming meetings we will be discussing 'end of year' activities as well as school registration' for next school year.</p> <p>Any questions or comments are greatly appreciated.</p>

Tree Auction	Saturday, November 7 th is the Christmas Tree Auction. Each classroom decorates a tree with various themes. Please feel free to create a tree to auction off. Proceeds benefit the Parish.
Casino Baskets	Angie indicated the Casino Baskets will be something the Room Parents will need to coordinate.
Shopping Day	Angie stated Sunday, December 5 th , the 8 th Grade is sponsoring a chance to buy home business items like Avon, Home Décor, Scrap Booking, etc. If you are interested in having a booth, please contact Angie. The funds raised will be going to 8 th grade graduation costs. One more thing, if you are an 8 th grade parent, please send your pictures of your 8 th grader in as soon as possible. Preparing of the graduation videos for this event is underway.
Treasurer's Report:	
	Treasurer's Report was provided by Lisa. Transactions for this month were Parish contributions, Parish Bazaar, and Trivia Night. Profit is shown for trash bags at just over \$18,000 and profit for red wheel is nearly \$4000. Balance cash on hand \$27,265.18. Any questions?
Principal's Report:	
Building Report Card	Standards of Excellence received by Mater Dei. Every year try to send a note home to explain some things we've got going on. One test, one day and want to make sure you know what you are reading. Do not believe that we are doing it this year. 3-8 coming home scores from the Iowa Basic Testing Scores.
Christmas Tree Auction	Andrea stated that Mater Dei is dedicated to creating opportunity for fellowship. This may be the last opportunity for fellowship before the holidays. Please consider coming to participate.
Bullying/Internet Usage Policy	Andrea provided the annual review of the Internet and Bullying policies: Mater Dei is a recipient of E-rate program funds paid for thru the federal government. To remain in compliance with the requirements of these grant funds, we are going to walk thru the internet policy to ensure all understand. Andrea reviewed the internet policy beginning with Acceptable Use, Privileges, and Netiquette. Security is a high priority for Mater Dei and staff work very hard to filter inappropriate information. However, in the event children reach a site which materials are inappropriate, the children have been instructed to turn the monitor off and raise your hand. We understand materials can be retrieved inadvertently. It is key to communicate with your child to let them know what to do when reaching a site which makes them uncomfortable. Vandalism in not permitted. Any student which engages in misconduct will be disciplined whether the questioned communication or information was retrieved here or away from here. If it makes it to the school, it will be taken care of as soon as it has made it to school. Gross misconduct will result in loss of privileges that could ultimately

affect a computer grade.

The internet usage policy can be found on the Mater Dei website or in the 2010-2011 Parent and Student Handbook, pages 22-23.

Next to cover is the Anti-Bullying Policy. We are going to spend a few minutes discussing what bullying is and what it isn't and what we can do? Sometimes children will say something unkind – unacceptable and unchristian, but not bullying. Bullying is a *pattern* of behavior. The definition of bullying is any intentional written, verbal, or physical act, when the intentional written, verbal or physical act: physically harms a student or damages student's property; or has the effect of substantially interfering with a student's education; or is excessively severe, persistent, or pervasive creating a intimidating or threatening educational environment; or substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school. Bullying can be experienced thru a variety of forms, some of which include, but are not limited to: slurs, rumors, jokes, innuendo's, demeaning comments, drawing cartoons, pranks, gestures, physical attacks, threats or other written or oral physical actions and actions commonly referred to as "cyber-bullying".

Now that the technical definitions have been stated, what is bullying? I have a very dry sense of humor, but I must know what the line is to **not** cross. If your child complain of bullying, please listen to them and let us know. For example, Bessie the bully and Victoria the victim have a bullying situation going on. Victoria has been victimized. The first thing is to looking to establish a behavior with Bessie.

Step 1) Once reported, teachers will be asked watch at recess and lunch. Children rarely bully in class. If this has been reported, please do not let them hang out together, particularly, if they are repeatedly not getting along.

Step 2) If the bullying continues, Bessie will be asked in to the office and asked to stop. Now, it may be perceived by Victoria as, "I told and nothing's changed", however, if the bullying continues then,

Step 3) Now, Bessie and her parents will be asked in to discuss the problem and outline steps to take care of it. With this there is an informal and formal process available to follow. We encouraged parents to start with informal and then, if no improvement proceed to the formal process, if you wish. With these processes, please know we have to show or document a pattern of behavior. Understand, we want to know when/what's happening and we want to stop it, but we must be able to show the pattern of behavior as students may be expelled for this behavior and the actions must be confirmed.

Now, in the event a student has approached me and reported this situation, I will be checking with the child every 4 weeks and every

	<p>other week beyond that to see what the status is. Parents may ask, what do I do at home to help our child when this is occurring? Several things: 1) Of course, you will hug and let them know just how sorry you are that this is happening to them. Let them know this has the school is aware of the situation and all are working together to get this resolved. It is our responsibilities as parents to communicate to our children that there are mean people in this world. And, we must find ways of helping our children disengage from the people that are being mean to them. And, even though they are “taking the high road”, the situation will still need to be addressed at school. 2) Rest assured it is addressed at school. It may not be an immediate resolution in the child’s eye, but it will be addressed whether the victim is aware of the action being taken or not. The most important thing is to let your children know to come to you. Please let us know if your child has come to you multiple times with this type of problem. Please get in touch with me or the teachers so that we can resolve it.</p> <p>Lastly on this topic, Mater Dei has not had a huge problem with the bullying. Andrea thanked the parents for coming forth in a positive and Christian manner and approaching situations with the mindset that it will be resolved.</p> <p>The Mater Dei Anti-Bullying Policy is available on the Mater Dei website and in the 2010-2011 Parent and Student Handbook, page 27.</p>
MD Website Info	<p>Andrea reviewed the Mater Dei mission statement. We will be asking for input on anything you would like to change or add. We use this mission to guide us in making our decisions. So, this is very important to us and we would greatly appreciate your input.</p> <p>I am very excited about our Mater Dei website. I have provided you with a cheat sheet. We are going to quickly go thru the most frequently used areas. Andrea showed the navigation to each of the following links: calendar, grades, attendance, student portals, teachers sites, staff directory, etc.</p> <p>Andrea invited all to friend Mater Dei Facebook page. This is a great site, which is used to show pictures and videos not published elsewhere. There is a link on parent page to friend us.</p> <p>A parent asked if we would be looking at online text books? Andrea is all about going to a paperless learning tool. With that said, what happens when “I broke it and cannot do homework” or “it’s down for online readers” becomes the issue? I am still not opposed to it, but need to research it further. St. James did all of text books on laptops and was unable to continue to utilize them because of the lack of technological infrastructure to run this many users at the same time. Because of this, they switched back to hard books. Certainly, this is something we can look in to.</p>
Christmas Program	The Christmas Program is scheduled for Monday, December 6 th and

	<p>will begin at 7PM at Mater Dei Holy Name Church. This is a vocal K-8 concert, which is scheduled to last 50-60 minutes. For new parents, our students do not go to the program that night. The students will be in the classrooms and will be walked over and perform and then walked back. We offer a 2PM concert for grandparents and the students are allowed to attend this if seating is available.</p> <p>Wednesday, November 10, 2010 at 2P the elective choir will be performing along with all of the choirs in the city.</p> <p>The drumline recently was honored by a performance where they “brought down the house”. Beginning and Advanced bands will perform on the day of the Christmas parties.</p> <p>We will have a spring concert K-5 vocals and the beginning band early April.</p> <p>Catholic Schools Week we always do an impromptu concert to kick off this week.</p>
Meeting Adjourned	Closing prayer “Glory Be” and meeting adjourned.
Next Open Meeting Date:	Wed., Jan. 5, 2010 @ 6:30pm — Rossiter Hall Open Meeting