

MCDS Parent Guild Meeting

MCDS Lower School Lobby

January 26, 2010

8:00 am

Parent Guild President Kayte Cunningham welcomed all attendees. Copies of the Agenda, Treasurer's Report, and Winter Celebration notes were distributed.

ATTENDEES

Officers: Kayte Cunningham, President; Gwen Bosben, President-Elect; Marmar Miar, Treasurer; Jodi Shehadi, Volunteer Coordinator; and Terri Reda, Secretary

Administration: Mary Dykstra, Jen Klug, Barb Spurlin, and Caitlin Stade

At large: Salli Ball, Shirley Buckmaster, Erica Christman, Elizabeth Eaton, Tom Foster, Chulee Hallick, Erin Laemmrich, Nancy Molfenter, Theresa Pyle-Smith, and Kathy Singer

FUNDRAISING EFFORTS

▪ Book Fairs. Chairperson Gwen Bosben advised that \$1,200 in revenue from the Scholastic Book Fair was lower than in the past and again recommends holding this prior to the holidays.

The one-day Barnes & Noble book fair generated a few hundred dollars in revenue. In addition to displaying artwork and student performances, Gwen suggests that next year's event should include a promotional table to market MCDS and a gift wrap table (tips appreciated).

The next Scholastic Book Fair is scheduled for April 29-30.

▪ Pinkoko and Coffee. Revenue of \$475.25 was lower than anticipated, but cost of this scrumptious candy was in line with other quality confections. It was suggested that this particular fundraiser might be better timed around Valentine's Day.

▪ Toys for Tots. The John and Cynthia Everitt Family and the cub scouts spearhead this joint effort with the Marines. Cynthia's message was read which indicated that twice as many donations were received from MCDS than last year. A couple late donations were delivered by the Everitts on distribution night where they observed individuals who left with gifts and a holiday dinner for their families. It was suggested that Cynthia's message be included next year to inspire MCDS families to contribute to this worthy cause.

▪ Second Harvest. Overall, this year's "NBC 15 Share Your Holidays" program generated 2.3 million meals—100,000 meals more than last year. Once again, MCDS was awarded second place, providing an average of 11.5 meals per MCDS student. On-going contributions can be made by donating on-line (every \$1.00 provides 7 meals) or by dining at Monty's Blue Plate Diner or Tex Tubbs Taco Palace on Tuesday evenings when 10% is donated to Second Harvest. For on-line donations, go to: <http://www.seconddharvestmadison.org/>

▪ Artsonia. Information about this on-line gallery will be going out soon with permission slips. This will provide a wonderful and safe way to see your child's progression in art through the years at MCDS.

WINTER EVENTS

- **Books & Bagels.** This had a great turnout which produced almost \$200 in revenue from the book resale. Families are encouraged to donate books for children and adults for the next Books & Bagels morning to be held in April.

- **Jazz Showcase.** What an incredible event! Kayte Cunningham expressed huge gratitude to Jon Schipper and the Jeff Peronto Jazz Orchestra for donating their time and talent to an evening enjoyed by all age groups. “The music was amazing and the kids were riveted.” Appreciation was also expressed to the Parent Guild for the wonderful setup, food, and decorations which made the event even more spectacular.

- **Winter Celebration.** Appreciation was expressed to Chairperson Nancy Molfenter, the Seaver Family who made and displayed the decorations, Jenner McLeod and Audrey Martorana who coordinated the food, and Volunteer Coordinator Jodi Shehadi. Nancy Molfenter placed planning information in the Parent Guild book and provided a synopsis of the event, including lessons learned, ideas to consider for next year, and revenues and expenses. Unable to attend the PG meeting, Jenner submitted an overview of the event as well. Approximately 250 persons attended, and about \$375 in revenue (after expenses) was generated.

- **Food for Thought.** Student participants in the “Share Your Humanity” Elective and their advisor, Sandra Fernandez, planned and hosted this inspiring event which produced a generous donation to OXFAM and the purchase of two sheep from Heifer International.

- **Faculty and Staff Party.** Caitlin Stade expressed appreciation to the Parent Guild for funding the annual faculty and staff holiday party at the Kennedy Manor. There was a 90% turnout of faculty and staff with their spouses/significant others which made for a wonderful way to connect in a non-school setting.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Stepping Stones Auction.** Mary Dykstra spoke of the enthusiastic volunteers on the planning committee for this all-inclusive annual event which is not just an important fundraiser but a wonderful social event and celebration that is set for Saturday, March 20. Evites will go out in February. A planning meeting is scheduled for tomorrow morning. Of the 150 letters sent to business, 45 donations have already been received. Family donations are also encouraged. One such auction example is the Kentucky Derby party that is being donated/hosted by the Bosben Family. The overall goal is significantly raise the bar on the \$20-25,000 made from the past auctions. The evening will include a childcare option, silent auction, an ambitious raffle, unbelievable food (Gwen is in charge!), and a fabulous slideshow developed by Kimberly Felker that showcases MCDS. Volunteers are still needed, especially individuals who can help with decorations (get in touch with Kayte Cunningham or Jodi Shehadi) or making food the day of the event (contact Gwen Bosben).

- **Box Tops.** There’s one more day to earn extra points at Copp’s or Pick & Save. Bonus receipts are printed at the checkouts. The next deadline for submitting Box Tops is February 19. Chairperson Deb Grunwald has taken this program from a \$200 income level to about

\$2,000/year. Her efforts the past couple of years are appreciated, and the Parent Guild is looking for a volunteer to coordinate this fundraiser for 2010-11.

- Blinds for Gym. The Parent Guild is looking for a volunteer who is interested in providing suggestions and planning a special fundraiser for gymnasium blinds.
- Spring Musical. February 6 and 13 are designated set building dates (9am – 1pm) for the spring musical--*Music Man*. Your child does not need to be in the cast or crew to help out. Contact Shannon Johnson in the MS/HS Music Department if you are able to assist either or both of these dates.
- Ski Cascade. The next family ski trip date is February 26. A bargain price of \$20 includes rentals and lessons, adults included! Hope Koprowski coordinates the ski trips which have proved to be a fun time for all.
- Shirley Buckmaster shared a “Hats for Haiti” fundraiser idea which was given to Caitlyn.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Given time constraints, Marmar quickly highlighted a couple items in the Treasurer’s Report. Barb Spurlin indicated that the PG portion generated from the Book Fair is about \$700. The Winter Celebration generated nearly \$400, and nearly all expenses are under budget.

PARENT GUILD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE POSITIONS.

Three positions on the Parent Guild Executive Committee will be available for 2010-11, including President-Elect, Secretary, and Treasurer. A candidate for Treasurer has been found, and others who are interested in holding a position should contact a member of the Executive Committee.

Submitted by:

Terri Reda, Secretary
MCDS Parent Guild Executive Committee