

Home and School August 3, 2008 @ Lisa Reed's

Present: Lisa Reed, Grace Winston, Amy Lee, Dana Richter-Stewart, Michael Kelty, Bernie McMahon, Peter O'Leary, Lacey Sikora

Overall: Lisa recapped:

- 1) the meeting with Mary Jo Burns to go over dates for H&S events for the 2009-2010 school year (see summer e-mails or school mailing for complete calendar)
- 2) the H&S e-mail link on the school website now goes to Lisa
- 3) Meeting date review. Dates for H&S meetings are:

8/31 Lacey Sikora
10/5 Dana Richter-Stewart
11/2 Amy Lee
12/17 Bernie McMahon
1/11 Jen Bolino
2/1 Brigid Anderson
3/1 Grace Winston
4/19 Michael Kelty
5/3 Peter O'Leary
6/7 Mark Winters

Special Events (Mark and Dana)

Dana will follow up with Mark regarding the 4 upcoming events:

1. New Student lunch 8/18 1-2 p.m.
2. Faculty Lunch 8/20, approx. 40 ppl.
3. Back to School Coffee 8/25 parents of grades 1-8 in Pine Room (flyer?)
4. Back to School Coffee 8/27 parents of PreK-K Pine Room (flyer?)

Dana and Mark will let H&S members know if they need volunteers to man these events &/or provide food.

Welcoming Update (Grace & Dana)

1. Grace will contact the school office tomorrow (8/4) to make sure the new student list is accurate and will personally call new families to welcome them (Peter and Lisa offered to help make phone calls)
2. Discussed the "Need to Know" list for new families and agreed to include:
 - a. Importance of Back to School Night
 - b. Sally Foster Program
 - c. Shopping Cert. program
 - d. Importance of school website for: forms, H&S link, news etc.
 - e. Wednesday Mailer
 - f. Outside school drop off for Pre-K
 - g. Plan ahead for Grandparents day etc.

h. Availability of extended day

Wellness Committee Update (Lacey)

Lacey recapped the July 2009 Wellness meeting. Agreed:

1. Lisa will talk to Ms. Burns Re: canceling the Halloween H&S pizza lunch due to class parties & we will pass along this information to room parents.
2. Volunteer coordinators will disseminate the Archdiocese's Wellness Policy (on the school website) to the room parents, and highlight the attachment of food suggestions. Lisa will look into making the food suggestion list an attachment to an e-mail to all room parents at the beginning of the school year.

Volunteers (Bernie, Jen & Brigid)

1. Bernie stated that we have 24 room parents and need approx 24 more and distributed class list indicating where we have a need.
2. Teachers have requested no more than 2 room parents per class.
3. Bernie suggested that we e-mail classes who need room parents to try to get more volunteers. Agreed that (using the list Bernie passed out to determine the # of room parents still needed):
 - a. Lacey will contact parents of K p.m. and Mrs. Sklaney's class
 - b. Lisa will contact 2nd grade parents
 - c. Grace will contact 3rd grade (except room 107 – already full), 4th & 5th
 - d. Michael will contact 6th grade
 - e. Amy will contact 7th
 - f. Bernie will contact 8th
 - g. Lisa will draft a form letter for us to e-mail the class parents, that will briefly describe room parent duties and VIRTUS training (directing parents to Pat Atkins for questions on VIRTUS)
4. Bernie is leaving on vacation for a few weeks, but expressed hope that Brigid & Jen will work on room parent training (either by a beginning of the year meeting or via e-mail)

Enrichment (Lacey, Grace & Michael)

1. At the next meeting, Amy will provide budgets for all three (PreK- K, 1-5 and 6-8 enrichment groups).
2. Grace passed along information re: new enrichment programs:
 - a. The Mystery Shop (Carol Stream): provides a 1- 1.5 hour mystery experience/play with the kids solving the mystery; reasonable price
 - b. Historical Perspectives: actors/actresses "become" a person from history & interact with kids; this year Helen Keller and MLK Jr.
 - c. Natures Creatures Animal Show (pre-school)

Communications (Peter)

1. Preparing for directory
2. Working on the blog: (www.ascensionschool.blogspot.com)

3. Lisa will tell Ms. Burns that we want to put a link to the blog on the H&S page of the school website

Finance (Amy)

1. Amy passed out an income sheet showing approx. \$7,000 in the bank.
2. She estimates that due to financial climate, Sally Foster sales might continue to decline, but with the amount in the bank, we can spend a little more on enrichment than last year as long as we spend smartly.
3. Amy will have to re-sign with Sally Foster at the end of this fall's Sally Foster sales, so we should think about whether or not we want to stay with Sally Foster.
4. Agreed that \$300 Sally Foster "signing bonus" will be used for H&S general fund.

Other

District 97 is ending Hearing 7 Vision screening for all Oak Park schools this year due to budgetary constraints. Lisa will look into how much it costs to bring the screening to Ascension and will talk to Ms. Burns about H&S interest in contributing (with other school organizations) to the cost.