



SEPTEMBER PTO MEETING

9.8.2021

Attendees:

Chandra Kwaske (President)
Sarah Santini via Zoom (VP)
Jessica Grima (Treasurer)
Anna Thelen (Secretary)
Fr. Fons (Pastor)
Emma George (1st Grade Teacher)
Laura Hahnenberg (Faith Family Formation)
Parents: John Martin, Terry Rabideau, Tori Sachs,
Emily Riley, Jenni Curtin, Lindsay Brieschke

Start Time: 6:05 pm

End Time: 7:18 pm

Welcome (Chandra)

Opening Prayer (Fr. Fons)

Overview PTO (Chandra)

- We are a group that evolves yearly according to the needs of the school
 - We support the school
 - Financially through funding special projects
 - 3 big fundraisers, this money goes into a bucket managed by the church for major school expenses
 - Uniform Vault proceeds go towards PTO projects
 - Practically through seeking out needs/projects
 - Physically through volunteering
 - We also strive to build community
 - We are not a group that handles teacher and curriculum issues
 - Please take those to Principal Lomas and teachers directly
 - Where to find us...
 - Monthly meetings on the 2nd Wednesday of the month
 - Next meeting: October 13
 - ZOOM option is temporary
 - PTO tab on the school website
 - Interested in website design/maintenance??
 - Email stmarywilliamston.pto@gmail.com
 - Facebook Group
 - Most up to date info
 - School pick up
 - Best way to contact us is via email stmarywilliamston.pto@gmail.com

Board Intro

- Each of our positions has a 2 year term limit.
 - Chandra Kwaske
 - President (Year 2)
 - Carter (4th) & Pierce (2nd)
 - Here before classical and pleased with classical
 - Sarah Santini
 - Vice President (Year 2)
 - Isaac (8th) & Isabel (6th)
 - Jessica Grima
 - Treasurer (Year 1)
 - Adelyn (3rd) & Evelyn (2nd)
 - Anna Thelen
 - Secretary (Year 2)
 - Penny (1st) & Bart (K)

VP Report/Big Raffle (Sarah)

- The Big Raffle is our BIGGEST fundraiser of the year.
 - 1,000 tickets sold @ \$100 each
 - 1st prize JEEP or cash equivalent
 - Tickets sold online, physical tickets available through church/school offices
 - Each family asked to sell a set amount of tickets
 - Winner drawn the morning of Williamston Light Fest
 - Hoping to make this more of an event this year
- Raffle license application is being started
 - Getting ready to kick off!

What are the 3 Fundraisers? (Chandra)

- These are the events that raise money for the school in general.
 - The Big Raffle (JEEP Raffle Fundraiser)
 - See above for description
 - Selling time is roughly Halloween to mid-December
 - The Main Event (Golf Outing Fundraiser)
 - June 4, 2021
 - Wheatfield Valley Golf Course
 - Over 100 golfers at our last outing
 - Hoping to make the banquet more of a fellowship event for parents
 - Pace the Priest
 - Longest running
 - Summer, Jubilee weekend
 - Made \$900 this year
 - Good community event
 - Looking to rebrand this event for this year
 - Interested in rebranding this event?

- o Email stmarywilliamston.pto@gmail.com

Treasurer Report (Jessica)

- Jessica needs to meet with Deacon Hilker to discuss her getting access to our account and checkbook
- In the past we had been told that any funds left in our account at year's end would be rolled over into the general school account
 - o We need more clarity on this
 - Make plans accordingly to spend the money
 - Lindsay suggested that we turn our extra funds into a scholarship fund

Secretary Report (Anna)

- We have Flocknotes!
 - o Plan on sending out a monthly PTO email & meeting reminders
 - o Will include overview of events and volunteer opportunities
 - o New parking lot questions segment
 - Do you have a question? Ask us in the parking lot and it may be featured!
 - o Need families to sign up in order to receive notes
 - <https://StMaryWilliamston.flocknote.com/PTO>

Uniform Vault (Anna)

- By far our best couple of months yet!
 - o Over \$400
 - o We have been able to help so many families prepare for the school year!
- Moving Vault into PTO Room in the school (across from Teacher's Lounge)
 - o There will be a labeled metal cabinet
 - o Once this is set up details and instructions will be released
 - Have to finish cleaning this room before Vault can be moved in
- An anonymous donor gave \$100 to the Uniform Vault
 - o THANK YOU!
 - o Since this is the first time this has happened, how should money be spent?
 - Purchasing new items for the Vault or towards PTO projects?
 - The group suggested assisting a family in need with purchasing their uniforms
 - Will be contacting the administration to make this connection

The Main Event - Additional Discussion (Chandra)

- Would this be a good opportunity for each class to do a project that is auctioned off?
 - o The audience for our banquet, where we have the silent auction, is mostly golfers with a loose connection to the school/parish
 - o This idea may give us more mileage at an event with many of our school parents and friends represented - the FFF Valentine's event?

- This event is fun to volunteer for, we need many day of volunteers and knowledge of golf is not necessary.
- John Martin suggested some kind of hype postcard as we get closer with info on how to sign up to pass out to family members
 - We had done this last year - sending 5 home with each student to send to family members and friends is a great way to spread the word about this event

New Business

- **Saint Plaque Project (Anna)**
 - \$264 for 12 name plaques to accompany the Patron Saint images around the building
 - Navy blue with white text (school font,) engraved, 7.25" X 1"
 - 2-3 weeks for production
 - MI Graphics & Signs, company out of St. Johns
 - Tabled due to unestablished yearly budget

- **River Frontage Clean Up Proposal (Anna)**
 - Did you know our school is on the Red Cedar River?
 - Cleaning up river frontage in order to gain access
 - What a great draw this could be for our school as well as a beautiful element for us all to enjoy.
 - Phase #1
 - Removing dead, diseased and damaged wood from shoreline
 - Repairing fence and gate
 - Barkham & Co quote for \$2,000
 - Principal Lomas & Deacon Hilker spoke about the project and the parish agreed to cover 50%
 - \$1,000 needed from PTO to start phase #1
 - Tabled due to unestablished yearly budget

- **Classroom Reps (Anna)**
 - In an effort to beef up communication and involvement in our school we are creating class reps.
 - A parent from each class that is a delegate to the PTO
 - Attends monthly PTO general meetings
 - Working relationship
 - Parent stays aware of teacher/classroom needs
 - Ex. Rep. finds that Miss Geroge's library is falling apart, we need to get her new books.
 - PTO lets reps know where their classrooms are needed

- Ex. We need 2 families from 2nd grade to sell raffle tickets after mass this weekend - the rep would then find those families and give them details.
 - Representatives:
 - PK : Whelton : Open email stmarywilliamston.pto@gmail.com
 - K : Dippel : Emily Riley
 - 1st : George : Lindsay Brieschke
 - 2nd : Brown : Open email stmarywilliamston.pto@gmail.com
 - 3rd: Billings : Terry Rabideau
 - 4th : Dailey : Pam Mazzali
 - 5th/6th : Ingles : Pam Mazzali
 - 7th/8th : Koski : Open email stmarywilliamston.pto@gmail.com
 - Language Arts/Art : Barry : Open email stmarywilliamston.pto@gmail.com
 - One introductory email has been sent out
 - Reps will be connected with their teachers and can ask about the best way to contact parents, then please make a connection to establish relationship
- **Faith Family Formation (FFF) (Laura Hahnenberg & Terry Rabideau)**
 - FFF is for EVERYONE!
 - School families do not have to register unless they have a child has Sacraments this year
 - FFF kick-off event September 19 after 11 o'clock mass
 - Family games and field day
 - Handout went home with students
 - First Communion slated for the first Saturday of May
 - All Saints Festival October 31
 - Carnival & Trunk or Treat
 - Ex. Face painting station, St. Brigid was an artist
 - Trunk decorating contest
 - Prized for 1st, 2nd & 3rd
 - Food for purchase
 - Kona Ice Truck was last year's surprise
 - Other events include Mother/Daughter Tea Party, Father/Son Challenge and couple's Valentine event
 - Will alternate mother/daughter & father/son with mother/son & father/daughter events yearly
- **Urgent Needs (Parents in attendance)**
 - It was suggested and we make a list of 5 urgent needs for this upcoming year
 - List them in order of importance and get pricing
 - Meet with Principal Lomas to create list
 - Keep teacher and school wish lists going, accessible and up to date
 - When friends and family ask how they can help the school we can pass along these links

- **Financial Ideas (Parents in attendance)**
 - Luke Bryant concert coming up 2 towns over (John Martin)
 - Have a group collecting cans
 - Could also do this at football games and other concerts
 - Always have a pop can drive going (Tori Sachs)
 - This has typically been a Youth Group thing
 - Laura Hahnenberg said it was okay for us to take over
 - We can keep the same drop off spot in the back of church, in coat closet, entrance closest to the river
 - **Volunteers needed to take pop cans for deposit, drop off money to Ms. Dion in Front Office - email stmarywilliamston.pto@gmail.com**
 - Approaching Knights of Columbus for help with funding bigger projects, like the potential dock for the river project (Jenni Curtin)
 - Applying for grants?
 - The church is a 5013C and we are under their umbrella
 - Lindsay Brischke & Stephen Grima have experience with this

- **Event Ideas (Jenny Curtin)**
 - Formal dance
 - In the past Jenni has seen success with themed dances that have a dance instructor and live music
 - There is time spent learning dance steps
 - In the past there was a night for students followed by a night for parents
 - Good for fellowship
 - Could host this for middle school students? Youth Group?
 - Christmas Around the World
 - A big Christmas party for the entire school
 - Each classroom turns into a country in decor and activity
 - They were able to find people from each of these countries to talk about their Christmas experience and share the language
 - Classes rotated through the classrooms and then all ended up together in the gym, Jerusalem, for carols and celebration

- **School Recertification**
 - March 2022
 - Hoping to have beautification projects completed by February to help with this process.

- **Purpose of PTO Meetings (Chandra)**
 - Determine where to spend to spend PTO money

- Volunteer hours
- Bring in a teacher to each meeting

ADJOURNED 7:18 PM

Anna K. Thelen

Secretary

September 9, 2021

NEXT MEETING OCTOBER 13, 6:00 PM, SCHOOL LIBRARY