

**St. Alphonsus Home & School**  
**Meeting Minutes of February 18, 2010 8:15 am, Adult Faith Formation room**

**In Attendance:** John Steck, Father Moerman, Jeanine Duncan, Deb Speese, Jill Lebiezinski, Deb DeAngelis, Emily Klammer, Kathy Tavolaro, Judy Morrissey, Colleen Araco, Beth Perri, Tricia Loftus, Judy Felix, Maura Zimmerman, Kellie Brogan, Liz Fitzpatrick, Judy DeCamara

**Opening Prayer:** Father Moerman

**Parish Report:** Father Moerman

- Some families had questions regarding registration fee (rate and application). Father Moerman said these concerns would be addressed by the rectory.
- There are many Lenten activities planned for the parish and the school. A school Mass was held on Ash Wednesday, Stations of the Cross will be prayed weekly, and the opportunity for confession will be offered. To foster the prayer life of the family in the home, rice bowls went home in the family envelope. Families are encouraged to observe a day of prayer and fasting by having a simple dinner on one night of the week. Monies saved will be brought to church and offered in a school Mass at the end of the Lenten season.

**School Report:** John Steck

- Saint Alphonsus will offer Science Explorers this spring. There will be a free assembly to spark interest among the students. We have three teachers interested in participating.
- Mrs. Granese received compliments and an information packet from the grandfather of one of her students. He was very impressed by his granddaughter's presentation on the three branches of government. Mrs. Granese gives praise to the Brain POP software she and Ms. Cholaj use in their classrooms.
- Curriculum Night will be held on Tuesday, February 23. Nine teachers are presenting. A primary focus of the evening will be the use of technology in the curriculum.
- The Student Council is sponsoring Nickels for Neighbors. Instead of a dress down day, the Student Council will sell raffle tickets for two prize baskets: one for the first floor and one for the second floor. Home and School will front the money needed to buy prizes for the baskets.

**Treasurer's Report:** Judy Morrissey

- Expenses for Catholic Schools Week have not all been submitted. Family Bingo has been rescheduled for March 6. Judy will present an updated P&L at the next meeting.

## **Old Business, CSW Wrap Up: Deb DeAngelis**

### *Sunday - Continental Breakfast Reception*

- This year, the breakfast was successfully moved to the Narthex. More families attended. Beth has documented how much food was needed.

### *Monday - Tribute to our Wounded Military Overseas*

- We were impressed with the behavior of the children during the tribute. Thanks to Mrs. Fleming for organizing. The event was featured on the news and in local newspapers.

### *Tuesday - Talent Show and Dress Down Day*

- The Talent Show was a big hit with the students! They were so respectful and supportive of their peers. Colleen and Deb reported that the rehearsals really helped the show to run smoothly. Mrs. Speese suggested that someday we could stream the show live so that parents who are working could watch. Since the show was so popular and well-received, we discussed that maybe it could be held on Friday of Catholic Schools Week next year.

### *Wednesday - School Open House and Registration and Faculty Quiz Show*

- Even with a two hour delay due to weather, the Open House was a success. 20+ families toured the school. The new marketing folders were a professional addition to the day.
- The Faculty Quiz Show received mixed reviews from the students. The younger students seemed to enjoy it more. In the future, we may want to try to make the event more interactive.

### *Thursday – Faculty Luncheon*

- The teachers really enjoyed the luncheon and the raffle prizes. The quantities for food for the luncheon were right on the mark! Leftovers were packaged and donated to AID for Friends.

### *Friday – Zoo Assembly*

- The Zoo Assembly was not popular with the older students. We plan to review this year's budget to perhaps reallocate funds for next year. We may have two different assemblies—one geared to the younger students, and one geared to older students. Deb suggested the Harlem Wizards.

## **PLP Technology Presentation: Deb Speese and Jill Lebieczinski**

- **What is PLP?** “PLP is a professional development model that immerses educators into environments and practices that allow them to learn and own the literacies of 21st Century learning and teaching.” <http://plpnetwork.com/>
- **The PLP learning cohort model** “uses a blend of face to face and online curriculum to connect small teams of educators from forward thinking schools and grows those connections over the course of a school year. Finally, it prepares schools and districts to move forward in systemic ways after the one-year commitment ends by laying the groundwork for three and five-year community building project plans.”

- Home and School is sponsoring five teachers (Ms. Cholaj, Mrs. Moore, Ms. Lebiedzinski, Mrs. Speese, and Mrs. Senior) in the PLP. The face-to-face kick-off was held in September at Villa Maria Academy. The teachers participate in five online Elluminate webinars, and they have access to a Virtual Learning Community for feedback and support with experts. A culminating face-to-face meeting will be held in April.
- The teachers are learning new technologies and software such as prezi, skype, wikispaces, animoto, and twitter, and they are introducing them to their students.
- In year two of the PLP, the teachers will work collaboratively on a school-wide Action Research Project. Our teachers are proposing to create a St. Alphonsus Virtual Learning Environment or Moodle (<http://moodle.org/about/>). The Moodle can be used to build collaborative learning environments, to build a repository of classroom materials (PowerPoint presentations, student work, notes, and outlines), and to assess learning using assignments or quizzes.
- *“Our students have changed radically. Today’s students are no longer the people our educational system was designed to teach.”* It is vital for “Digital Immigrant” educators to learn how to teach “Digital Native” students.  
<http://www.marcprensky.com/writing/Prensky%20-%20Digital%20Natives,%20Digital%20Immigrants%20-%20Part1.pdf>

### **Committee Chair Reports:**

#### **Publicity:** Emily Klammer for Kathie Reilly

- Changing the month and date on the Open House signs will be an ongoing expense. Kathie proposed options for marketing the Open House events:
  1. Continue to use a few yard signs. The most effective signs were placed outside the parish hall and the driveway leading to church. Vendors are available online (i.e., Vistaprint) and can produce the signs for \$8.00 to 15.00 at sign. Price will vary based on colors and size.
  2. Smaller cardboard posters can be created. These cardboard posters can be placed in high traffic, public places such as the library, supermarket, parish hall, and other businesses. We will want to make sure the businesses are within our parish perimeter.
  3. Send home a small announcement with our Prep Students (do they have a version of a family envelope?). It can be printed on regular paper or a small postcard can be created.
  4. Local publications have community calendars. For example The Enterprise or Ambler Gazette.
  5. Do something for referrals. If you refer a friend or family member and they come to the open house, we offer a small gift card.
  6. Continue with announcements in the church bulletin.
- Marketing Folders – one item needs to be corrected. Barb would like to use the tuition form she creates for the rectory/school. Kathie is reworking one additional page in the folder so that the information aligns correctly. She will return the box of updated folders to the school office.

- Picture web site - All pictures have been updated from Catholic Schools Week. The web site seems to be popular. As of last week, we had over a 1000 visitors to the site. Some of those are probably repeat visitors, but the count is still impressive.
- Father Daughter Dance – Kathie is preparing for the picture area. She will be using items from home such as curtains for the backdrop and a few other props. The only cost will be picture developing and that depends on the number of prints. She will use the site with the best special running that week.

**Volunteers:** Beth Perri

- Beth is working on volunteers for Family Bingo and Father Daughter Dance.

**Community Affairs:** Kellie Brogan

- Family Bingo has been rescheduled for March 6. A flyer was included in the family envelope for families to send in a new order or cancel their prior registration.
- The Ice Cream Social is scheduled for March 2 of Book Fair week. The Fourth Grade Class is in charge of organizing the social. Beth will find some volunteers.

**Social:** Colleen Araco

- Plans for the Father Daughter dance are in full swing. The DJ has been confirmed, and she will place an order for drinks from Aramark.
- The Mother Son baseball game is scheduled for Sunday, May 2 at 1:00. Colleen has reserved tickets behind the dugout. She will post a “save the date” in the family envelope. Her next task is to reserve the buses.
- Angie McDonnell will organize Teen Trivia Night for students in sixth, seventh, and eighth grade on April 29.

**Programs:** Judy Felix & Maura Zimmerman

- The Walnut Street Theatre will present a free assembly this spring that ties into our Peace Program.

**Ways and Means:** Tricia Loftus

- Tricia modeled samples of our new Gator Gear. The sweatshirts, pajama pants, and tees are priced to sell! A flyer and an order form were included in the family envelope, and items will be on sale during the Book Fair. Gator Gear apparel will also be featured on Gator Cast.

**New Business**

- Auction: We decided on the Port of Call logo for next year’s auction. We desperately need chairs!
- Judy DeCamara suggested that we post a link to the H&S Meeting Minutes in the family envelope. We should also include meeting dates on the calendar at the beginning on the envelope.

- We discussed reintroducing the Mentor Family Program for new families to St. Alphonsus. We need to communicate more effectively to the parents of younger students.
- We need more volunteers for Robbins Park. Beth will talk to the Robbins Park coordinator to get more information about responsibilities and commitment. She will tap into her volunteer list.
- Ms. Duncan also proposed reimbursing lunch room parents like the yard duty parents. She suggested that the core group could split time between lunch duty and yard duty (first lunch parents will follow the first lunch students into recess duty; second lunch parents will follow the students from recess to lunch). Ms. Duncan will write a proposal and submit.

Next meeting, **Wednesday, March 17, 8:15 am in the Adult Faith Formation room.**  
**Future meetings: April 21, May 19, and Monday, June 7.**

**Meeting Adjourned:** 10:45 am.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Kathy Tavolaro.