

School Board News

Teamwork Drives Fundraiser's Success

What's Happening

MOMS Meeting Barry Hall	Fri., May 14 8:15-10:15 am
Final SMA Board Mtg	Mon, May 17 3 p.m.
All are welcome!	SMA Library
Final SMA Open Dinner & Open House	Thur May 20 5—7 p.m.
SMA School Board Member Application Deadline	May 24

2010 Drive Away Results

Over 2600 tickets sold

87% of SMA families participated in ticket sales

Raised \$67,000

Pioneered by Chairperson Erin Bushey, this year's spring fundraiser exceeded expectations.

"The school budget depended on \$30,000 and the event raised more than double that amount," said Principal Toni Dimuzio.

In addition to Bushey, several SMA parents led key areas including the auction, sponsorships, event planning and of course the grand prize from Drew Ford.

"The event was less stressful and ran better when more people pitched in," said Event Planner Honor Beyer.

And for ticket sales

this teamwork extended throughout the school. Most SMA families sold at least one Drive-Away ticket and of those who sold them, three out of four families sold their entire Family Dozen.

"At first, I was unsure that we would be able to have any luck selling tickets in this economy," said Parent Ellen Stanley. "but once we thought about the prize we knew \$25 wouldn't break the bank!"

The Stanleys were among the top-sellers with 35 tickets sold. Their efforts were rewarded with an I-Touch.

DRIVER WANTED IN 2011

Do you have strong organizational skills?

Have you thought about how you can make a difference at SMA?

Are you a leader who is motivated by a good cause?

If you answered YES, please consider chairing the 2011 Drive Away. Contact Toni Dimuzio for more info.

Other families contributed by donating goods and services, money and time.

The School Board thanks all who contributed to make this event a huge success!

Faith engagement warms hearts

SMA Parents share their journeys in faith with a captive audience

Folks who spent the last Sunday in April at Parish Hall found fellowship and faith. About 30 SMA families from all grade levels attended the faith engagement arranged by the Board's Family Faith Committee.

Billed as a casual gathering of SMA families and parishioners, the event celebrated the idea of Catholic identity. Speakers captivated listeners as they shared a wide range of stories all demonstrating the powerful gift Catholic faith has brought them.

"I was curious about it," said Chris Connors about his reason for attending. "It made me realize that not everyone grows in their beliefs equally. And, in all the stories I found something I could relate to."

Speakers ranged from seasoned Catholics to those newly welcomed to the church. The idea was to show

faith as a journey and that each person can be in a different place.

"I felt my contribution was in showing the 'I'm not finished' point of view," said Speaker Susan Glevanik. "To show that no one has to be perfect to be long."

Attendees got the message and were clearly moved by the stories they heard. The event lasted nearly two hours and ended in small group discussions.

"We had the dads and moms gather separately to discuss the event's impact," said Organizer Lisa Zickert. "We had to pull them away to end the event. Even the dads!"

A similar event is in the works for next Fall. Look for more details at the beginning of the school year.

Upcoming Faith Events

Vacation Bible Camp

July 12—16
9 a.m.—Noon

Faith Journey Engagement

Fall 2010
Look for info in parent newsletter

Board member retirements bring vacancies

Several members have served on the board for many years, three of whom will be ending their service in May.

Jeanne Stronach began her board tenure as part of the field fundraising committee. The following year she became an official member and served on the Technology Committee. As her fifth year of service ends, she sees her departure as an opportunity for other SMA parents to get involved in this leadership role.

Sandra Infrerra joined the board in 2007-08 and made her mark on both the fundraising and parent services committees. As a board member, she grew the Wish List program to fund special items and projects for each classroom. And her work analyzing event assessments led to many improvements in the timing, duration and planning of events.

Joining in 2006-07, Erin Bushey initially concentrated on the Gimme-A-Break (GAB) outings and managed the new parent mentoring program. In her second year, she co-chaired Big 10, followed by a third year chairing the event alone. This year, she secured her legacy as the creator of the SMA Drive-Away and record-setting fund-raising.

With their departure, three board members will be appointed for 2010-11. Any SMA parent interested in serving in this leadership role should apply soon.

What are the responsibilities? Board members are expected to serve on at least one committee and attend monthly meetings. As part of an advisory board for the school, member discuss strategic planning, fundraising, and special projects that can benefit the Academy. For more information about board membership and to apply, check

the SMA website under the Parents heading.

Board Membership At a Glance

Committees
Fundraising/Advancement
Family Faith
Community Connections
Technology

Board Membership App Deadline
Monday, May 24

Board Member App & Info
<http://www.stmartinofacade.org/parents.html>
(Under School Board heading)

Grandparents Day bonds young and old

Many people may spend the Friday before Mother's Day scrambling for a special gift. But at SMA, this day marks a very special tradition.

It's a day that brings young and old together in a touching way. Grandparents Day has been celebrated at SMA for years. It's a chance for the students to bond with their grandparents and thank them for the love and support they so generously bestow on them.

Grandparents are invited in the classrooms and given a chance to experience Workshop. They meet teachers, peers and staff and develop a sense of their grandchildren's school life.

Before long grandparents are treated to entertainment by performers unparalleled in their eyes. Songs and dances by students in each grade generate smiles that illuminate Parish Hall.

And there are tears. Especially

when 8th graders end their tribute to the Oscars with the *Sound of Music's* 'So Long Farewell' song.

Many parent volunteers help coordinate the event which is the only way parents can be part of the day.

"It's a day I look forward to each spring," said Grandparent Carol Gobby who visits from Orange County every year. "It really makes me feel part of the community and I love seeing my grandkids."

Meeting our goals throughout the year

• **Family Faith:** On-going monthly MOMS meetings. Spring faith engagement well-attended.

• **Parent Services:** Reached out to new parents and communicated through quarterly newsletters.

• **Technology:** Continued advisory role for school technology as SMA prepares to replace lab computers.

• **Fundraising/Advancement:** Exceeded budgetary expectations for Walkathon and Spring Drive Away. Bingo nearly met budget

and with improvements in lighting and A/V we aim to boost attendance for next year. With Walkathon proceeds, new track surface installed and tuition assistance program well-funded.

SMA School Board working with families to make a difference.

Erin Bushey • Donna Colbert • Kathy Connors • Jim Costello • Toni Dimuzio • Bob Dyar • Susan Glevanik • Sandra Infrerra
Maria McRoberts • Heidi Monger • Theresa Morrison • Fr. Jim Poulsen • Tracy South • Jeanne Stronach • Ben Wall
Greg Wilfahrt • Lisa Zickert