

TPO Meeting
Tuesday, August 20, 2019
8:15 a.m. - Father Mac Hall
Meeting Minutes

Prayer - Caroline Miceli

Welcome and Introduction - Kerry Roberts, Robin Celeski

PTO attendees introduced themselves.

All TPO info will be listed on the STA webpage (elcatholics.org) Go to main navigation bar and go to "volunteering at STA" and you will find everything about TPO, including documents and the mission of the group as well as meeting minutes, It spells out what the TPO is trying to accomplish and the four pillars and the boundaries of the group.

TPO stresses teacher "issues" go straight to administration, as we are here to assist teachers. All meetings will be held on the third Tuesday of the month. Meetings will alternate each month between morning meeting one month and evening meeting next month.

All meeting dates and times are listed on website.

Update on Room Parents - Kerry Roberts

Having room parents for each grade is first immediate need.
Volunteers needed for 8th grade, 4 year preschool, kindergarten, and 6th grade.
Interested parents should sign up online.
Room parent description was passed to attendees.
Individual room events will be organized by room parents
Room parent meeting will be held the week after Labor Day, and everything will be posted online and via social media.

Volunteer Opportunities - Everyone

The main pillars of the TPO are to offer teacher and administration support, create and assist with fundraising and educational events, and partner with parish and assist with events and serve others through God's word
TPO is looking to boost and get chairs for committees.
Intention is to document the process of the events and have a budget for all events.
Hope is to learn how to do things in advance, and anticipate what will be coming down the line.

What Chairs are needed for events is listed online. QR code was also given.
Need for 5 event chairs for 3 types of fundraising events. These are enrichment and educational events. TPO is hoping to build these committees and will have support from administration.
Recess hours will not count for volunteer hours. Mrs. Krusky will hire personnel for recess duties.
Each family is responsible for 10 hours of volunteer time over the course of the year.
Concession work at athletic events does not count for volunteer hours.
Coaching STA sports teams does count for volunteer hours.

Everything is approved by Father Gordon and Mrs. Krusky, and there is an approval process. If parents would like concessions to be included as part of volunteer hours, that request should go to Mrs. Krusky's comment box.

10 hour requirement is per family and not per child. Stated that 10 hours does go by quickly if it is an event like the school carnival or field day. PTO suggests parents sign up for 1 or 2 things, and not sign up for everything, Possibly pick something the family is passionate about. Question who asked who was keeping track of hours. Answer was that Initially this was going to be an online tracking tool. TPO has asked Mrs. Krusky about how to track these hours and we are awaiting to hear back. We believe we will probably going to start with an excel spreadsheet.

Question was asked what the consequence of not putting 10 service hours in. Answer was PTO was told Fr. Gordon and Mrs. Kruskly are working on consequences and that information will be forthcoming. Fr. Gordon had stated that he wants to see parents present at the school. He wants us to be visible and part of the community and see parents at events and not just dropping off cookies. Community building and how we can help this be the best place for our children is what his goal is. He wants us here and he wants us to come together. PTO will not come up with consequences for not volunteering. TPO will only pass on information to correct person.

Parents can reach out to Kerry Roberts and entire TPO to talk more about volunteer opportunities.

If parents have new ideas, please bring to TPO and we can pass on to Mrs. Krusky. TPO is here to build a structure, and move forward.

Preschool Blessing - Jenny Rule

Event will be on Sunday, September 15, after 11:00 a.m. mass

Mrs. Rule will have an open house style forum and Fr. Gordon will be leading the event.

There will be "Ribbon Cutting" and kids will be given "commemorative scissors".

Signage will be placed around the event, as well as donor posters and balloons.

Event will be in tandem with the parish Faith Formation Open House

Knights of Columbus will host pancake breakfast in gym as well

STA alumni kids will do tours of the preschool and will have namtages on saying what year they graduated from St. Thomas.

Main building will be open for tours as well.

TPO will put together fliers for event and send home with school children

Event will be listed in Tartan Times and parish bulletin.

Budget is set

Karen Currie is school contact, and Denise Zakerski is parish contact. Both are in touch with each other about this event.

Uniform closet - Everyone

There is now a dedicated space for uniform closet located in Jenny Rule's old preschool office which is next to Marilyn Clinton's office.

We will have dedicated open hours, possibly once a month.

There will also be designated drop off spot. Possibly will keep a box up by front office to drop off items.

TPO will remind people to only place clean and unstained clothing in the boxes.

Welcome Back Picnic - Everyone

Picnic will take place on Thursday, August 22 from 6:30 p.m to 8:00 p.m.

New families will be welcomed at 6:00 p.m. and will receive a welcome gift

Picnic for all begins at 6:30 p.m.

Hot dogs, chips, drinks and cookies will be served. Picnic will be in gym. .

Hoping to get as many RSVP's as possible so know about food numbers

Families are welcome to e-mail Kerry Roberts and RSVP or they can make a comment on Facebook event page.

A few more volunteers are needed to assist and cook.

Faith and Fundamentals - Everyone

Updates were given on previous year's event at the Country Club, Huntington Club at Michigan State and other venues.

This year removing parish aspect, and it will now just be a school event

There will be a different financial goal than in the past of \$55,000, which includes sponsorship and underwriting.

70th anniversary of school should be highlighted.

Event will take place at the school, and will showcase preschool and the school as a whole

Fr. Gordon is interested in craft beer. Focus is on getting 5 or 6 local breweries to setup tasting station.

There will be a special invitation to alumni families, particularly families that have gone to our school here many years ago,

Will also invited the church community to be part of the event

Parish staff is excited about this event and will assist.

There will be no live auction and Fr. Gordon would like it to be a more "informal ask" for donations.

There will still be classroom auction items.

Ticket price set at \$15 per person..

Childcare will be provided in the school, with a limited amount of space. No charge for childcare

Fr Gordon would also like this event to be called a community building event, and not an event to worry about "getting all dressed up"

Event will take place the weekend before Thanksgiving, Saturday, November 23. .

Question was asked was anyone involved in these current meetings that was involved with previous year's event. Answer Yes, Melissa Long was present. Dr. Long conveyed that Fr. Gordon has a strong vision of what he wants this event to look and feel like. He is very committed to this idea. Dr. Long went through the history with Fr. Gordon and the parish committee at the meeting. She explained it was a parent run event, and when parishes merged it then became "Auction With a Twist" and was a fundraiser with both St. Thomas and St. Johns churches. Fr. Gordon explained he wanted it at the school this year. He realizes it might not make the same amount of money as in previous years. The priority is not the money, but to highlight the school. This is the 70th anniversary of the school and he would like to highlight the decades of the schools, ie the 60's 70's, 80's etc. Fr. Gordon is open to what the best way to raise the money is, and is working on different strategy. He realizes the school is a difficult place to have this event, and can be a hard place to hear, but believes we can work around that. He doesn't believe a lot of families want to dress up and hopes to have upwards of 400 in our school. He would like this to be the direction we head in this year. The event will start after

4:30 p.m. mass and go until 8:30 p.m. Dr. Long suggested some may like to have an after-glow event.

Question - Mary Hargrove would like to be taken off list of administrator on Facebook. Answer Kerry Roberts will take care of.

Thank You and Closing Prayer - Robin Celeski and Melissa Long