

FrOGS Meeting Agenda 9/16/2017

❖ Welcome Thank you to the parents, teachers and school committee members who were present at our event. Total attendance was 12.

❖ Hosted Event by Grade

➤ 1st: Curriculum Night: Feedback Mr. Roekle reports that attendance was good at curriculum night. Thank you to the first grade parents for hosting.

3rd: Pee Wee Soccer (Oct.) Pee Wee Soccer Event is scheduled for Wednesday 9/27. Marlena S. is the contact person for this event. Permission slips were sent home requesting a count for attendance.

A question was raised about why the event starts at 2:30p? Teachers report that when the preschool was invited to participate in the event the time was bumped up earlier to accommodate their playing time. It was also suggested that the playing time be shortened to allow for a later start time and it was answered that the students already play shortened halves.

The start time is set at 2:30 to accommodate all the students getting a chance to play and still have time for the potluck dinner.

4th: Forensics Preview Night (Oct.) Forensics preview night will be Monday, 9/16. Fourth grade families will provide refreshments following the event. A contact person is yet to be identified. Look for more information coming home in backpacks.

5th: Family Game Night Family game night is planned for Friday, 9/22. Families are invited to come enjoy some time

outdoors (weather permitting) for fellowship with other Good Shepherd families. Fifth grade families will bring refreshments.

❖ Volunteer Opportunities

- Hot Lunch Coordinator/Helpers: Thank you to Maggie D. for coordinating this year. There are always opportunities for volunteers to help with distributing the lunches and picking up the food before the lunch period. Hot lunch will be Little Caesars pizza every Friday.

- Yearbook Team: We have been using Shutterfly to provide photo yearbooks for our GS families. They cost about \$25-30 and families can order them at the end of the school year. We will make more of an effort to remind parents to upload pictures to the website so that the yearbook coordinators can have easy access to lots of pictures from the school year. We do have a ShutterflyShare Site for GS.

- Spirit Wear Coordinator There was a lot of discussion about the spirit wear t-shirts that were offered for this school year. Unfortunately, due to a delay in completing the design we did not have a significantly long period for families to place orders. However, we were able to meet and exceed our expected minimum. This resulted in a rebate of approximately \$40 from Customink.com. This money will be put back into the spirit wear account to help purchase items for the spirit store in the spring.

Questions were raised as to whether or not we could reopen the order for more t-shirts to be purchased. It was agreed that we could do a preorder/interest form to see if there is enough interest to generate a second order of this years design. Teresa S. also informed that there is a possibility of offering a second more "athletic/school" type design closer

to Christmas. This may be a way for parents to purchase shirts as gifts.

The thought was raised by the teachers that possibly we include the cost of a t-shirt in each students registration so that each child would have a shirt for the school year to wear for field trips, in school events, etc. The school committee will explore whether or not they wish to make a t-shirt a mandatory purchase at registration.

Teresa S. also shared that in designing the shirts much is taken into consideration regarding colors and style to accommodate a wide audience. The goal for next years shirt would be to have the design complete and the order ready by July 1 so that parents have ample time to consider their purchase and shirts could be delivered and distributed at school registration.

- ❖ **Fall Festival** Hillary B. is the contact person for Fall Festival. Hillary B. was unable to attend this meeting, but she had communicated that plans were already in process for Fall Festival. The evening will have much the same feel as years past.

There was some discussion about whether or not Fall Festival should take on more of an outreach role and be expanded. It was agreed that if Fall Festival were to grow, it would benefit from having a committee formed to work on this project. It was expressed that church committees like Outreach could help contribute ideas and manpower to expand Fall Festival. There was also discussion about whether or not we should consider Fall Festival to move to an outside venue. All questions will be passed onto Hillary B. and more information about opportunities to join the discussion will be passed along when they are planned.

- **Advertising/Marketing** Currently we advertise Fall Festival through our school via email and notes going home. We

also put information on our school Facebook page which appears to garner some interest. Pastor Schwartz mentioned that in the past year events like Preschool Open House have used the “boost” option on Facebook to expand the reach. The cost is minimal and the reach is significant. It was agreed that we should try to do this for Fall Festival this year. Pastor Schwartz will work on this.

Cathy J. volunteered to help create a slide for the Facebook page which will also be used on the school website.

- Donations from congregation We will continue to ask the congregation and school families to help provide the prizes/snacks for the event. This helps to keep the costs down and helps to encourage the feeling of participation from the congregation.
- Give Aways One goal of Fall Festival is to provide each attendee with a “gift.” In years past we have given a plastic cup printed with our school name, a key chain flashlight printed with our school name, or a new book from our Scholastic dollars. It was agreed that this is a good gesture and helps to promote our school name out in the public and among our school families.
- ❖ Fundraising Potential FrOGS is completely self-funded. We do not receive any budget money from the school for any of the things we provide. Some of the money that FrOGS raises is used to help with: Field trips (often we help pay for parking, or additional admission for parents needed for driving. We do not have a bus system so all of trips are parent drivers); presentations for parents/students (we sometimes have to pay our presenters for the family information night, or we have hosted special presentations for students like science shows

and reptile shows; gifts and a catered lunch for our teacher appreciation week in January/February.

- **Fundraising Goal Ideas** Teresa S. shared that in the years that FrOGS has initiated a specific item we are fundraising for we have had much success. It was discussed that 2 items we could consider as specific goal items would be a new drinking fountain with a water bottle filling station and new uniforms for the softball/soccer/track events.

There is some question about how many uniforms would be needed and what the cost of these would be. It was also shared that MCC recently approved a gift from a school family for a drinking fountain/water bottle filling station to replace the drinking fountain near the 5/6 & 7/8 grade classrooms. The group agreed that we could work to replace the drinking fountains outside the fellowship hall with a drinking fountain/water bottle filling station. Teresa S. will get information about what was already ordered to be able to have accurate information about cost.

- **Fundraising Activities/Volunteers** The main/only fundraising event currently held by FrOGS is the flower sale held in the spring. We will continue to offer this as our major fund generator.

We have also sponsored Benefit/No-Cook nights at local restaurants (Buona Beef, Culver's, etc.) These are nice events as they promote fellowship as well as funds. Cathy J. will look into planning a benefit night with Home Run Inn within the next few weeks. It was agreed that we could attempt to plan these benefit nights every month or every other month. There is no loss/risk in planning these events, so we will see if we can get some planned for this school year.

Some other discussions were to potentially have a garage sale in the spring/early summer. There was much discussion about how this could take place, (renting spaces for individuals to sell their own items and request a percentage or free will offering of the proceeds, renting spaces and making the event an outreach activity by giving the items to attendees for free and make a free will offering an option, offering baked goods/refreshments at a nominal cost.) There was much discussion about this opportunity. It was agreed to continue the discussion at a later FrOGS meeting.

- ❖ **Principal/School Committee Announcements** No committee announcements were made at this time. It was requested that School Committee discuss and consider how they can better communicate with school families items on their agenda to keep families involved in the conversation/input. School Committee will consider this.

- ❖ **Open Forum/Questions** There was a concern brought to the School Committee members in attendance that the school calendar for this year is very difficult for working parents. Spring Break in particular is challenging for 2 parent working families because our GS spring break falls the week before most of the other DuPage county districts. Working families do not have the option of putting children in park district type camps, because they are not available until the following week, and high school babysitters are still in school the week we are off. School Committee acknowledged that they are aware of the concerns and will work to communicate planning to parents on a more timely basis as well as potentially looking at other districts in the area.