

**Holy Family School Home and School Association
October 6, 2015 Social and Meeting
Meeting Minutes**

Opening Prayer, Toast, and Greeting by Erin Gallagher and Janice Monaghan

Introduction of Board Members and Committee Leads

Upcoming Events:

- October 16 is the Fall Event for families from all grades. Cost of \$10 per family covers DJ, crafts, games, glow sticks. Will be a Halloween theme, but costumes are not required.
- October 30 at 7 p.m. is Mom's Night Out. There is no school that day. Format is open house – you don't have to come right at 7. BYOB and food. Tables will be set up.
- Hand crafted Home and School wine glasses are available to order for \$10. They will be available at Mom's Night Out.

Updates:

- Home and School meetings have been scheduled for the year. They are one of the best ways to stay informed about what's happening at school. Most meetings are on Wednesday nights. Feel free to email Erin and Janice with any questions or hot topics you'd like to have addressed at future meetings.
- When there are updates, Home and School will distribute an email on Mondays listing H&S events for the upcoming weeks.
- There will be a 50/50 raffle tonight and at some future meetings and events.
- Partnership programs (Giant, Target, Box Tops for Education, etc.) are underway for the school year. There will be a Box Top contest in October, so send them in!
- The Uniform Exchange is stocked. Please help yourself and consider donating gently used items as your children outgrow them.
- Children from all of the HFS parishes are eligible to participate in The Odyssey of the Mind. St. Basil's CYO will sponsor up to five teams. Grades K-12 are eligible. The program runs November through March. This international, education program teaches problem-solving skills. Children work in grade-appropriate teams of 5-7. In presenting their solution, children present a skit. They are responsible for all aspects – scripting, scenery, costumes, performance, stage help, etc. Groups are judged and there is the opportunity to advance to regional, national, and world level competition. Success of the program is dependent on having parents to coach teams and the students making and keeping the time commitment, which can get demanding as the competition date approaches. There is a registration fee of \$75. If you advance to state or world-level, travel is at your own expense. Some teams do fundraising to offset costs. Contact Lisa Duffy for more information.

Principal's update from Ann Marie Braca:

- We want to encourage all HFS families to volunteer in whatever capacity they are able. Depending on the ages of your children and the needs of your family, you may be able to do more some years than others. But there are many ways to get involved, and some are a relatively small time commitment. Some things you can do from home if you are not able to be at school during the work day.

- The Pennsylvania State budget impasse is having a major impact on HFS and all Catholic schools. Our state funding for textbooks and technology will not be received until the budget is signed. In the interim, teachers have been copying worksheets so that lessons can go on, but it is a strain on our resources and equipment. Grades 6-8 are using their iPads, but the younger grades still rely on paper. Math workbooks will be purchased using HFS cash reserves. The next priority will go to ELA workbooks if we can cover them. Parents are urged to read the emails about the budget and to write/email our State representatives and governor.
- Teachers are using the My Student's Progress (MSP) system to post grades. All families should have received a log-on. If you have not received a user ID and password, contact the office. Teachers will continue to send tests home weekly for grades 1-4. Tests go home on Wednesdays for grades 5-6. Grades 7-8 are not on a set schedule.