

FACES Meeting - September 10, 2021

Faith And Community Enriching St. Margaret Mary School

The meeting began at 8:05 am and ended at 9:10 am.

Attendees: Sarah Champa, Tina Fairweather, Jen Hildahl, Caitlin Henriksen, Natalie Weber, Lashika Dharmaratne, Jill Trotter, Andrea Atanasoff, Meghan Teeling, Kathleen Healy-Osland, Gretchen Cogswell, Elaine Lewis, Jenni Vitellaro, Jethe Abraham, Adrienne Kennedy

Opening Prayer

Welcome and Introductions

We have 30 new families at SMM this school year. The FACES Executive Committee plans to focus on welcoming the new families to SMM and welcoming back the returning families. "Welcome" is the theme for this year.

Principal's Updates

- The desk upgrade in the school is complete. There are new desks in all the classrooms; where needed, some classrooms got new chairs.
- The next major improvements will be to the furniture in the computer lab.
- All Aboard will be the primary fundraiser supporting the three SMCS elementary schools (including SMM) and the SMCS middle school. The funds raised will support the academic programs and technology, FACES and improvements throughout the school, including the furniture in the computer lab.
- MAP (measures of academic progress) testing will begin next week. The testing will take three weeks to complete. The test scores indicate how your children are doing on that one particular day in time - it is not an IQ test.
- There will be a sign-up genius coming soon for parent teacher conferences.
- There are a few new staff members:
 - Mr. Matt Scharenroch - long-term substitute teacher in fifth grade, as candidates for a full-time teacher are considered
 - Ms. Lynn Timmers - will be assisting Ms. Schira in the office
 - Ms. Jenny Rodman - new PE teacher who will be at SMM half the year (Ms. Loghrin will be the second half of the year)
 - Mrs. Cheryl Rivas - new 4K teacher
 - Mrs. Tracy Lamb - new kindergarten aide to Ms. Gruber
 - Ms. Tia Jones - new extended care / after school care provider
 - Ms. Latoria Bishop - new food service aid
 - Ms. Cayia - new 4K aide to Mrs. Rivas
- Make sure to let Ms Timmers & Ms Schira know if your children will be absent from school
- The school will be running on a trimester system for most of the specials again this year. SMM will have music, then technology, then art. Students will have gym all year.
- There will be one music concert this year, in late November or early December
- Divine Mercy Chaplet will be the first Tuesday of every month at 9:30 AM for 30 minutes for the entire school. It is a beautiful prayer/meditation session.

Executive Board Updates

- Welcome Ambassadors
 - Matched the 30 new families with returning families. Welcome Ambassador returning families to provide a point of contact and serve as a resource for questions.
 - Mrs. Fairweather requests that we document questions that the new families have so those can be considered for updates or clarifications to the new family information (Welcome Ambassador Questions Google document maintained in SMM FACES Google Drive).
- Welcome Events
 - Preschool and 4K events on the playground
 - New this year separate events were held for preschool (Wednesday, August 4th) and 4K (Thursday, August 5th). Both events were well-attended. Students and families were able to enjoy the SMM playground. Light snacks and water were served.
 - Pizza party at Riverside Park
 - The Brtizke, Cogswell, and Ternes families hosted all SMM families at Riverside Park on Monday, August 23rd.
 - New Parent Welcome at the Teelings
 - Adults from the early childhood and new families gathered at the Teeling home for appetizers and drinks. This provided an opportunity for new and early childhood parents to meet other parents and ask questions before the first day of school.
- FACES Coffee Social
 - Coffee socials will occur monthly after drop off. The first social was held outdoors by the flagpole on Friday, September 3rd, and about 20 people attended.
 - Next coffee social will be the walk to school day, Wednesday, October 6th, by the flagpole.
- Volunteer Opportunities
 - Lunch room
 - Volunteer spots are filled through October.
 - Look for the sign-up genius that was in Mrs. Fairweather's newsletter to sign up. The shifts are 10:45 AM - 12:20 PM.
 - Doughnuts with Grown-ups
 - Event will be held outside on the SMM playground on Wednesday, September 22nd from 7:15 - 7:45 AM.
 - We are still in need of volunteers for setup and cleanup. Please contact Adrienne Kennedy if you are able to volunteer.
 - Walk to School Day
 - Event will be held on October 6th. Families will meet at Riverside Park at 7:20 for a group picture, and then the children walk / bike / scoot to school with their grown-ups.
 - We are still in need of volunteers to help kids safely cross the street at the crossings along Wisconsin and Pine. Please contact Adrienne Kennedy if you are able to volunteer.
 - Participating students are entered in drawings for prizes provided by Safe Route to School.
 - Scholastic Book Fair

- The book fair is scheduled to be open Thursday, October 14th - Tuesday, October 19th, with the hours TBD.
 - We will need help to set up the book fair as well as help to staff the book fair during open hours. Watch for a SignUpGenius with opportunities to volunteer.
 - Jennifer Kurzynski can help with questions.
 - All Saints / All Souls Day
 - This will be a new FACES event this year, and the planning is just in the beginning stages.
- 2021 - 2022 Budget Update
 - Budget numbers are still in process, pending confirmation regarding SMCS system fees for technology and tuition assistance.
 - No FACES fee this year, instead families will pay for field trips by class.
 - Adding new programs for All Saints Day, Advent, Lent, and New Family Welcome and Outreach.
 - Removing Grandparents Day. This event is not scheduled for the 2021-2022 school year, but will be revisited next year.
 - Increase in the classroom reimbursement expense to be consistent with prior year expenditures.
 - Budget includes expenditures for computer lab improvements and playground equipment repair

Parish Updates

- Ellen Momaerts, Director of Discipleship and Training, provided the parish updates.
- Ellen works with families from “womb to tomb” (baptism, weddings, funerals, spiritual counseling)
- There are adult education, prayer and retreat opportunities available
- Two upcoming parish events:
 - As Catholics we know life is a beautiful mystery. Now explore the depths of that mystery and what it means for you. Join a small group of other interested pilgrims for **The Search**. Registration will begin shortly using Sign-Up Genius with a variety of meeting days and times to choose from, as well as both in-person and virtual formats. Small group facilitators are being sought. Kick-off and sign up will happen following Masses on October 2nd & 3rd. For more information contact Ellen or Amy in the parish office.
 - National speaker Doug Brummel and his cast of characters returns to St. Margaret Mary Parish for two nights. The **Lighten Up! Parish Mission** will take place on October 17th and 18th from 6-7PM. This is a program for all ages, and families can attend one or both evenings.

Upcoming Events at SMM

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| ● Thursday, September 16, 6 pm: | Back to School Parent’s Night |
| ● Wednesday, September 22, 7:15 am: | Doughnuts with Grown-ups |
| ● Wednesday, October 6, 7:15 am: | Walk to School Day & Coffee Social |
| ● Friday, October 8, 8 am: | FACES Meeting, SMM Cafeteria |
| ● October 13-20 | Scholastic Book Fair |
| ● October 14 & 19 | Parent - Teacher Conferences |
| ● Friday, October 15: | Feast of SMM Observed |
| ● Saturday, October 23: | Halloween Carnival |
| ● Tuesday, November 2: | All Saints / All Souls - Living Saints |

Upcoming System Events

- Friday, September 24: No School - Professional Development
- Saturday, October 16: ALL ABOARD!
- Friday, October 29: No School - Professional Development
- Monday, November 1: No School

New Business

Kathleen Healy-Osland and Gretchen Cogswell provided an update on the All Aboard fundraiser.

- Tickets can be purchased for the pre-event tailgate dinner (outside at SMCMS) from 5 - 7PM, the All Aboard fundraiser (inside SMCHS) from 7PM - 10PM, or both events. Ticket prices are \$30 for the tailgate dinner, \$25 for the All Aboard fundraiser, or \$50 for both events. Families can also sponsor a ticket for a staff member.
- Families can purchase out of dress code passes or make donations to teacher wish lists.
- Auction items and event board sign-ups will also be available closer to the event.

Next FACES Meeting: Friday, October 8 at 8 am, SMM Cafeteria

Have questions or comments? Please reach out to us at smmfaces18@gmail.com