

**HSA Meeting
November 8, 2011**

Welcome – Denise Garvin, HSA President

Opening Prayer –Mary Ewachiw

Principal’s Address – Terry Weiss

- Our current enrollment is 510 students.
- New families have commented on how wonderful and welcoming everyone has been. They have fit right in to our community and we are thankful.
- Our teachers are “always going to school”. They are continuing their education through Equip for Ministry which is a faith formation for our lay ministers/teachers). Along with maintaining teacher certification, all teachers are expected to participate in Equip. It is our Catholic identity that strengthens us and sets us apart from other schools. The teachers have until 2014 to complete their coursework.
- The Archdiocese selected 12 schools to go through a reaccreditation process; we were one of the schools selected.
- Dr. Ruth Connolly, administrator for a nonprofit organization and Ms. Sandra Leatherwood, Associate Superintendent for Charleston, SC visited our school in an afternoon and it went very well.
- They complimented the school and were most impressed with your children. Students were selected and were asked what they liked about the school. Here are a few things they said:
 - SLS is very welcoming and it is a very pleasant place to be
 - Strong faith at SLS
 - Students feel safe at SLS
 - Teachers are dedicated and go the extra mile
- Some items that came out of the Reaccreditation Meeting Downtown:
 - Commended Archdiocese of Baltimore (AOB) for establishing a Blue Ribbon Committee (same name different meeting) which steered the Archbishop in the right direction on many initiatives. They also commended the Archbishop on the hard job of closing schools that needed to be closed.
 - Recommended communications between AOB office and the schools/parishes/parents greatly improve.
 - Recommended that clarity be given to schools/parishes regarding Archdiocesan Collaborative Schools (ACS) – A New Governance Model.
 - The head of an ACS school is the President/Principal who reports to the Superintendent of Schools. Each ACS school has a deliberative school board, which assists in leadership and makes key decisions on budget, development, marketing and strategic planning. The Archbishop has appointed a Canonical Representative – a spiritual leader whose primary responsibility is overseeing the Catholic identity of the institution through coordination of school worship service, providing connections between the school and parish and serving on the School Board.
 - In cases where there is a pastor, the pastor becomes the Canonical Representative. As long as the pastor remains, there are no plans to make those particular schools Archdiocesan Collaborative Schools.
- A wonderful Veterans Day was planned with the help of Mrs. Wright.
 - A HMMWV will on location for the children to see along with stations in the gym.

- The children will be putting together gift bags to present to the speakers thanking them for their service and ask them to share the goodies with their unit.
- Service Day – Nov 19 – is a wonderful tradition at SLS; for about 12 years now. Our middle school students have an opportunity to perform service for our parishioners who are unable to rake leave, clean gutters and windows etc. They have a wonderful experience spending time with our elderly parishioners.
- Roman Missal changes begin the first weekend of Advent. The teachers have been reviewing the changes with the students.
- The STEM clubs are going well. The second session begins in January and includes Robotics.
- The year is off to a great start. The teachers are using all their new equipment – it is a wonderful learning environment.

Standardized Test Scores – Vic Pellechia

- Mr. Pellechia went over some slides for the Stanford 10 Test results from Spring 2011.
- Stanford 10 provides a report on what will be asked so we can teach it.
- Tracked by subject for grades 3-8.
- There is a learning curve on taking the standard tests and reports show slope and how scores progress over time. We can track the class of 2016 from 3rd to 8th grade and see how they progress over time.
- Our students out performed other catholic schools
- Go to our website click on Academics, then Test Scores to review and compare.

Parish Activity Center – Colleen Craig

- Regarding the Blue Ribbon Status and to comment on Mr. Pellechia's information: Mrs. Craig noted that an application for Blue Ribbon status takes place every 5 years, so in 3 years we can reapply. In order to apply at all, the school scores have to be ranked in the top 10% of all scores in the country.
- Open Houses are conducted the first Wednesday of the month from October through January with one also during Catholic Schools Week. I
 - We have postcards that we would like you to help us place on bulletin boards in the places you go: coffee shops, kids' activity centers, grocery stores. See Colleen for postcards.
- Parish Center: There has been a silent phase of the campaign in the works. We have collected \$2.3 million from individuals and will be transitioning into a major gift phase for the capital campaign to raise money for the Parish Activity Center. Visit our website for updates.
- There may be a naming campaign, and the general capital campaign. Construction can begin when half of the projected cost is raised. We hope to break ground within 12 months.
- During the construction phase, the new building will be worked on before breaking through to the existing building and then a renovation phase will be underway.
 - If you would like to get involved in some way, we could use your help. Contact Colleen Craig.
 - Once the campaign is underway, information will be sent out to everyone explaining where we are and where we are going.

Annual Fund – Lisa Lengel

- Our goal this year is \$80,000 was received.
- This is the largest fundraiser for our annual operating budget. The appeal starts in November and runs until June 30.
- Contributions can be submitted with your monthly tuition statement; a separate check for the Annual Appeal is preferred.

- Our goal is to have 100% participation from our families -- any amount is welcome.
- Last year, we had 100% participation for our facility and staff.

Christmas Drive – Mary Ewachiw

- Our annual Christmas drive for our Sister Parishes in Western Maryland is running now.
- Please bring the unwrapped items to your child’s teacher by December 1.
- Thank you in advance for you wonderful support.

HSA Updates – Denise Garvin:

Innisbrook results

- We had over \$31,000.00 in sales with have of the total coming back to the school.
- Thank you.

Bingo results

- Our first Bingo night of the year was a success raising \$1,000.00
- Mark your calendar and join us again on Sunday, February 26.

Oktoberfest

- Although we do not have the final numbers for this wonderful event, we know we cleared \$10,000.00. Thank you to all the sponsors.
- Highland Wine and Spirits is continuing to offer a 10% discount on cases of wine. They will also be donating 10% to St. Louis school from these sales for the rest of the school year:
 - 13390 Clarksville Pike, Highland, MD 20777

Grocery Rewards / Target / Amazon

- Have you registered your grocery cards or Target Red card? You must **re-register** each year.
- Currently there are 68 fewer families enrolled than this time last year.
- Although we have fewer registrations we have earned money for our school: \$820 from Target sales, about \$200 from Harris Teeter, \$1,800 Giant to name a view.
- Also when ordering from Amazon this holiday season, don’t forget to go through the St. Louis website and click on Amazon; no pass code needed, just click go. We have earned about \$700.

Restaurant Nights

- November 9 Uno Pizzeria from 11:00 am to 11:00 pm. Come and support our school.
- Possible Flap jack fundraiser at Appleby’s near Rt 175. Sunday, February 12. Details to follow.

Bake Sale

- Sunday, November 20 after all masses
- Volunteers are needed to help set up and work during the day, as well as clean up
- Baked good donations can be dropped at school on in Room 301 and 303 in the parish center on Saturday
- Contact tdshafer@comcast.net if you can help.

St. Nick Night

- Saturday, December 3 with snow date Sunday, December 4
- Volunteers are still needed with set up, clean up and working shifts during the event
- Vendors are encouraged to sign up