

PTO NEWSLETTER

St. Pius X Parent & Teacher Organization

President's Message

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November 2009
Volume 5, Issue 2

Upcoming PTO Events 2009-2010

- ◆ PTO Meeting 12/10/09
9am
- ◆ Middle School Party
12/12/09
- ◆ Trivia Night (adults)
1/16/10
- ◆ Hobby Show 2/1/10
- ◆ Math Mania 2/2/10
- ◆ Winter Carnival 2/5/10
- ◆ Bowling party 2/12/10

The fall of the 2009-10 school year has been a busy time for SPX and its PTO. An amazing number of highly educated, smart, caring, hard working, and organized families make volunteering at SPX part of their regular routine. Individuals who volunteer here at SPX are drawn to doing more and more each year because it is fun and rewarding. Thank you for all your time, talent, and treasure you've donated so far this school year.

What makes this year particularly exciting for our school is the wisdom and creativity of our new principal, Bill Herman. Mr. Herman's desire to be personally involved gives our programs and events a new feel. By listening to the parents, students, and teacher, feedback is incorporated into the programs. Their involvement is encouraged and their support benefits SPX as a whole. It is exciting to be part of the new community culture here at SPX. Anytime you have suggestions for our PTO, please let me know. It is through our helpful families that we have accomplished so much.

This past month our biennial fundraiser, Blue Jeans & Bling, took place and it was a HUGE success! Our upcoming programs/events are social and fun... perfect for the cold winter season. (Catholic Schools Week, especially, has a lot to do!) I look forward to seeing you around school!

Cultural Programs Abound at SPX! Tracy Murphy

A new focus of the PTO for the 2009/2010 year has been to provide cultural experiences and programs to the students. We hope these experiences will create an environment in which students are educated about diversity in people, cultures and countries. A huge thank you to Mr. Herman and Jeannie Warrick, who have both provided SO much enthusiasm for this new initiative!

Our first all school event was November 6. We hosted the Latin American Musical group, Mundo Beat. Students learned about music from various Hispanic countries, such as Nicaragua and Cuba. Some students were able to try percussion instruments, while all were encouraged to dance the cha-cha and salsa. We have several talented dancers at St. Pius, both students and teachers! The teachers incorporated this event into their classrooms, and Mass celebrated that week taught about the Hispanic celebration of Day of the Dead.

Our second all school event will be held Feb 2, in honor of Black History Month. Story tellers Deborah Asante and Bob Sander will perform "Notes from the Underground: Stories from the Underground Railroad." "This dramatic storytelling event will follow a harrowing journey of discovery and commitment as two children's perspectives gives voice to what the Underground Railroad accomplished- as well as its limitations."

Lastly, cultural events at the classroom level: PTO has paid for a school membership to iEARN. **iEARN (International Education and Resource Network)** is the world's largest non-profit global network that enables teachers and youth to use the internet and other technologies to collaborate on projects that enhance learning and make a difference in the world. Jeannie Warrick has spearheaded this initiative. Please read more about iEARN on the next page. . .



Everybody Counts



Mundo Beat

RECYCLING NEWS:

COMING SOON! We will be able to recycle:

- All grades of fiber, such as **office paper, books, phone books, cardboard, PLUS plastic drinking bottles, aluminum and steel beverage/food cans!**
- Ross Hall, kitchen, school foyer and the gym will have new recycle bins, & SPX will have a dumpster outside!
- Thanks to Maureen Allen, Tracy Murphy, and Mr. Herman for working on this program.

RAP! (Recycling At Pius) has earned **\$626** already this year. (We earned \$1100 last year). The cell phones are really adding to our profit. Please bring in your old phones, and printer cartridges to our recycling bins in the church narthex and school computer room.

- **BUSINESS OWNERS & EMPLOYEES:** Free shipping directly from your office. Fed X labels provided.
- Contact Julie Dunn for more information: julied9876@aol.com

BLUE JEANS & BLING

Our 2009 Blue Jeans & Bling event was a success. Everyone enjoyed a great night of fun and community while supporting our SPX School and parish. Can't get any better than that!! A huge thank you goes out to all who supported this event by volunteering your time and talents, and by attending the event itself. We were honored to work with such talented and dedicated people. Our event proceeds were **OUTSTANDING** and benefit the school and parish in numerous ways.

The event raised over \$71,000.00

\$10,000 to the school wish lists
\$ 1,500 to the parish wish lists
\$42,000 to PTO
\$12,000 to the parish

THANK YOU to our co-chairs: Jennifer Mitchell, Mary Schilling-Sims, and Debbie Wooldridge

GAMES OF THE IV TRIVIAD

Saturday January 16, 2010 6:30 p.m.

PTO Trivia Night is back with a festive Olympic Theme. Cost remains the same-- **\$20 per player, \$160 per team of 8 adults, and includes pizza and adult beverages, soft drinks and water.** Teams are encouraged to dress up, decorate and bring appetizers with a worldwide Olympic spirit. Volunteers are still welcome if you do not want to play, and players/teams from outside SPX Parish are welcome. Tell your friends and neighbors to warm up with us on a cold January night in a great game atmosphere at the SPX gym. Call Amy or Kevin Beausir 842-0261 for more information, \$99 category sponsorships or to volunteer.

iEARN projects at SPX

- **Kindergarteners, helped by Eighth Graders,** are writing a book about their ideas of a Perfect World. These will be posted in the IEARN forum project area with other schools' Perfect Worlds.
- **First Graders** are Globetrotting in many different areas! Flat Stanley was exchanged with England, Ireland, Canada and Australia. Holiday Cards are exchanged with schoolchildren in Russia, Belarus, Canada, Poland, Spain and a few states in the USA. (Mrs. Pollack helped with Spanish, and Mrs. Ratkey helped with Russian greetings). The students included letters describing holiday traditions at their homes. Finally, Johnny Theodore Bear departs this week from Room 7 to visit Bury, England. He will email pictures and messages back and forth for the rest of the school year.
- **Second Graders** also participated in the Holiday Card Exchange program.
- **Mrs. Chriss' class** was chosen to participate in a NASA project with the space shuttle Atlantis studying the effects of weightlessness on gravity-dependent Monarch butterflies. Three Monarch caterpillars are on board the Atlantis, while others have been sent to classrooms across the country, including Mrs. Chriss'. They are the "control group" to monitor the Monarch's growth and compare with those in space.
- **Mrs. Kavanaugh's class** is involved in the Magical Moment project. It is similar to Oprah's AHH moment. The students' thoughts about "What has happened in their lives that has made them stop and think?" will be posted in the forum section of IEARN.com
- **Mrs. Bastnagel's** IEARN project was A Day in the Life. The students took photos and wrote what their typical day was like. It too will be posted on IEARN to share with other students around the world.
- **Middle School classes with Mr. Jennings and Mrs. Ringwald** are participating in the Bulb Watch. They planted flower bulbs near Mrs. Kirch's room. In the spring, the students will measure and compare their flower bulb growth with students' bulb growth in other countries to see the effect of seasonal weather.
- Many other classrooms will be participating in projects second semester, including the My Hero project.

