



**I.C.S.P.A. Meeting
May 19, 2009**

A meeting of the ICSPA was held on May 19, 2009 at 6:30 in the Upper School. Present were the ICSPA Board, Mrs. McCook, and many interested parents. Mrs. McCook began the meeting with a prayer and then gave the Principal's Report.

Principal's Report

Mrs. McCook thanked the ICSPA Board for the pleasure of working with them and for their contributions this year. Under their leadership, the Parents' Association has exceeded their fundraising goal of \$30,000. Mrs. McCook stated that Father David will be leaving for St. Agnes Parish and his last Mass will be the 11:00 a.m. Mass on May 31st. I.C. can expect a replacement for Fr. David in June.

Mrs. McCook spoke quite positively about registration results. She has no firm numbers to report as Mrs. Foster continues to process the registrations. The school does not yet have answers concerning financial aid grants from the Catholic School Foundation and from parish donors who typically donate to our scholarship fund. Once the scholarship numbers are released, I.C. will have a better understanding of enrollment. However, she could tell us that enrollment is looking quite good especially in the Convent School where there are waiting lists for some of the grades. She has also seen increased interest in grades 2, 3, and 4 from parents of public school children who are uneasy about the impending budget cuts in the public school system. She is quite pleased to say our school is in good shape and economically sound.

Mrs. McCook thanked Marlene Pelletier for her work this year on Cultural Affairs. She has brought several wonderful programs into the school for our children.

Our eighth graders are quickly finishing up their studies at I.C. They have been accepted into many competitive secondary schools. Mrs. McCook will be forwarding an article she recently read which suggests that the most important precursor to college success is not secondary school achievement but rather eighth grade achievement in English, reading, math and science. She assures us we are giving our children a wonderful foundation at I.C. Sarah Batista, an I.C. graduate, recently returned to the school to visit. She is currently graduating from Hudson Catholic and has been awarded a full scholarship to Harvard. Her family came here from Brazil and has suffered many hardships and her scholastic success is such a wonderful story.

Mrs. McCook is pleased to once again report that I.C. did quite well with Raytheon's Math MovesU scholarships. Of 150 scholarships awarded nationwide, I.C. received eleven. Each winner will receive \$1,000 towards college and our school will receive a total of \$11,000. Mrs. McCook also reported that the robotics program that our 7th graders participated in this year will be expanded next year. LSI Robotics was quite pleased with the attitude and capabilities of our students.

Mrs. Mitchell asked Mrs. McCook about the status of the ceiling, with its missing tiles, in Meehan Hall. Mrs. McCook was pleased to report the Fr. Michael will take responsibility for replacing the ceiling over the summer.

ICSPA Business

The Board would like to thank the parents for the support they gave the Board this year. A special word of thanks goes out to Mary Tse who so graciously produces our newsletters and deals with our many revisions!

Forekicks: Pauline Boyle reported that the Forekicks social was a great success. Twenty-nine children in grades 5-8 participated. The manager at Forekicks was very complimentary of our youth; they exhibited good manners, listened well, and showed good sportsmanship. Pauline will look into having another social there next year, possibly including the younger grades.

Earth Day: Martin Levins said that I.C. received net profit of \$815 for manning the e-waste recycling van at the Earth Fair. He stated that communities that regularly collect e-waste have much higher profit but this was the first time the city had recycling at the Fair and many people were probably not aware of the opportunity. Martin believes we should continue to man the e-waste van at Earth Day and possibly also have a collection day at I.C. School in the fall.

Yankee Candle: There was a high participation rate for this fundraiser which brought in \$2,763 for the school! Lisa DiMeo has volunteered to chair this fundraiser again next year.

Bake Sale: We made \$709 on our recent bake sale even though the weather did not cooperate and we sold at only four masses due to Confirmation. Terry Seymour and Audrey Greenlaw would like to thank all parents who volunteered by selling and/or baking goods.

Grandparent/Special Person Day: We had a beautiful day for Grandparent/Special Person Day this year with 165 guests in attendance. The event cost us \$390, including the cost of the gifts for the attendees. Navy blue recyclable bags with the I.C. logo were given. There are 100 bags remaining which will be used in a fundraiser next school year. Sandra Crisafulli will co-chair this event next year with Jana Minio. Thank you at all helpers!

Spring Book Fair: The Scholastic book fair will be the week of June 1st. Mrs. Dehner, librarian, is looking for help during the school day on June 1st and 4th and also on the evening of June 4th from 5:30-7:30. Please let her know if you can be of assistance.

Cookout: Karen Rivet says that planning for the cookout is on track. If you have not sent in your food slip, please do so.

Stuff-A-Bus: Pauline Boyle was contacted by the person who is coordinating the Stuff-A-Bus program for the Marlborough schools and local businesses. Food donations will be collected to help stock the shelves of the Marlborough Food Pantry during the summer when donations tend to be low. Families may either send food donations into our school or take the donations directly to the bus which will be parked at the Marlborough Intermediate Elementary School on Friday, June 5th through Monday, June 8th. Pauline asked if the parents would like to participate in this program and the parents voted yes. A flyer will be sent home with more details.

Sports Night: I.C. will be having a Sports Night at Dante's in Firefly's on Thursday, May 28th to raise money for the school's technology fund. Firefly's will donate to I.C. 10% of the food purchased by I.C. families on that night. The restaurant is also providing a basket containing a gift certificate, T-shirt, rub, etc. to be won by a family who stops by Dante's that night. Various sports items will be raffled including tickets to a Red Sox game, tickets to two different pre-season Patriots games, an autographed baseball, autographed picture, etc. There will be an opportunity for families who cannot attend to purchase raffle tickets ahead of time. A flyer will be included in this week's parish bulletin. More information on this fundraiser will be sent home.

Golf Tournament: John Letendre is chairing the October, 2009 Golf Tournament. He is looking for volunteers to be on the golf committee, solicit sponsorships or golfers, or work the day of the event. Please contact John if you can help out.

Finances: Yvonne Breitenfeld reported that preliminary finances indicate over \$64,000 in income and a net profit of over \$34,000. This net profit does not include monies raised with the help of the ICSPA for the school's technology fund, about \$4,000. We are thankful to everyone who helped us exceed the \$30,000 goal for this school year. Julia asked for a show of hands for whether the attendees agree that all monies raised over the \$30,000 goal should be earmarked for the technology fund. Those in attendance voted yes.

New Board Members: Julia introduced the new slate of board members including: Elizabeth Young and Tammy Short - Co-Presidents, Paul Crisafulli – Treasurer, Kim Sandford – Secretary, Martin Levins – VP of the Convent School, Jenn Thall – VP of the Lower School, and Karen Culhane – VP of the Upper School. Those at the meeting voted to accept all new board members.

Fundraising – open positions: Tammy and Elizabeth discussed three critical fundraisers which need volunteers for next year: calendar raffle, Scrip, and cultural affairs. Elizabeth suggested that the calendar raffle could be broken down into three areas: solicitation of sponsors, co-ordination of ticket sales at Mass, and processing of sold tickets. Sarah Matijevic offered to handle the sold tickets and raffle funds. Rose Johnson said she would consider the sponsor solicitations. Ann Cattarin, previous co-chair, offered to send Rose the lists of sponsors for the previous three years for Rose to review. Scrip was discussed. Our results for Scrip are not what we had hoped. This may be partly due to the economy and parent's lack of confidence in retail outlets. A new chair is needed for this activity. Cultural Affairs also needs a new chair. Mrs. Pelletier will pass on her materials to the new person.

We ended the meeting by discussing plans for the next school year. The ICSPA will continue to hold meetings every other month with a newsletter published in the interim month. We discussed that the number of attendees at our meetings, although a good size group for a public school, should be higher at I.C. Mrs. McCook questioned how we could increase the number of attendees and suggested that the current attendees personally invite five people, for example, to a future meeting. Elizabeth suggested that the benefits of attending the meetings be highlighted at various forums such as the new student pizza party in the fall. It was suggested that we continue to vary the meeting nights to make the meetings available to more parents.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30. This is the final meeting for this school year. See you in September!