

**St. James PTA Minutes**  
**Monday, November 19, 2012**  
**7:00 p.m. – Cafeteria**

Paula Pangilinan called the meeting to order.

**Opening Prayer:** Elaine Goumas

**Principal's Remarks:** Mr. Cardone discussed the storm and how a handful of our own families have been greatly affected. He feels that we need to focus our attention on helping those families. He told us that the students are adjusting well and the transition back to school has been a smooth one. He told us that there was damage to the roof and the boiler.

Monsignor Lowery thanked everyone for the generosity that has been shown. He told us that the high school has been collecting items to help families in need.

Paula asked if anyone had any questions for Mr. Cardone or Mrs. Giordano about how we are moving forward as a school. Jeanne O'Connor asked about what will happen with the marking period and the days that we missed school. Mr. Cardone replied that the marking period is over. He said that the diocese has forgiven the first five days of missed school because it was a state of emergency. We do have to make up the five remaining days that school was closed. A notice was sent home with the students outlining the new school schedule for the year. Kevin Milne asked what will be done in the event of snow days. Mr. Cardone assured us that we still have our three snow days available.

Carol McGovern asked Mr. Cardone if the grading system has been changed. Mr. Cardone said that grading system remains the same. He has changed the system for achieving Honor Roll. Honor Roll is going to be calculated using a numerical average. Every class counts, but if a child doesn't perform as well in one class, that child will still have a chance to achieve Honor Roll if they have done well in the other classes.

**Presidents:** Paula Pangilinan and Maria Rimmele. Paula informed us that the traditional Breakfast with Santa and Grandparent's Tea have been canceled this year. With the recent storm, the PTA was unable to properly promote these events. A decision was made that we need to come back as a community so the PTA is now hosting St. James Community Day. This event will be held on Sunday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Families are welcome to join together to celebrate the noon mass at St. James Church and there will be an Open House in the cafeteria at 1:00. Santa will be there to take pictures with the children. There will be crafts and snacks. The Secret Santa Shop and the Book Fair will be open. There will also be a basket raffle and the proceeds will go into the PTA fund. There will be no admission fee but a collection basket will be at the door to collect money and gift cards for those who were impacted by Sandy.

Maria told us that they found unused St. James Christmas cards in the PTA closet. They are going to print invitations for Community Day on them and send them home with the students.

Paula informed us that all donated money for this year will be used to help the victims of Hurricane Sandy. Sandy Thuel, the chairperson of Care Steps, will be coordinating all of the efforts. Maria Rimmele will be setting up [Caresteps@mysaintjames.com](mailto:Caresteps@mysaintjames.com) so that people can contact Sandy Thuel with ideas. She will collect these ideas and coordinate with Mr. Cardone and Mrs. Giordano to make decisions about where we will help.

Paula informed us that we will have a PTA meeting in December this year since we missed the November meeting due to the storm. It was decided that the meeting will be held at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, December 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Attendance for Officers:** Paula Pangilinan: present  
Maria Rimmele: present  
Christian Buckman: present  
Jackie Mazzucco: present  
Linda Murphy: present  
Tina Catapano: present  
Karen Cronk: absent

**Spiritual Development:** Paula Pangilinan for Ann Mazza. Four Advent wreaths were sold.

**Care Steps:** Elaine Goumas, Sandy Thuel, Lynda Gazzara. Sandy informed us that there will be a Dare to Care Drive in December. They are contemplating having a toy drive and will make the final decision by the first week in December. More information will follow.

**Other Business:**

Lisa Swabsin told us that the Armory has reopened and the ice skating event will still be held as scheduled.

Maria Rimmele informed us that there are still slots available in the nurse's office and one primary aide position is also available.

Paula closed the meeting.

## **Attendance**

Denise Burke  
Linda Murphy  
Lisa Sarullo  
Carolyn Polo  
Carol McGovern  
Meghan Lupu  
Sharon Matuszak  
Frank Matuszak  
Maria rimmele  
Paula Pangilinan  
Kevin Milne  
Jackie Mazzuco  
Theresa Crespo  
Dulce Arce  
Maryanne Riegelman  
Lasa Swabsin  
Jeanne O'Connor  
Christian Buckman  
Elaine Goumas  
Sandy Thuel  
Lynda Gazzara  
Derry Becker  
Laurie Miller  
Tina Catapano  
Mary Jane Manners