

St. Isidore Catholic School
Parents' Club Frequently Asked Questions
December 2010

Q. How are school activities planned and conducted?

A. Several groups of people help plan school activities and have the responsibility to conduct them. Generally, the groups are the Parents' Club, Booster Club (Sports), Student Council, Classroom Teachers, School Administration and the Parish. Each group must decide which activities it will conduct, schedule the dates, plan the event and conduct it, and wrap it up when concluded.

Parent volunteer groups such as the Parents' Club and Booster Club plan most of the school's fundraising and sports activities, for example. All of our activities share facilities with all the other Parish ministries, and coordination is needed so that activities don't accidentally happen on the same date in the same place.

Some activities that take place in the community take time to coordinate and sometimes we don't have control over the time and date of a particular event.

Q. Is a calendar of activities published?

A. A yearly calendar is prepared with faculty, administration and parish input. It contains holidays, school vacations, and minimum days. (For next year, it is planned that the annual calendar will include major activities and fundraisers.) A monthly calendar is sent home at the beginning of each month containing greater detail of activities with as much information as we have at the time of printing, along with a lunch menu. Teachers will also send calendars containing information particular to each class.

Q. What are some of the school activities and who has the responsibility for conducting them?

A. Grandparents Day (faculty – Mrs. Woodcox, Chair), Catholic Schools Week (faculty – Mrs. Vichi, Chair), Read Across America (Amy Hernandez – Library Volunteer), Red Ribbon Week (Student Council – Mrs. Burky, Moderator), Christmas Program (Mrs. Vodden – Music Specialist), May Crowning (Administration – Mrs. McDonald), Passion Play (faculty – Mrs. Burky, 8th Grade), Field Trips (Classroom Teachers), After School Sports (Volunteer Coaches, Booster Club – Mr. Schneider, Athletic Director), Back to School BBQ (Parents' Club – Kristin Vodden, Chair), Spaghetti Dinner (Parents' Club), Hoe-Down (Parents' Club – Julie Rojo, Chair), Jog-a-Thon (Parents' Club – Lisa Reines, Chair), Dinner-Auction (Parents' Club – Karen Bailey, Chair), Carnival (Parents' Club – Rachel Becerra Chair), Confirmation (Parish – Mrs. Burky), Family Masses (Parish and classroom teachers), Free Throw Competition (Parish). This is just a partial list.

Q. What are the means of communications from the school to parents?

A. There are several sources of communication to parents. The School principal and staff send home a newsletter and information packet every other Wednesday. This is the main source of written communication and parents should read and make note of its contents. Teachers will often send classroom newsletters, usually

weekly especially in the lower grades. Room Parents support the classrooms and often send home notes regarding activities. Our specialists for choir, music, and the student council will often send home notes as well.

The Parents' Club has a monthly meeting open to all interested parents and your attendance is encouraged. Topics include fundraising and other school activities. The Catholic School Advisory Committee (CSAC) has a monthly meeting that includes an opportunity for discussion. Both groups use an agenda process for their meetings. Please call with your topic.

Our school also has a website which we are working to update more often through parent volunteer assistance. Option C is the online school administration program and contains information on student progress and classroom calendars.

The school office is also happy to answer any questions or find the answer for you.

Q. What is the relationship between the School and the Parish?

A. St. Isidore Catholic School is one of the many ministries of the Parish. There are over 60 ministries in total. Some of the other ministries are Religious Education (which often uses the school classrooms and other church facilities and serve 500 students), LifeTeen (high school youth group), Altar Servers, Filipino Committee, Scouts, and Knights of Columbus. Our principal reports to the Pastor directly. The school works with the Parish Finance Council for budget approval, and the Parish Bookkeeper keeps the financial records for the school.

Q. What are the school's financial responsibilities to the Parish?

A. The school principal and a representative of the School Advisory Council prepare an annual budget, which is approved by the Parish Finance Council. The Diocese School Department must also approve the budget. Each month the school's finances are reviewed at the Parish Finance Council meeting. The principal and a CSAC representative attend this meeting to report on the financial condition of the school, and answer questions. The pastor and several parishioners serve on this committee.

Tuition payments are used in full for school operations. No payments of tuition go to the Parish or the Diocese. In fact, the Parish provides financial support to the school's budget in the form of facility use and maintenance, some personnel costs for maintenance and bookkeeping, and a monthly second collection.

The school pays the diocese fees for students' insurance and accreditation services and is also making payments on a loan taken from the diocese in the mid-90's.

Some contributions made by students such as Rice Bowl and Mission Fund income are sent to the diocese for mission work throughout the world.

Tuition assistance is a part of the school's annual budget and this year a part of the Diocesan Annual Appeal funds have been earmarked for tuition assistance.

The school does not pay the parish or the diocese for any services that they provide or other fees or charges of any kind other than those outlined above.

Q. When will the tuition rates for next year be available?

A. The budget planning has already begun. The projected date for budget approval is March. Tuition rates will be available as soon as the budget is approved.

Q. What is the financial obligation of the Parents' Club to the school budget?

A. The Parents' Club fundraising is a critical part of our school's budgeted income. Because tuition does not cover all of the school's operating expenses, we rely on other types of income such as the Annual Fund, registration fees, sports fees, etc. Parent Club fundraising is a major part of that income.

The amount to be budgeted is decided upon each year as agreed by the principal, CSAC, Parents' Club representatives and the Parish Finance Council. The amount is determined not only by the need of the school but the amounts that have been successfully raised in past years. The amount for the 2010-11 school year is \$70,000, which is less than the \$80,000 that was budgeted and contributed in each of the two prior years. The amount was reduced this year primarily because of the economy we are experiencing.

Q. What happens if the Parents' Club does not reach the \$70,000 targeted for fundraising?

A. The school would need to look at other income sources such as product sales by students, increased community donations, grant writing efforts, etc. in order to balance its budget.

Q. What happened to our Los Amigos Spanish Program?

A. This program was the brainchild of Mrs. Cato, the AP Spanish teacher at Yuba City High School as a way for her students to practice their language skills. This program was provided to our lower grades at no charge for several years. Mrs. Cato retired in June, and the new teacher has decided not to continue the program.

Our teachers who are comfortable with the Spanish language use Spanish within the classroom. Middle School students may choose an introductory Spanish class as an elective. We are looking into having an optional after-school language program for a reasonable fee. As our school population grows, a foreign language program is one of the options to add to our curriculum.

Thank you for your questions. If more occur we will try to answer them through our newsletter and website. Please refer your questions to the office or through the other methods of communication.

Thank you for your support. We encourage open communication for us to better serve each other. Please be an active part of our school community.