



Minutes

OLMC Parents Guild 2020-2021

Date | time 01/12/21 8:15 am | Zoom Meeting called to order by PG

In Attendance

PG Executive Board and approximately 50 parents

Agenda

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

The Parents' Guild mission is to provide an open line of communication between the school and its families, raise funds to support the school, encourage volunteerism, and instill a sense of pride in our unique, diverse, and faith-based community.

Today's Agenda and Talking Points

1. Welcome and Opening Prayer

Mr. Radame Perez, Vice President of the Parents Guild welcomed all and presided over the stated meeting as the Parents Guild Co-Presidents. Mrs. Maria Sidoti and Mrs. Marlene Bayersford both had previously established and conflicting commitments. Mr. Perez introduced the Parents Guild Treasurer Mrs. Marie Salvia and welcomed Mrs. Silvia's support and assistance in conducting an orderly, inviting and informative meeting. Mr. Perez reminded all of the importance of the Weekly Warrior, our Academy's Newsletter and its role in providing both parenting resources and important, highly relevant information. In particular, Mr. Perez directed the meeting's attendees to a message from OLMC Social Worker, Ms. Jaime Kagan-Heit which providing parenting resources and reminding parents that our country and therefore our school community has struggled this week with strong and conflicting emotions after the events in our capital on January 6th. Mr. Perez thought it would be appropriate to read the words of our spiritual shepherd, Pope Francis from this past Sunday. The Holy Father, from St. Peter's Square, directed his attention to the us, saying:

“Dear brothers and sisters, I offer an affectionate greeting to the people of the United States of America, shaken by the recent siege at the Congress. I pray for those who lost their life – five – they lost it in those dramatic moments. I reiterate that violence is always self-destructive. Nothing is earned with violence and so much is lost. I exhort the government authorities and the entire population to maintain a deep sense of responsibility, in order to calm souls, to promote national reconciliation and to protect the democratic values rooted in American society. May the Immaculate Virgin, Patroness of the United States of America, help keep alive the culture of encounter, the culture of care, as the royal road to build together the common good; and I do so with all those who live in that land.”

Having reflected on his words, the following simple prayer was offered:

“Heavenly Father, as we gather today to plan how best to assist our school, and to foster the collective spirit necessary to educate and to love our children, give us wisdom to put into practice the exhortation of our Holy Father, Pope Francis. Help us to calm souls, to promote reconciliation, and instill in our children the democratic values rooted in our nation’s history. Amen.”

- 2. New Incoming Administrator Mr. Perez advised all that Rev Ashley will soon be replaced as he was serving in a temporary capacity with a new Administrator and that details and introductions would be forthcoming.**
- 3. Student Enrollment: It was announced that the current total number of Students is 247 and current total number of families amounts to 186**
- 4. Catholic Schools Week: January 31, 2021-February 6, 2021**

Mr. Perez reminded all that National Catholic Schools Week is soon approaching and that Catholic Schools Week is an annual celebration of Catholic education in the United States. This is an opportunity for our school to connect with prospective families, donors, educators and other community members and offers parents, guardians, alumni and others in our community to help showcase what makes Catholic schools the best academic option for families. Typically, masses, assemblies and teacher appreciation events are coordinated in recognition of Catholic Schools Week. Students, families, parishioners and community members are all invited to celebrate and congratulate those that make Catholic Schools so impactful. Furthermore, the National Catholic Educational Association invites social media posts to celebrate Catholic Schools Week using #CSW21.

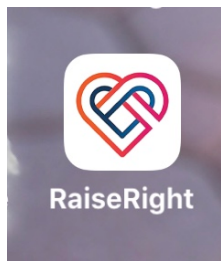
OLMC will have scheduled tours anyone interested in referring someone to our school for a school tour should contact the main office. In addition, Mr. Guerra is working on setting up a virtual tour.

- 5. Fundraising Efforts**

a. E-Scrips

Download the ShopwithScrip App

It looks like this (Raise Right)



Mr. Perez and Mrs. Salvia reminded all meeting attendees to please continue supporting the Academy and the Parents Guild through Scrips. Those who have opted for the Buyout should email the Parents Guild to advise accordingly. Also, parents and guardians are encouraged to download the app even if they have opted for the Buy Out. To fill out the enrollment code: Send an email to parentsguild@academyolmc.org with the parent or guardian's child/children's name/s and grade/s and asking for the current enrollment code. Upon submission the emailing parent/ guardian will immediately receive an email with an active code to use. Here is a link to the website **<https://shop.shopwithscrip>**

All were asked to please register their families in this mandatory fundraising commitment and to please take time to enroll in shopwithscrips (<https://shop.shopwithscrip.com/Login?ReturnUrl=%2FAccount%2FDashboard>) using the code which will be provided by the Parents Guild.

- b. AMAZON SMILE: Attendees were reminded the value provided to the school by Smile.Amazon.com - Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to OLMC simply by selecting the school as the entity, Academy of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Tenafly

c. Mask Sale (Place orders online)

Mr. Perez reminded those in attendance that as per the CDC, frequent handwashing, social distancing, and face masks help slow the spread of COVID-19. Some masks, when worn correctly, have been proven to provide more protection than others.

The CDC recommends wearing a snug fit, cloth face mask and the one that the Parents Guild has made available for sale meets all the protective criteria, and even more when you wear it with the filter inserted! Mask and filter worn together, these pieces of protective wear filter out particles in the air and reduce exposure to the virus. Medical professionals and independent research support the efficiency and protection made available by wearing this mask.

[Again, we ask that you seriously consider supporting the Parents Guild's efforts and show school spirit by buying and wearing one of our cloth masks when you are on school grounds, it's for you and your children's safety.]

- d. School Store: Mr. Perez reminded all that gym apparel is on sale- EVERYTHING WILL BE MARKED DOWN – NO RETURNS/NO EXCHANGE. CASH AND CHECK ONLY (Print out the form- SEE BELOW)

Link to the Gym Apparel form and the Gift Card Form:

<https://academyolmc.org/school-store-sale/>

Fill out the form and email it to parentsguild@academyolmc.org If we have it in stock, it can be sent home with your child or you can pick it up at the school.

- e. Gift Cards (Print out the order form- See below)

[Fill out the form and email it to parentsguild@academyolmc.org It can be sent home with your child or we can set up a pickup time.] Mr. Perez reminded all that OLMC has Stop& Shop, Wegman's, King's, Acme and Starbucks Gift Cards ... [At the time of the meeting we did not have any more of the Shoprite or Bath N Body Works Gift cards left in the school office. However, all were reminded to keep in mind that while there aren't any more of the ShopRite or Bath N Body Gift Cards in the school office, families can still get these Gift Cards through E-Scrip (RaiseRight App).

- f. KidStuff Coupon Book Fundraiser is available all year long! Coupon books can be ordered through this link:

www.SupportOurGroups.com/GN/268661

- g. Yearbook Sale

Mr. Perez reminded all in attendance to stay tuned for an upcoming SALE and to remember to start or continue taking pictures of your children during virtual classes, exercising, or just being creative.

Mrs. Cilano communicated the importance of continuing to support upcoming yearbook plans.

The Yearbook Committee members are actively hard at work on the yearbook and will be utilizing HerfJones website this year for book orders and ads moving forward. This will make it easier for parents and the Yearbook Committee to keep track of orders. There is also a coordinating app for ease of coordinating.

- h. Cupcake Fundraiser Sale: All were informed that parents can place an order of cupcakes for Valentines, parents and guardians have done this in the past- from Mr. Cupcakes. After a short discussion many seemed very happy, having

ordered cupcakes in the past and it is a sweet Valentine's Day treat that also helps support the Parents Guild. Those ordering in time we have the cupcakes ready for pick up for Valentine's Day! Also, for Class Parents the Cupcake Sale can be a good way to fundraise by purchasing these sweet treats for the class and coordinating virtual students families to pick up those cupcakes as appropriate. All were advised that more information would follow on the weekly warrior including the order form, which the Parents Guild will also be sending via email.

- i. Online Fundraiser: Mr. Radame Perez expressed his excitement for an event that is currently being planned for a few months from now, details to follow as the event approaches with an official preview of the plan coming soon.
 - j. 50/50 Raffles: Mr. Perez advised that the 50/50 Raffle tickets are ready to be distributed. Each family will receive 6 tickets, in school students went home with tickets in their bookbags. Virtual Learners are able to pick up tickets. If there are any questions about this, please contact the office.
- Please be aware that FACTS will be deducting \$200 from your account for the 50/50 Raffles tickets. It is part of your registration commitment. Proceeds to Benefit the Education Operations of the School.
 - Please return the small portion of the ticket filled out (Please print) no later than Monday, February 1, 2021. It will be place in the barrel in the office until the day of the drawing. It is very important that the person listed in the ticket is the parent and not the child in the family as the participants need to be 18 or older. (Please DO NOT out your child's name)
 - If you are interested in ordering extra tickets they can be found in the office.
-\$50 per Ticket
-3 Tickets for \$100
 - Keep the large stub for your file.
 - Winners will be pulled out Friday, February 5, 2021 at the Academy of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. THIS YEAR, WE HAVE INCREASED YOUR CHANCE OF WINNING, THERE WILL BE A TOTAL OF SIX WINNERS
 - 1- ONE 1st prize 15% of total raised
 - 2- TWO 2nd prizes each receiving 10% of total raised
 - 3- THREE 3rd prizes each receiving 5% of total raised

6. Upcoming Events/Reminders

- a. Lunch Program: Mr. Perez introduced that the OLMC lunch program would be starting imminently. Mrs. Vanessa Marks, as one of our active parents, volunteered much of her time to the effort and led a bidding and tasting process, where many food service providers expressed their interest and provided menus and opportunities for wholesome, freshly prepared, homestyle meals. Mr. Perez expressed his and the Parents Guild's appreciation for her efforts and for facilitating this for all members of our school community. She was joined by a small committee including the Parents Guild President, Mrs. Maria Sidoti in selecting the best vendor given a set of criteria that also required competitive pricing so as to enable OLMC to retain a small piece of the proceeds to benefit the Parents Guild. Mrs. Marks shared a small oral summary of the lunch program at the meeting.

- b. Book Pick-Up for virtual students, Grades Kindergarten through Grade 8. January 12 and January 13, 2021 from 9:00 am- 12:00pm. Mr. Perez explained that at the South Parking Lot, Ms. Elena would be able to bring out books for virtual learners upon a parents/guardians arrival at the glass door, she will bring it out to you, and you headed on your way.

7. Announcements from Ms. Verdonck

- New picture Date: February 11, 2021 is the new individual picture date for Pre-K 3 through 7th Grade
- Aftercare Program will begin on Monday, January 11, 2021.

<https://academyolmc.org/aftercare-is-back/>

8. Questions & Announcements

- Diversity & Inclusion Council Meeting: Mr. Radame Perez expressed that he and many other Councilmembers were in attendance at the last Council Meeting and noted that these efforts continue to move forward on a well-intentioned and success-oriented path. Council Member Felita Harris, a devoted parent and active volunteer, discussed the impact of what is taking place and the spirit of multicultural values brought forward – questionnaire results were being compiled, monthly content be suggested while council & faculty respect/relationship training discussions were being discussed.

