

PTO Meeting Minutes
September 14, 2011
6:30 pm – HTCS Cafeteria

The PTO Meeting was called to order by Principal Janet Buras at 6:30 PM.

Those present included Ms. Buras, Principal; Fr. Michael Tracey, OLG Pastor; Mrs. Wendy Gaspard, PTO President; Mrs. Kelly Chang, PTO Vice President; Mrs. Maria Compretta, PTO Secretary/Treasurer, and approximately 90 HTCS parents and faculty.

Ms. Buras introduced Fr. Tracey who opened the meeting with a prayer.

Mrs. Gaspard then welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the year and introduced her officers – Kelly Chang and Maria Compretta. She asked all new families to stand and be recognized and welcomed them to HTCS. She also thanked Mrs. Becky Necaise for coordinating Child Care during the meeting.

Mrs. Gaspard reminded everyone that the purpose of the PTO is to work for our children and to keep their best interests in mind. If everyone can do this and work together, the PTO and HTCS will have a very successful year.

Mrs. Compretta introduced this year's Room Representatives. They are:

Abbie Schmitt	PK-3 Artigues
Nicole Dezendorf	PK-4 Longo
Amanda Tallent	Pk-4 Runnels
Brandy Mayo	K- Simonson
Jana Kane	K- Stone
Laurie Williford	1 st Anderson
Aimee McArthur	1 st Anderson
Amanda Whitney	1 st Nolan
Bridgette Varone	1 st Nolan
Joy Moran	2 nd Worrel
Crystal Mayley	2 nd Worrel
Jodi Mortillaro	2 nd Houpy
Nancy Hardenstein	3 rd Barter
Becky Necaise	3 rd Guthre
Reini McNeill	3 rd Guthre
Wendy Siewert	4 th Favre
Karyn Matheson	4 th Sketteno
Rhonda Rhodes	5 th Carter
Jennifer Emmons	5 th Carter
Becky Trapani	6 th
Liz Gardner	6 th

The room representatives will be contacted by Mrs. Compretta within the next week about their first meeting to plan for fall events.

Mrs. Gaspard shared this year's schedule of PTO related events. They are:

2011

Po Boy Sale	September 28	(Becky Trapani)
Coastal Clean-up	October 15	(Dena & Bob Somerhalder)
Boo To Doo	October 31	(Jodi Mortillaro & Farrah Seal)

Scholastic Book Fair	November 7-11	(Terrance Maillho)
Breakfast with Santa	December 3	
St Nicholas Day	December 6	

2012

Grandparents Day	February 1	
Mardi Gras Festivities	February 17	
Field Day	TBA	
Soiree on the Bay	March 3 (NEW DATE – PLEASE NOTE)	
SAT Testing	March 26-30	
Teacher Appreciation Week	April 30 - May 4	

Parents and Faculty were asked to note that Soiree on the Bay has a new date, different than the one printed on the annual calendar at the beginning of the year.

Mrs. Gaspard then invited the parents and faculty to join and help her in a new effort – ***Unity in the Community***. She reminded everyone that we are the union of three schools and parishes – OLG, St. Clare and St. Rose. She has spoken with the pastors, and they have agreed to allow HTCS to host different community building events at their churches after Mass. Examples given included spaghetti dinners or crawfish boils. Mrs. Gaspard is very open to any suggestions and invited people to volunteer to assist with this new PTO project.

Mrs. Becky Trapani, PTO PoBoy Sale Co-Chair, gave a report on this year’s PoBoy Sale to be held on Wednesday, September 28, 2011. While this event has been held in conjunction with the school’s Grandparents Day the past two years, the event has been moved to the fall and returned to its own separate activity. In the past, the sale has raised as much as \$7,000 and the school hopes to have a very successful event this year.

The PoBoy volunteers will deliver locally. They will also deliver as far as Biloxi and Slidell with orders of 10 or more. Order forms have been distributed to all students, they will be included in parish bulletins this weekend, and they are available on the school’s website. It is easier for the volunteers to deliver orders at school if one order form is submitted for each student. The deadline for PoBoy and Salad orders is next Wednesday, September 21st.

In addition, the PTO is offering a prize for the families who sell the most orders this year.

1 st Prize	\$75
2 nd Prize	\$50
3 rd Prize	\$25

Mrs. Gaspard then introduced Mrs. Dena Somerhalder to discuss Coastal Cleanup – Saturday, October 15th. Mrs. Somerhalder and her husband Bob have chaired this event for HTCS for the past 5 years. This will be her last year and she would like to have a new parent help with the event this year so they will be prepared to chair next year’s Cleanup.

Mrs. Somerhalder reported that HTCS was the leading volunteer participant last year with 60 volunteers collecting 100 bags of trash and debris in three hours. Because of this success, the school’s cleanup area has been expanded this year to include the area from the Bay Bridge to Booker Street. A parental consent form will be sent home to the students. A sign in table will be set up in front of the OLG Community Center at 8:00 AM on Saturday, October 15th. All participants will receive gifts from the county for their help.

Mrs. Gaspard then introduced Ms. Buras for closing comments and the closing prayer.

Ms. Buras thanked the officers, faculty, and everyone for being at this meeting because the role of the PTO is so important. The PTO exists to assist the principal for the good of the students, and to raise funds for the school. To insure this year's success, she will be meeting with the PTO officers once a month to establish the agenda for each meeting. Any parents with suggestions or input should contact Mrs. Gaspard so she is able to bring that information to each planning meeting. All input is welcome, but everyone is asked to remember that final responsibility for the school falls on Ms. Buras' shoulders and therefore she will make all final decisions. She is very open and willing to try change if it is in the best interest of the school and the students. All decisions are made with a great deal of thought and prayer. Our goal is our children.

Ms. Buras also explained why parents are asked to assist with fundraising efforts even though they pay tuition. 87% of tuition each year goes directly to the salaries and benefits of the faculty and staff at HTCS. That only leaves approximately 13% of those funds for other operating expenses. This is a very small amount to work with. The fundraisers conducted during the year allow the Administration and Advisory Board to keep tuition reasonable for HTCS families. Tuition has not been raised more than \$100 over the past six years. Sacrifices have been made by everyone this year including her. She shared that she has returned to the classroom to teach 5th Grade Social Studies this year.

Progress reports were not sent home this quarter because all information is available on PowerSchool. The screen parents see when they log on is the same as the information printed on progress reports. Anyone who knows of an HTCS family without internet access was asked to have them contact the school office so a hard copy of their child's progress report can be sent home.

Ms. Buras also addressed the issue of Facebook and the Diocese's views on this topic. The Diocese has informed its principals that parents at different schools have begun to establish "elite Facebook pages and/or groups." These types of groups are putting out bad vibes about the schools and therefore the principals are to address these issues if notified of them. Ms. Buras hopes that there are no such HTCS groups/pages, but if there are she will have to meet with the parents who are participating. Because of this policy, the HTCS Facebook page is now inactive until further notice. Parents should follow the school's website, SchoolReach, and email correspondence for up to date information.

Mr. Danny Reinhart was introduced as the newest member of the school's Advisory Council representing St. Clare Parish.

Domino's Pizza in Bay St. Louis and Diamondhead are supporting HTCS by donating 10% of their total sales to the school on the second Wednesday of each month. This donation applies to all sales from anyone, not just HTCS families, at both locations between 5:00 and 8:00 PM on the designated nights. Reminders will be sent home on the second Wednesday of each month. Parents are encouraged to take the night off from cooking on those nights and help the school at the same time.

Parents were reminded to sign in on the class rosters at the meeting for the Highest Class Participation Pizza Party. The class with the highest percentage of parent participation at the meeting will win a pizza party.

Ms. Buras closed the meeting with a prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.