

**Minutes**  
**MCA Parent's Association**  
**October 24, 2007**

The meeting was opened at 8:32 a.m. with a prayer.

Reading of the Minutes: The minutes of the May 16, 2007 meeting were reviewed and approved.

**Presidents Update:** Lisa Hebert

Lisa Hebert introduced each of the officers and committee chairpersons:

Kathleen Challand – Vice-President

Kathleen Hoke – Secretary

Kate Mulligan – Treasurer

Carol Ann Nassar – Cultural Fair

Tatiana Demirdjian – School Board Liaison

Kathy Murphy – Uniform Resale

Joni Tucci – Host Family Coordinator

Andrea Gawrit – Room Parents

Debbie Rooney – Hospitality

Jackie Schmizzi – Yearbook

Naila Pathak – Book Fair

Lisa gave a brief description of her professional career and her goals as president of the P.A.:

1. Include an update of P.A. activities in Homelink.
2. Publish an edited version of P.A. minutes in Homelink.
3. Lisa is always available for comments and concerns either by E-mail or in the “parking lot.”
4. Maintain strict confidentiality of issues.

**Principal Update:** Shane Staszuk

A great start to the school year. The children are enthusiastic and happy with the new staff.

The teacher lounge has been evaluated. Some movement has been made in its renovation. The 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> grade teachers have volunteered to design the project. Cabinets and countertops are being installed. Flooring will be next, a wood laminate is desired. Budget is a concern. The Parent Association was asked to sponsor the project.

The Book Fair is scheduled for November 9<sup>th</sup> during Parent-Teacher Conferences. Volunteers are needed.

The Parent-Teacher Conferences are Friday November 9<sup>th</sup> and on-line scheduling will be available October 30<sup>th</sup>. Parents are encouraged to sign up for their on-line account early.

Results of Parent Survey: 78 parents responded (73 responded in 2005).

Positive feedback included:

1. Friendly, safe, clean environment
2. Nurturing, supportive staff
3. High School placement of choice
4. Diversity of students
5. Specials offered

Areas of improvement include:

1. New gym
2. Clarification of discipline protocol
3. Quality of lunches
4. Need for more parent volunteers

A letter will be sent home informing parents of the survey results.

Speech Screening will take place this week. The school is also working on having Hearing screenings for Pre-K through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade.

The Directory is nearing completion and will be distributed at Parent-Teacher Conferences. It was suggested Room Parents be kept up-dated on changes by periodically checking with Mrs. Semple in the office.

Improvements:

1. Non-slip strips installed on stairs
2. Bathrooms will be remodeled soon (moisture problem must be taken care of first)
3. A group of parents are looking into lunch options
4. Language Stars is available as an elective in the middle school

There is a need for writers for the Homelink. Ideas for future articles include teacher profiles. Carol Ann Nassar has volunteered to write.

**Cultural Fair:** Carol Ann Nassar

Carol Ann is very excited about chairing this years Cultural Fair.

The first meeting for committee chairs will take place November 14<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 am in Casey Hall. At that time a theme will be chosen.

Several ideals have been suggested by Mrs. Baer and Mrs. Johnson. These include:

1. Wildcat Kingdom – Africa
2. Tapestry of Colors – Different cultures
3. Tango on the Tundra – Latin/South American

**Treasurer Report:** Kate Mulligan (absent)

Kathleen Challand reported due to Kate Mulligan's previous obligation.

The Parent Association has \$1,500.00 in its account at present. This balance is from the collection of Parent Association dues - \$10.00 per student.

**School Board Liaison:** Tatiana Demirdjian

Marketing & Recruitment: Parents are asked to promote the school.

The first Open House is in November. Each family is asked to invite one new family. The second Open House will be held on January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2008 during Catholic Schools Week. Volunteers are needed as tour guides.

The School Board will need a new board member for the Recruitment Committee for the 2008-2009 year.

The goal is to increase MCA profile in the neighborhood. An MCA representative will be attending the Northside Parent Network Fair and other community events.

Focus on Publicity: Chicago Magazine will be contacted about featuring MCA in an article. Lisa Hebert will follow up.

**Book Fair:** Lisa Hebert

The Book Fair will be held November 9<sup>th</sup>. Flyers were sent home last week.

Summary of last year: \$5,500.00 was raised. This profit was received in instructional research vouchers and books for the classrooms.

This year's Book Fair has a Blizzard theme. A \$100.00 budget was requested and approved for decorations.

Volunteers are needed for set-up November 8<sup>th</sup>, which is "Preview Day". On this day teachers and students are given the opportunity to preview books and make a "wish list"

Volunteers are needed November 9<sup>th</sup> for book finding, packing books and collecting funds at checkout.

**Homelink:** Shane Staszuk

Volunteers are needed as writers.

The goal of the Homelink is communication - To get the basic information out.

A suggestion was made to have a student corner in Homelink. This led to a discussion of the Student Newspaper, which has not been written the past couple of years. Mrs. McLaughlin is planning to organize a Student Newspaper this year.

**Innisbrook Fundraiser:** Kathleen Hoke

65 families participated in the Innisbrook Fundraiser this year raising \$10,200.00 for MCA. This is \$200.00 more than last year.

Families can continue to raise funds for MCA during the year by ordering on-line at [www.Innisbrook.com](http://www.Innisbrook.com) and entering the school code #11012 or their child's Innisbrook registration number.

**Nickels for School:** Kathleen Hoke

The first shipment of milk caps has been sent to Kemps. MCA should be receiving a check for \$1,000.00 within a few weeks.

Parents are encouraged to ask a Starbucks to save Kemps milk caps for MCA. This fundraiser requires parents to pick-up milk caps several times a week from their local Starbucks and then turn them into the school office. We take it from there.

Last years we raised \$5,000.00, our goal this year is \$7,500.00.

**Market Day**

MCA receives 10% of the profits from Market Day. This fundraiser is credited toward your family's mandatory fundraising obligation.

Flyers will be placed in the back of the church and an announcement will be made at family mass to promote parishioner involvement.

**Silent Auction:** Update deferred

**Yearbook:** Jackie Schmizzi

This year's theme is "Every Day is a New Day"

Traditionally an eighth grade student designs the cover and the opening page.

Room Parents are asked to take pictures of class activities; disposable cameras are available in each classroom.

Four digital cameras have been purchased for the school with yearbook funds.

The eighth grade has a dedication page. An ad promo is going on at present. Ads can be purchased for children or for a business. Money raised from these ads goes toward yearbook operating expenses, cameras, film developing and postage.

Mrs. McDonald is being given a stipend to act as school photographer.

The need for photos was stressed. All school activities, sports, field trips, classroom activities are great opportunities for photos. The goal is to feature each child in the yearbook twice. Please develop all pictures. The yearbook committee needs hard copies. Each classroom has a box for the photos collected.

**New Business:** Lisa Hebert

1. Parents are requesting to re-instate the letter detailing their mandatory fundraising status prior to the Silent Auction. Any amount raised over the mandatory amount is tax deductible.
2. Parents Night Out: The Parent Association will organize a Parents Night Out in November at a nearby restaurant. Middle school students will be available to baby-sit at MCA.
3. Parent Connections idea: this would be a venue to share recipes, baby sitters, ask and answer questions, another forum for communication.
4. Some parents were interested in extending the wearing of shorts deadline. It was discussed and decided to keep the November 1<sup>st</sup> deadline.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:52 a.m.