SAINT MARY'S PTO | DECEMBER 2021

MERRY CHRISTMAS MIGHTY MONARCHS!

As we close out 2021, we have so much for which to be thankful. It is hard to believe that we are almost halfway through this school year & our PTO Board feels extremely grateful to have safely held so many events for our community this Fall.

Since our last newsletter, we celebrated Mr. Hess’ 50th with a Birthday Bash at Hardywood! Over 100 parents, faculty & staff enjoyed an evening together & toasted our Principal.

We also hosted our Fall General Meeting & Happy Hour, providing parents with an in-depth look at the activities & mission of the PTO, as well as the finances of our organization. This meeting also gave attendees the opportunity to ask questions and spend time with other Monarch families.

Upon returning from Thanksgiving break, we kicked off the Christmas Season with our inaugural Carols & Cocoa. Over 400 members of our community registered to attend what was a gorgeous night of caroling and sugary treats. A huge thank you to event chair Angela Corbitt & the entire planning committee for a wonderful night.

A big shout-out to Allison Warren, our Advent Calendar Coordinator & Lara D’Antonio, our Poinsettia Coordinator! Their hard work & your support resulted in sell-outs of all of our calendars & poinsettias. Thank you!!!

We were excited to once again host an in-person Advent Brunch here at Saint Mary’s. It was a great morning for our families as everyone brunched together, enjoyed crafts & even a special visit from St. Nicholas! Thank you so very much to our fantastic planning committee & the many parent & middle school volunteers it took to make this beloved tradition happen.

A very special thank you to the many families that made contributions to the Wise Men’s Purse. Your generous donations resulted in over $6,000 being gifted to our faculty & staff.

Our students were able to once again buy Christmas presents for their friends and families (and maybe a few things for themselves ha) at this year’s Christmas Shop. We are so grateful to Bethany Gasperini & her team of volunteers for this huge undertaking! I know I can’t wait to see what awaits me under the tree.

And finally, this past weekend, over 90 Saint Mary’s passengers boarded the Polar Express for a fun filled night in the gym. A special thanks goes to event chair Sandy Hinchman & her amazing planning committee! What a treat for both students AND parents!

We have much to be excited about in 2022! First and foremost, I want to alert everyone to the fact that our 2022 Gala & Silent Auction date has changed! Previously scheduled for February of 2022, it will now be held on April 2, 2022. Stay tuned for a very exciting announcement regarding the location & theme for this event that you surely won’t want to miss – safe to say it will be a Gala unlike any that our PTO has previously held!

In addition to the Gala, we have wonderful events such as the Chili Cook-Off & in-person Fish Frys returning and are looking forward to two new events - Pi Night & our St. Patrick’s Day Party! We are still looking for volunteers for the planning committees for all of our 2022 events, so be sure to sign up using the link on Page 4 of this newsletter!

On behalf of the entire SMCS PTO Board, I want to wish each of you a very blessed Christmas, full of love, unforgettable memories and good health. We look forward to seeing everyone in the new year!

Cristen R. Vehorn, PTO President
MONEY MATTERS

We’ve seen a lot of activity since our last report! We are still awaiting final numbers from our December events. However, these are the net fundraising numbers to date.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Advent Brunch</td>
<td>$1,526</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advent Calendars</td>
<td>232</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carols &amp; Cocoa</td>
<td>169</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grocery Rewards</td>
<td>568</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polar Express</td>
<td>1,365</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tag Day</td>
<td>1,090</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tailgate Party</td>
<td>478</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wise Men’s Purse</td>
<td>6,585</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>12,013</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All fundraising by our school community and resulting resources belong to the school community. In order to provide insight into the usage of our various fundraising efforts, the PTO is sharing how these funds have been used, thus far. For November and December, our expenses consisted of:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expense</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Highschool Night</td>
<td>$136</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospitality - Open House</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospitality - General</td>
<td>306</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hess Birthday Bash</td>
<td>694</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,164</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As always, thank you for supporting your PTO!

SPIRIT SHOP ITEMS

Still looking for a few last minute Christmas presents or stocking stuffers? You’re in luck! The PTO Spirit Shop has these items for sale:

(New!) White/Blue Monarch Logo Christmas Ornament - $10
(New!) Blue Monarch Logo Water Bottle - $10
Blue Monarch Logo Umbrella - $10
Small Monarch Logo Tervis Tumbler - $18
Large Monarch Logo Tervis Tumbler - $24

To purchase any of these items, please email Spirit Shop Coordinator - Maria Wilson at mariawilson1229@yahoo.com. A big thank you to Maria & her team for all of their hard work year round!
DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that the ‘Monarch of the Month’ is based on our peacemaker program? This is a spiritual solution to teach and reward anti-bullying efforts. Each month has a focus with instructional lessons and a weekly homily that highlights how we can follow through on the Commandment to Love One Another. November’s peacemaker theme was ‘gratitude’, and we are currently focusing on ‘joy’ for December.

We would encourage you to take a few moments to read through the program’s goals and focus for each month. Assisting in your child’s growth in these areas at home will certainly translate into exponential growth in each of these areas at Saint Mary’s as well.

The aim of this inaugural International Baccalaureate program is to develop internationally minded people who, recognizing their common humanity and shared guardianship of the planet, will help to create a better and more peaceful world. Saint Mary’s is one of 5,400 schools world wide that offer this unique program to our students. There is a focus in a growth in the following traits: Inquiries, Knowledgeable, Thinkers, Communicators, Principled, Open Minded, Caring, Risk Takers, Balanced and Reflective. With these ten attributes, students are developing the ability to thrive, make a difference and become life long learners.

PAINLESS FUNDRAISING

There are several easy ways to provide financial support to Saint Mary’s. We’ve partnered with some businesses in our community to allow Saint Mary’s to earn some extra cash, without YOU having to spend extra money. When you sign up for one of the programs with Publix, Kroger, and Amazon, Saint Mary’s earns a percentage on all of your normal grocery/shopping purchases. Sign up once, and we receive proceeds throughout the year! Last quarter, we brought in $567 from Kroger!

Our Box Tops partnership is a little different. You simply need to scan your grocery receipt using the Box Tops app, and Saint Mary’s will earn purchases on participating items. Some examples of items are Lysol products, Papermate products, Annie’s brands, and General Mills products, to name a few. Let’s not forget taco night! Be sure to scan any receipt with an El Paso product. No more clipping, just take a quick picture. We were able to earn $100 from August to November, due to bonus offers and grocery receipt scans.

Our last active program is the Coke Rewards program. For every code you send into the school, the school earns money. These codes can be found in the cardboard boxes, under the bottle caps or inside the wrappers. Send them in anytime of the year! As you can see, there are many ways that Saint Mary’s can benefit from shopping you are already doing! Check out the Painless Fundraising section of our website here for instructions on how to sign up for any of these programs!
PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS

UP NEXT...

JANUARY 5
PANERA
SPIRIT NIGHT

JANUARY 29
CHILL
COOK-OFF

QUICK LINKS

VOLUNTEER
SIGN-UPS

FACEBOOK
COMMUNITY
GROUP