



## Family Folder - Wednesday, September 11, 2024

**Focus on Reading:** Our theme for this year is Adventures in Writing. We'd like the students to fall in love with written words. To facilitate this we'll showcase Wise Words on the bulletin board across from the office, we'll expose the students to many different words to use in their writing, incorporate the words into our writing and speaking, and we'll continue to invite different guest readers to read to the students from their favorite books. Our first guest reader this Thursday is Kari Sanding, the Head Librarian at De Soto Library.

Since we're introducing our students to many forms of writing with a chance to use their Wise Words, our Author's Chair theme book this year will be Adventures in Poetry. Each child will write their own poems during the year. Excerpts of these will be read on the last Friday of Catholic Schools Week, January 31<sup>st</sup>, for Author's Chair.

**Grandparents Tribute:** Blessings to all our grandparents. If you haven't had time to come to lunch with your grandchild, please do so tomorrow. We're having hot dogs, potato wedges, and broccoli along with our salad bar with tomatoes and green peppers from our kitchen garden.

**PTO (Jessie Cina):** Enclosed is a **welcome letter** to new and seasoned families of St. Charles.

\* **Butter Braids - CHANGE IN DELIVERY DATE** - they will arrive on Monday Sept 16th at 2 pm. Please pick up at **3 PM or after school**.

\* Complete **Retreat Parade** September 28th **sign-up and return**

\* **Trivia** – October 5th (flier enclosed); Signup sheet coming in the next 2 weeks. Will need volunteers

\* PTO minutes are enclosed – please read!

Any agenda items and/or concerns, please text 608-780-1148 OR email me at (Jessie) at [jbutterfly12384@gmail.com](mailto:jbutterfly12384@gmail.com).

**Vision and Hearing Screening:** A note of thanks to Tom Jeffers and Jennie Nickelatti from the Genoa Lions Club as well as Emily Olson from the Vernon County Health Department for doing the vision and hearing screening for our students at St. Charles. They both noted that they did NOT find anything significant that needed to be communicated to the families.

**St. Charles School Directory:** Enclosed would be the final school directory,. Email [office@stcharlesgenoa.org](mailto:office@stcharlesgenoa.org) with any corrections or additions. Thank you.

**The Second-Hand Shack (Ellen Michuta):** There is a new resale outlet opening in La Crosse on September 3<sup>rd</sup>. The Second-Hand Shack is located in the log cabin building at the intersection of South Avenue and 13<sup>th</sup> Street. Long time employee of Thrifty Pickins' & Buckles, Sarah Studinger is the owner/operator of this new business.

Sarah is passionate about supporting the community by donating a portion of her profits to local non-profits and veterans. She has chosen to start this venture with St. Charles PTO. Instead of taking donations all the way to West Salem, we can drop off clean, gentle used items to this closer location. With the change of ownership at the West Salem store, we appreciate this new funding opportunity from outside the St. Charles community. The PTO benefits through your purchases, volunteer hours and donations. Due to space limitations, please contact Sarah for donation times, acceptance and exclusions.

Thank you to Sarah Studinger for partnering with the St. Charles PTO.

**SHOP.... VOLUNTEER...DONATE...REPEAT**

**Scrip (Megan Olson):** Megan Olson will have information on the Scrip program **next week** in the family folder.

**De Soto Area Schools Message Alert Information per De Soto instructions for inclement weather and/or other school closures:**

**SchoolMessengerSetup (SMS):** We offer text message notification service to all the school families. Please email your cell phone number to: [jkreuzer@desoto.k12.wi.us](mailto:jkreuzer@desoto.k12.wi.us) with **SchoolMessengerSetup** in the title. **Three days after you send your request, please text "YES" to 67587 to opt-in to receive SMS messages from De Soto Area Schools.**

**Taking care of the body God gave us:** With the daily temperatures changing as we move into Autumn please have your child dress in layers to be comfortable at school. A sweater, sweatshirt, or jacket might be needed for chilly morning recesses and can be kept at school just in case. Sweatshirts worn as jackets outside should be taken off and hung up instead of worn in the classroom. Watch the weather to see if shorts are appropriate to wear.

**Hunger Knows No Season:** Please join us in collecting for the local food pantry! Bring in a nonperishable food item every Tuesday to help those in need. We will place the items in the food basket at the altar before Mass. This is sponsored by the Middle School Student Council. The food items will support the St. Matthew's Food Pantry. **(flier enclosed)**

**St Charles Facebook Page:** **Like** the St Charles Facebook Page for updates and events occurring at school.

**Handouts:**

- Trivia Night flier
- PTO Minutes
- Retreat Fair Sign Up Sheet
- PTO Welcome Letter with information about the school
- St. Charles School Directory

**Dates to Remember:**

September : all month focus on peace as the first Fruit of the Spirit

September 13: No School, teacher in-service

September 20: Reconciliation 3-6<sup>th</sup> graders

September 27: No School, Diocese of La Crosse teacher in-service

October : Stand up to Bullies month

October 6: Trivia Night, see flier for details

October 17: Parent-Teacher Conferences

October 25: No school, Teacher In-service

**Birthdays:**

**September 20: Autumn Rach**

Welcome new and seasoned families to the start of a new year! Hopefully everyone had a chance to read the welcome letter that was sent in the Packet amongst all the other papers to complete for starting school. I was asked to send a little information about the school year to help give an idea of what to expect for those who may not know what our year typically looks like.

\*\*\*If at any time you have questions, ideas or concerns please reach out to me, Jessie 608-780-1148 (call/text) or e-mail at [jbutterfly12384@gmail.com](mailto:jbutterfly12384@gmail.com). I will do my best to help you or get you to the right person.

**PTO meets monthly** – usually the first Tuesday of the month in the gym at 5:30 pm. Everyone is welcome and ideas are always encouraged!

**Family Folder** - Sent out every Wednesday with updates from the whole school.

We have multiple **fundraisers** (Butter Braids, Pancake Breakfast, Bingo, Trivia night, Sip n Paint, Fish Fry, Spring Carnival are a few examples) throughout the year to raise money for our special teachers' salaries, as well as our kid(s) needs for learning, school/equipment needs, celebrations and field trips to name a few. With our small family numbers, we ask that families sign up and help with as many fundraisers as possible. Some we can do with just a few people and others we need all hands-on deck. It's a good way to get to know each other, have some fun and help support our kid(s) and school. Kid(s) are welcome to help with the expectation they are helpful and up to the task(s) needed. These are great experiences for kids to learn about customer service, teamwork and earning what we have, to name a few of the many lessons learned by helping. Signup sheets come in the Family Folder usually 1-2 weeks prior to the events. We do ask for some donations from families such as deserts ect and these will be on the signup sheets. Remember family and friends are welcome to join you in volunteering as well.

**Butter Braids** - this are the first of the school year and have proven to be a well-liked item!

**Retreat Parade** - Something new and fun we started in 2023 to showcase our kids and school! Kids, parents, teachers, alumni ect can help decorate the float, ride on or walk along side and throw candy. We hope to continue this annually

**Thanksgiving Baskets** – the teachers work with Vernon County to help support a couple families each year. They will send out a list of item(s) each child is asked to bring to complete a meal. The PTO purchases games and goodies to send along with each family in hopes to welcome family time and spread cheer during the holiday.

**Giving Tree** – usually at the end of November into December we have a Christmas tree up in the lobby for people to donate NEW hats, scarves, gloves, underwear for those in need and are donated. More information comes from the teachers but feel free to grab items if you see them on sale.

**Santa Sale** for the kids – we set up donated used but in good condition or new items to set up a shop for the kids to buy gifts for family and friends priced from \$0.25-\$1. Tags for gifts to fill out are sent home and parents can send money the day of the sale for them to spend. So, if you are cleaning out areas in your home or know of anyone who is, those items can be brought to school labeled Santa Sale before the date (to be determined yet) in December.

**Christmas and Spring Concerts** are put on by our music teacher – Mrs. Donovan. The PTO purchases cookies, milk and juice for a treat after and any parents that can serve are welcome (usually 2 or 3). We also sweep then put back the tables and chairs for school to resume the next day – everyone usually helps, which makes this a quick process!

**Fish Fry** - this will be our 3<sup>rd</sup> year hosting Friday night Fish fry dinners during Lent at the school. We plan to do 2 if not 3 this year! Big hit for our community! We need people to help prep, set up, serve and clean up.

Our biggest fundraiser is the **Spring Carnival** – this is in APRIL, and we need ALL families to help as it takes many of us to run! Families are asked to donate at least 5 items per child to the Jar game for prizes, items for gift baskets or a gift basket so keep an eye on the clearance items throughout the year!! More details will come out as we get closer and into the new year. It is a Friday night and Saturday morning till done for set up, then 1 day (about 3 hours) event followed by clean up.

**Field Trips** – PTO supports and pays for these (most often anyway). Parents and family members are encouraged to go to help chaperone and enjoy the time with the kids. You need to make sure your paperwork (background check and videos) are completed in advance. Check with Carrol if you have any questions on this.

We help **celebrate** the teacher's during Teacher's week with a weeklong celebration. Usually, one day of serving the kids lunch and taking care of recess duty so the teachers can enjoy a special lunch the PTO provides. We also help celebrate our staff with other special days throughout the year.

**End of School Day** – the PTO provides and serves this meal. All families are welcome for the last day of school meal and activities outside (put on by Sandy!) after (races, water balloon toss, treats ect).

Hopefully, this helps get an idea of the year, and again, please reach out! You and your family's help throughout the year is what makes these fundraisers a success! I will do my best to get information out from a PTO standpoint as soon as it's available.

Jessie Cina

PTO President

# PTO Meeting - Minutes

September 10, 2024

## Attendees

Jessie Cina, Ashley Eckes, Megan Olson, Crystal Lavey, Mrs. Hytry, Father

## Father's Report

- Discussed mulch and swing set plan. Father will contact a few members of the parish who have excavating equipment to dig out where swing frame will go.

## Teacher's Report

- No current needs – Amazon lists were all fulfilled over the summer. Thank you!
- Field Trips
  - Pumpkin patch: Mrs. & Miss Donovan are working on for Pre-K – 3<sup>rd</sup>
  - Madison Zoo & Capital: Mrs. Hytry is looking at May dates for 4-6<sup>th</sup> grade.
  - Catholic Schools Week: AM visit to St. Rose @ Franciscan, PM ??
    - Suggested PlayGrounds, High Rollers, etc.
    - Looking into renting snowshoes for activity at school

## Treasurer's report

- As of September, we have \$17,994.99 in our checking and \$4,879.94 in savings.
- Pampered Chef made almost \$500. Thank you to everyone who purchased items.

## Business

- Officers for the new year: Jessie Cina (President), Megan Olson (Treasurer), Crystal Lavey (Secretary)
- Miscellaneous
  - Retreat Parade Saturday, September 28
    - Keep an eye out for sign-up sheet or let Michelle know if you can come to the parade/walk/decorate/hand out candy
    - Donations of candy, snacks, water or money will be accepted through Wednesday, 9/26 (bring to school)- asking parish/community.
    - If you have ideas for a theme, let Michelle know!
  - Mulch and Swing Set
    - Mulch will be about \$4800, plus supplies and swings. This will be split between Parish, PTO and school student council.
    - Father connecting with Parish member(s) to help with excavating. Kai will construct the swing set space and swing installation. Hopefully to take place this weekend.
    - Mulch will be ordered next week with planned arriva the week of 9/23. It will come in pallets of bags and will need to be spread in the swing set area with remaining to fill playground. Let Jessie or Father know if you are able to help with space or mulch.
  - Chicken coop
    - Set up in back, chickens should be arriving soon
    - This year PTO will cover the cost of chicken feed and supplies. Future years looking at families sponsoring 1 month's supply each year (roughly \$30).
  - Yearbooks for 23-24 school year

- Will be about \$18 per book
- Waiting for a few clarifications from Shutterfly, then will be ordered
- Future yearbooks: Please email [stcharlespto@outlook.com](mailto:stcharlespto@outlook.com) any pictures you take to be considered for the yearbook (field trips, events, etc.)!
- A reminder to 6<sup>th</sup> graders that you will be responsible for your graduation video
- Fundraising
  - **Butter Braids**
    - **CHANGE IN DATE:** Due to NO school on Friday the Sept 13th, they are **Arriving 2pm Monday, September 16<sup>th</sup>. Please pickup your butter braids this day after school!**
  - Trivia: October 5<sup>th</sup>
    - If you are able to work or can contribute a pan of bars, please let Jessie know.
    - Menu will be BBQ/Hot Dogs, Chips, Pickle, Dessert, Drinks (alcoholic and non)
    - Future trivia nights: we discussed bi-monthly throughout the school year, next will be early December? Rotate menu items of BBQ/Hot Dogs/Pulled Pork
  - Pancake Breakfast: Save the date of November 10<sup>th</sup>!
  - Future fundraisers
    - Sip & Paint: Jan/Feb dates (looking at Jan. 11/12)
    - Cookie decorating and door mat craft: looking into
    - Bingo after Fellowship 1/5 – stay tuned for more information
- Special Occasions/Dates of the year
  - We discussed upcoming staff celebrations.
- Deep Fryer – purchased this past Spring
  - Has been converted, needs baskets (Lavey's working on)
  - Needs a final cleaning that includes running it: if anyone is interested in helping please let Crystal or Jessie know
  - We'd like to get this done sooner than later so we can offer additional menu items throughout the year at fundraisers

**Next Meeting:**

- Tuesday, October 1<sup>st</sup> at 5:30pm in the school gym

**Take-Aways:**

- ***Butter braid pickup will be Monday, September 16<sup>th</sup> after school!!!***
- Retreat parade September 28<sup>th</sup> (fill out sign up)

Trivia October 5<sup>th</sup>

# TRIVIA



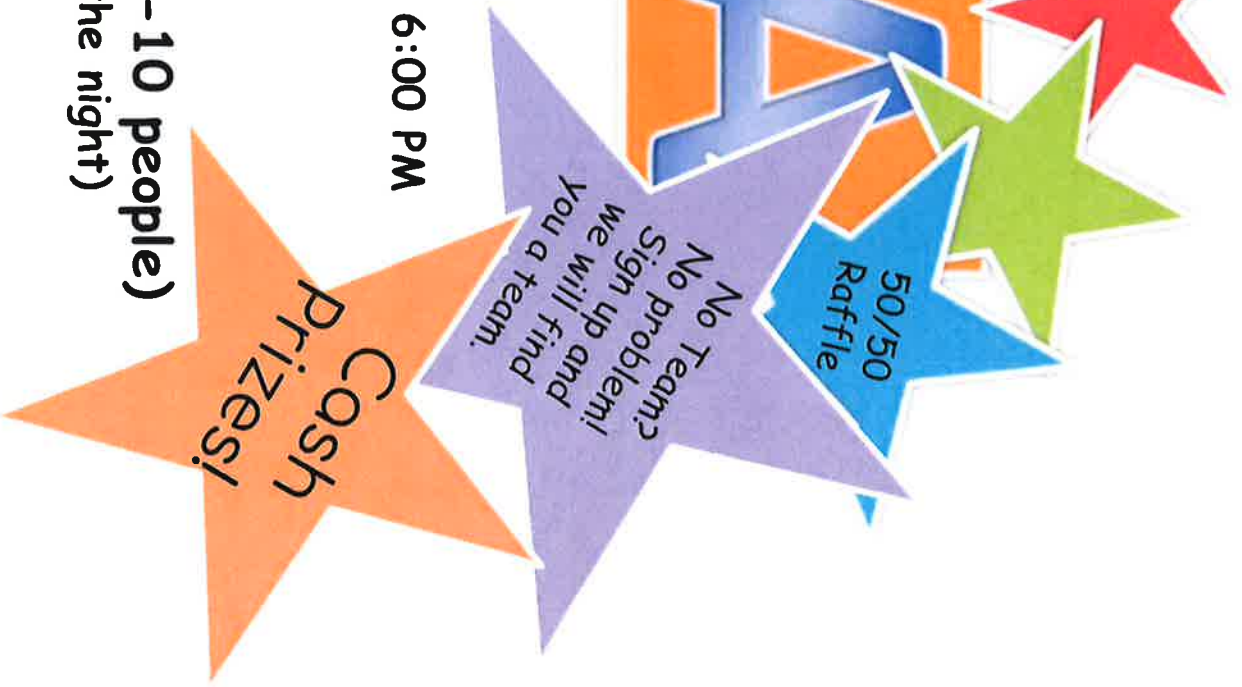
**When: Saturday, October 5**

Food and drinks available at 5:30 PM; Trivia begins at 6:00 PM

**Where: St. Charles School Gym**

**How much?: \$10 per player (teams can be 2-10 people)**  
(\$5 - \$10 lifelines available for purchase throughout the night)

**How to sign up: Call Mariette Donovan at (608) 381-0220**  
**with your team's name, number of players on your team,**  
**and contact person's name and phone number.**



50/50 Raffle

No Teams? No problem! Sign up and we will find you a team.

Cash Prizes!

# Retreat Parade Sept 30<sup>th</sup> Survey

**Return by Monday 9/23/24**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

- 1) Would you be able to and want to ride on a float in the Retreat World's Fair Sept 28th?

Parade is at noon – have to be there by 1130. \_\_\_\_\_

- 2) If so, are you able to help beforehand with any decorating? \_\_\_\_\_

- 3) Any theme ideas for a float? \_\_\_\_\_

PTO