

A note from Your John Ireland Parent Advisory Committee Chair:

Happy to New Year,

It's the start of another new year which means new beginnings and a fresh start. January brings us to the end of the second quarter which marks the end to the first half and the start of the second half. All in all it was a pretty good first half. We had some challenges but also had much success and much to be thankful for. The second half of the year is going to start at a fast pace, as it always does, with lots of good things going on the next few months and lots to be excited for. Like Catholic Schools Week, the open house and Luck of Irish being the big things coming up in forecast. I look forward to seeing you there.

We like to start our meetings by talking about the events from the previous month and highlighting the good. We started this meeting with the Christmas program. It was such a great show and the kids did such a great job with all the songs and bits that they did. Truly memorable and a little bittersweet as our youngest is a 6th grader and this will be our last Christmas program with one of our kids. Thank you Heather for putting on such an amazing show!

Next we discussed the exciting news that we not only achieved our goal for the challenge grant but far exceeded it. Grand total raised was \$36,025.35 and with the match from the Schultze Foundation makes it \$61,025.35. This will go a long way in helping our school meet some of the goals it has been striving to reach. Thank you to all that donated and to the Schultze Foundation for giving us such a great opportunity.

We had Bingo planned in December at the American Legion in St. Peter but unfortunately the weather had other plans for us that night. Be on look for another opportunity as this does pop up periodically. It's a great opportunity to volunteer and help or you could come down and play bingo and help support the school. Stay tuned!

Next up was Catholic Schools week. This is one of our largest fundraisers of the year and one that takes all of us to make it successful. It is also one of two mandatory events that we need to volunteer for. There are multiple ways in which you can help. You can help with the bookfair, set up on Saturday night before the breakfast or sign up for one of the many shifts the day of the breakfast. This event not only helps to support our school but also helps to support Catholic schools in general. Please check the sign up and pick a shift that works for you.

Next topic of discussion was the upcoming open house which will be held on Thursday February 10th from 5:30 to 7:00. We have rolled our preschool open house, kindergarten round up, and JI open house into one evening! There will be activities for the kids and tours and with opportunities to meet the staff and other families. It's a great time to explore what we have to offer your family! Come join us and help spread the word.

Our last topic of discussion was our largest fundraiser of the year, Luck of the Irish. Planning has begun and it will be here before we know it. With that here are a few things to keep in mind as we get closer.

- i. Sell tickets (raffle and meal)
- ii. Send them in to the office as you sell
- iii. MAKE SURE YOUR FAMILY NAME IS ON THE BACK OF THE TICKETS FOR CREDIT
- iv. Bring in/send in your baskets (2 baskets totaling \$50 value or one totaling \$50 or more) - Due by 3/1

This event also takes all families to be successful so keep eye out for ways that you can help and a sign up will come sometime in the near future for the two shifts your family needs to sign up for. If you have any questions please feel free to reach out to any member of this committee.

Until next month,

Thank you
Chris Mish, JIPAC Chair