



Monthly PTO Meeting; Thursday 14 November 2024- 8:45am

Minutes:

I. Update from Fiona Arnoult

- a. **Halloween:** Thank you to the PTO and Anna Didenko for the successful Halloween event last month, it was much appreciated by all.
- b. **Library:** always looking for volunteers
- c. **Barcelona MMIA Trip:** Middle School students have left today for 48 hours to meet the other 4 other MM European schools
- d. **Teachers Professional Development:** "Writing workshop" PD currently ongoing and led by Katie Pollet and Ingrid Kay.
- e. **Newsletters:** teachers are currently working on these and will be sent out in December.
- f. **Parent-Teacher conferences:** deadline to sign up has passed, but new requests may be sent to [Estel Camprecios](#). MAP Testing results will be shared with parents at that time.
- g. **Bottle tops:** Peter Farran and Grade 4 classes collect plastic bottle tops throughout the year. They can be dropped off at anytime in the transparent bag, Building B, ground floor by the photocopier.
- h. **Grade 4 Christmas Cards:** will be sold on the 19th and 20th December with proceeds going for the RSHM Zimbabwe Mission. Grade 4 parents will shortly be invited to go to classrooms to help.
- i. **Monday 18th November- 9am-11am:** Grades 3, 4 and 5 students will participate in an anti-bullying workshop led by Mr. Baldwin.

2. Details of Innovation Month

- a. **Marymount is organising 3 themes for the 2024- 25 School year:**
 - i. Innovation (November), Diversity (February) & Sustainability (April)
 - ii. A number of parents have already reached out to Sarah Thomas offering their assistance, any other volunteers are welcome to come forward.
- b. **Innovation Month Overview:**
 - i. **Activities** are funded by the Joel Dean Foundation, an alumni family based in NY, which supports our students' learning.
 - ii. **AI Camp:** Held during Toussaint break, introducing Middle School students to AI concepts.
 - iii. **AI Lessons by IK:** Ingrid Kay will lead lessons on AI ethics for Elementary and Middle School, focusing on its positive uses, based on recent Vatican guidelines.
 - iv. **Maison Leaders Project:** Students will create QR code stickers and badges for Christmas Carol Day, researching Zimbabwe's history to better understand the Sisters' work there.
 - v. **Podcast** with Alexandra Slabakis, student at Carnegie Mellon, on her interactive art installations that collect well-being data.

- vi. **Innovation Hive:** Weekly thought-provoking questions for students (“Imagine a future where we live in space. You need a digital media lab for your school to share your learning. What tools or technology would make learning more fun?”) Answers will be available at the end of the school.
- vii. At the Faculty meeting on Tuesday 12 November, Professional Development was offered to teachers based on the book “The originals” by Adam Grant. Teachers shared innovative ideas on what they would like to do or try in their classrooms in the upcoming weeks & months.
- viii. In February, the school will welcome a special guest and colleague from the RSHM School in Rio, who will lead poetry workshops with students, Professional Development on unity through diversity and creativity in the classroom with our teachers.
- ix. For the April theme of Sustainability, units will start in Middle School on Micro Finance and how this impacts sustainability.

3. Feedback on Lunchroom visit

- a. Sarah Thomas is very grateful to the PTO Board members who recently visited the Lunchroom and shared their feedback on the quality of food and service. This was constructive, helpful and positive.
- b. General Satisfaction was shared on the freshness and diversity of food offered, as well as on the staffing, adequate supplies and seating.
- c. The school is revamping utensils and dishes from January onwards.
- d. Sarah Thomas will write to the parent community before Thanksgiving to share action plans

4. Bake Sale: 27th November for the RSHM Zimbabwe Mission and organised by the *Maisons*

5. Reminder about Key Christmas dates

- a. Please consult slides for all details.
- b. The overall December event sheet will be shared with the school community on Wednesday, November 27th.

6. FALCONS Volleyball Tournament- Saturday 7 December (08:30am-12:30pm)

- a. Parents are warmly welcome to come and cheer the Marymount team on! 4 volunteers are needed please.

7. AOB

- a. Monthly Zumba class request- The school has received a request for monthly Zumba classes from January- June (6 sessions).
 - i. Sarah thomas will reach out to the concerned parents, and discuss how the school can facilitate this request
- b. Santa Claus 2024- the school is looking for a Santa volunteer. Please contact head@marymount.fr if you are interested.
- c. School Photos- these will be sent out to parents the week of the 9th December.