

Saint Ignatius College Prep Parent Organization
General Meeting Minutes of: March 10, 2009

The meeting began at 7:09 p.m. with a greeting and prayer from Fr. Paulson.

Parent Organization President Ann McAloon announced the upcoming Saint Ignatius College Prep Auction on March 28, 2009. She reminded parents to register online or return their reservation forms to facilitate registration that evening. Committees are still accepting donations. Details are available on the school website. Volunteers are still needed.

She encouraged parents to come to the last general meeting of the year, which will be held on April 21. The topic will be "The State of the School."

Dr. Karl, principal of Saint Ignatius College Prep, introduced Carla Hickey and Tony Rosinia, who offered a presentation on how students and faculty are using technology in the classroom.

The presentation (which will be available on the school's website) began with a question the Saint Ignatius College Prep staff has asked: "What distinguishes the 21st century learner and what skills will they require?"

The answer: today's student lives a fast-paced, ever-changing lifestyle. The skills they require are critical thinking, problem solving, communication and collaboration skills, global awareness, self-direction and creativity. Students need to have access to the latest technology, and Saint Ignatius College Prep makes available:

1. Tech resources
2. Edline web portal, Naviance
3. Project based initiatives in the classroom

The JSEA (Jesuit Secondary Education Association) is revising its Grad at Grad profile. Principals, students, alumni and faculty are being surveyed in the process.

Tech resources

Ms. Hickey reviewed the research tools available in the library for organizing and accessing information. These tools eliminate what was formerly a multi-step process and allow access to over seven million sites. They are: Gale Group, EBSCO, Britannica, Newsbank, OED, and ISTOR. They provide access to credible, reliable, authored, scholarly sources. These resources are available at school and at home via the Internet. Ms. Hickey emphasized her effort to stress to students the importance of using quality information. There is a difference between being tech savvy and being information savvy.

- Technology statistics presented:
- 1,340 students
- 182 staff and faculty
- 400 computers
- Laptops for all faculty members
- Four IT staff members
- 1:6 computer:student ratio
- Students have their own computer accounts

- Five tech courses are offered.
- This school year online courses were offered through the Jesuit Virtual Learning Academy. Next school year, faculty members will teach some of these courses.

Edline Each teacher has a page for each course he/she teaches. Students and parents have accounts. This tool is getting more and more use. Daily homeroom announcements are posted here by 10 a.m. each day. The monthly lunch menu is here, as is a link to the school newsletter, *Inside Ignatius*. Progress reports are posted eight times a year. This resource will help the school as it works toward eliminating hard copy progress reports. New features on Edline include online quizzes; discussion groups; a combined calendar which gives students or parents a snapshot of all activity; and 18 new web pages for clubs and teams including video clips.

Language Lab features and benefits were presented along with videos showcasing student and staff comments.

Atomic Learning is a web-based help resource on 110+ software applications.

Project based learning initiatives this year included American Studies Chicago Neighborhoods. Students chose a neighborhood to visit, interviewed people living there and prepared a video presentation for the class.

2008-2009 Initiatives

More e-mail communication with parents. E-mail blasts come from info@ignatius.org. Please add this e-mail to your address book or mark as “not junk.” However, do not reply to this address. E-mail blasts go to all e-mail addresses on file with the school. If you have a change in your contact information, please e-mail it to: records@ignatius.org

E-mail sent by a teacher will have this address: sender@edline.net

Freshmen are introduced to technology in a number of ways: a letter includes information on their Edline account; study skills classes cover technology; tech intro classes review school resources; classes review library resources or students may visit one-on-one with a librarian; and there is a library orientation session.

Discussion: It was suggested that a “recent emails” button on the school’s website home page would be useful.

Mr. Rosinia asked about interest in RSS feeds.

Fr. Paulson mentioned that web-based resources on spirituality may be coming. Free online education classes on spirituality are available through Boston College.

Next General Meeting, “The State of the School,” is scheduled for April 21, 2009, at 7 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mary Ellen Prindiville
Recording Secretary