GAPP Meeting Minutes
Monday, September 15, 2014

Absent: Beenken Family

**General Information**

Frau Timmermann gave families an update on the current exchange rate, which is favorable at $1.29 = 1 Euro. Unfortunately, this rate will fluctuate. Frau Timmermann reminded families that she is conservative with exchange calculations and will use a higher rate to protect a weakening of the dollar between the time of the cost calculations (January) and the actual departure date (June).

Frau Timmermann briefly showed families the updates to the GAPP web page and the pictures loaded there from the Germans’ visit in April and May.

Frau Timmermann also shared with families that the GAPP students will not meet during period 10, but rather during the long lunch on Thursdays. This is due to changes made to the period 10 meeting times and conflicts which arose. In the fall semester, the students will meet twice a month, while in spring they will meet weekly. This will mean missing some club meetings. The only other options available were to meet on Friday afternoons or not meet at all.

Jerry Osowski, the male GAPP chaperone, spoke with families about the importance of letting go and allowing their children to be immersed in the culture and language. This means that Ipads, Ipods, Iphones, and other devices for which students have 24-7 access to the internet should be left at home. While free Wifi is not as common in Germany as here, the students experience in the homes was greatly diminished this last time by families who insisted on constant communication with their sons/daughters. This resulted in the students spending very little time communicating with the host families in Germany and a lot of time on Facebook, Skype, Snapchat and other social media forms communicating with family and friends in the United States. Thus, the American students spoke very little German while in Germany. Frau Timmermann assured the families that their sons/daughters would have access to the internet, both in the homes and at school. Additionally, many of the German families loan the American guests a phone in order to contact them about pick up times if delays occur.

**Fundraising**:

Updates:

1. Account Status: a current update was not available from Finance. Frau Timmermann will share the amount when it becomes available.
2. Ski Show Parking, Brat Sales

Thanks to Esther Becker and Shamaine Rustad for their efforts which allowed GAPP to work the Ski Show event parking for two days, Thursday, July 17th and Friday, July 18th. GAPP was the only group to work two days and we earned $500 for our efforts. Mrs. Becker and Mrs. Rustad also shared that GAPP is being offered this opportunity again for the 2015 Ski Show, on Thursday, July 16th and Friday, July 17th. Frau Timmermann will make the new GAPP participants aware of this well in advance and would love to have the GAPP 2015 veterans help, if possible.

Thanks to Mrs. Beenken for organizing the one brat sale at Copps. GAPP earned $200 that day.

1. Advent Calendars – Qty to Order?? $1.60 16 boxes = 1120 calendars

Frau Timmermann shared with the group that her source will continue to match the cheapest price ($1.60 per calendar) if we can keep our order at 16 boxes. Otherwise, the true cost the vendor would need to charge would be $2.26 per calendar. This means that each student will need to sell 70 calendars. The group agreed to keep the quantity at 16 boxes for the order. The reminder was given that a good time to sell is after masses. Families should seek permission from the parish priest before setting up a table to sell the calendars.

1. Christmas Lights:

We will continue to collect unwanted or broken Christmas or other decorative lights. The following families agreed to put out signs/bins and drop off lights at Express Recycling as needed

St. Phillip’s Clark and Pawelski families

Sacred Heart Stetz and Beenken families

St. Alexander Becker family

St. Mary’s Bohn and Rustad families

St. Vincent’s Gudelis and Hunn families

St. Peter & Paul Erdmann families

St. Lawrence Austin/Baumgart families

Families were reminded to make sure that permission was received before setting up a sign and collection bin. Ideally, the collection areas should be set up early to mid November since many families now decorate for Halloween. Families need to empty the bins regularly in order to keep the area neat looking, especially if it is in an entrance area.

Mrs. Gudelis will place information in the parish bulletins that GAPP is once again collecting old lights.

1. Pumpkin Fest

Mrs. Beenken was going to look into the possibility of GAPP earning money at Pumpkin Fest by working a parking lot or filling a need somewhere. No information was available at the time of the meeting.

1. Sacred Heart Christmas Bazaar

GAPP has typically set up a table and sold Advent Calendars at the Christmas bazaar. This is typically held on a Saturday in early November (Saturday, November 7th??) Ann Taylor has been the one to keep GAPP informed of the exact date. Mrs. Stetz and Mrs. Beenken will organize this fundraising opportunity. Frau Timmermann will confirm the date.

1. Oktoberfest – Fri. October 10th

Sign up list was passed around. A source needed for the potato donation. Mrs. Becker and Mrs. Rustad might have one.

Potato Salad Making date of Wednesday, October 8th was chosen.

Frau Timmermann will order meat through the kitchen as well as the cheese sauce and sauerkraut. Pretzels will not be bought through food service since we do not use less than half in a box.

1. Others?

No other fundraising suggestions were given at this meeting.

**Updated Trip Information:**

Frau Timmermann shared the flight details and the travel agent contact information with the group in case families decide to extend the GAPP participant’s stay in Germany. This has happened during past GAPP trips where students have stayed longer to visit other exchange students, family members or because families have decided to meet up with their son/daughter at the conclusion of the GAPP experience and see other sites in Germay/Europe. Permission will need to be obtained from the GAPP host family and there is a form which will need to be signed to release the student from the group’s return flight.

**Upcoming Dates**

1. Passport Pictures Wed. Oct. 1st 2:30 p.m. Room 214 $8
2. Passport Processing Thurs. Oct 30th 2:30 pm Room 214
3. Two checks b) birth certificate c) parent or parents d) other ID

Families were given the passport application forms and advised as to which portions can be completed prior to the processing date. Families were reminded of the costs (handout) and the need for two checks. For those families with children under 16, it was emphasized that BOTH parents must be present.

1. Trip Insurance Options and Payment Date Tuesday, September 23rd

Substantial time was spent going over the insurance fees and options. Frau Timmermann’s cost estimates are based on the trip costing between $2001 and $2500. Travel Guard recommends that families purchase the Gold plan, however, it is not required. For full coverage, insurance needs to be purchased within 15 days of the initial payment date. For this purpose the payment date is being set at September 15th. Families were encouraged to send in their payments and forms to Frau Timmermann by Tuesday, September 23rd. If families choose to add additional coverages, e.g. Cancel for any Reason, then this must be done with Travel Guard directly. Frau Timmermann will need confirmation that insurance coverage has been purchased.

Next Payment Date: January 15, 2015

Next Meeting: Monday January 26th 2015
Agenda: Itinerary and Costs

E-Mail Information in November: Packing List