



Official Newsletter of the St. Mark's School
Saturday Night Fever Dinner & Auction
Saturday, October 17, 2009 * Boise Centre on the Grove
Katie Dolby and Alaina Huhn, Co-Chairs
dinnerauction@stmarksboise.org

Yes, believe it or not preparations are underway for our auction next fall! Over the next few months, we will keep you up to date on the auction through "Fever Flash," our auction newsletter. If you have ideas to share or would like to help out with the auction, please feel free to e-mail us at dinnerauction@stmarksboise.org or stop one of us in the hall or the parking lot!

Opportunities to Shape the Future of St. Mark's Dinner Auctions

The annual dinner auction is the Home & School Association's largest fundraiser that directly contributes to the operating budget of the school. **The auction is made possible each year through the generosity of donors, attendees, and, of course, volunteers!**

Each year, a team of two Co-Chairs leads the organization of the auction and are voting members of the Home & School Association Board. In addition, a team of two assistant chairs work alongside them to "learn the ropes" in preparation for their auction year. Katie and I served as assistant chairs last fall supporting Michelle Ruzicka and Judy King.

Our goal is to form a line up of chair teams for at least the next three years and we invite you to consider being part of an auction leadership team. For me, I know I am passionate about the education my children receive here and I know I want to ensure that other children enjoy the same benefits. I, like you, have a lot on my plate. Since committing to the auction, I have returned to full time work this year. **Time is tight but I know this event makes a difference and is worth the effort.**

We have a wonderful legacy of past chairs who continue to support the auction with their time and wisdom. Here are some of their thoughts on the auction:

A Newbie

"As a new parent at St. Mark's School in 2005, I questioned my judgment in accepting to assistant co-chair that year's auction. However, I didn't anticipate how surprising the rewards would be. First, I met and worked with many people who have become some of my closest friends. Also, I had a front row seat to witness the incredibly giving nature of the volunteers, donors, and attendees to the auction. To experience that first hand, overshadowed any stress I felt about co-coordinating the event. Anyone who is considering heading up this incredible event needs to know that there is a road map to follow, and an abundance of help to be had. The rewards definitely outweigh the investment."

Kate Souza, Co-Chair, 200g (parent of Gabi-1st and Claire-3rd)

**FEVER
FLASH**

Continues on reverse. . .

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If I can do it, anyone can!

"I want to share with you that chairing the auction was one of the most rewarding experiences of my life! Rewarding because of our dedicated auction team, all the St. Mark's parents and teachers, and all the other giving individuals that helped us to successfully raise money for our kids. I did not have much auction experience and a full-time job. I really thought I was going to be overwhelmed. If I can do it, anyone can! Plus, it is all about our children!

This event is our biggest fund raiser and I saw opportunity to directly contribute to all our children, plus have some fun with Kate and the rest of the auction team! Remember, you work as a team, have one year to mentor with the previous year's auction chairs, and several years of documentation that each year's chair people have continued to update to help guide your team. I continue to help and see others that have been involved long before I became one of the auction team members. You are not working alone and have years of experience and knowledge to leverage around you.

Hope to see you on the auction TEAM! God Bless!"

Jeanette Zorich, Co-Chair, 2006 (parent of Steve-5th)

The Comfort Zone

". . . We attended a dinner auction prior to our children even attending St. Mark's School. Attending the auction was a sort of test, besides interviewing the school and it's academic credentials, Mike and I wanted to meet the families of the school. Everyone we met were very excited to be at the auction and to have their kids at St. Mark's.

When I was approached to co-chair the auction with Teri Souza a couple of years later, I was hesitant. It took me out of my comfort zone to work on a different level of organization than what I had done in my professional career as a nurse. I am very glad that I followed through and was blessed to make many new friends. Many people at St. Mark's are willing to step in and help, they just need someone willing to oversee and be a guidance for the project. We had such a wonderful group of parents that helped to make the event a huge success! It is time consuming, but with organization, it is very manageable.

We have found that St. Mark's is a truly unique school, both from an academic standpoint, but also from all of it's extracurricular activities available. If helping to raise funds or being active in the school is a way that you can help the school to continue in it's excellence, then by all means get involved. Although being involved requires additional time and effort, the children of St. Mark's, or any school for that matter, deserve to have parents be an influential part of their school's success. God Bless! "

Sharon Hayhurst, Co-Chair, 2005 (parent of Jason-4th and Brendan-6th)

The Coach

"Being an auction chair is like being a head coach. You have lots of players/workers making the event a reality. As the chair/coach you have to be organized, make sure you have a game plan, recruit your players well, and be prepared for a little bad weather.

If you prepare a little each month, beginning in the spring, it is a smooth process. Having a co-chair who compliments your strengths and weaknesses is the key to success. There is a timeline to follow, files to guide you on every aspect of the auction, budgets for every thing, and lots of people willing to help but not be "in charge".

One out of our 2 chairs every year has a full time job. I would definitely say planning the auction is like planning a large wedding reception. You get to pick themes, colors, and plan a great party! It is a fulfilling endeavor that connects you with so many parents, businesses, and school staff in a positive way. The reality of our auction is that we depend on the funds to run our school. It's all about the kids and giving them every opportunity we can at St. Mark's."

Michelle Ruzicka, Co-Chair, 2008 (parent of Adam-2nd and Reece-7th)

To help you discern whether this might be an opportunity for you, we invite you to attend an informal question and answer session on Tuesday, April 28th at 7:15 p.m. at Moxie Java in Cole Village. To RSVP or for more information, please call Alaina at 866-6274 or Katie at 861-5535 by 4/27. We would love to have you join us!