

CBA Mothers' Club Monthly Meeting Minutes
September 10, 2024
Called to order at 7:00PM

Executive Board Members 2024-2025:

Moderator	Kevin Maccarella
President	Maureen Yurcisin
Vice President	Jennifer Hughes
Treasurer	Christine Melilli
Secretary	April Camarda
Communications Officer	Nisha McFarlane
Past President	Paula McKeon

Maureen began the first Mothers' Club meeting of the 2024-2025 School year by welcoming everyone and beginning in a prayer. She introduced the guest speaker for the evening, school President, Mr. Ross Fales, and invited him up to speak.

Mr. Fales thanked Maureen for the beautiful prayer, and highlighted 2 words from the prayer. Transition- as in the transition into the school year from summer, and the launch of the new programs and schedule at CBA, and Patience- asking everyone for patience as the new schedule unfolds and the new programs get started. He welcomed everyone to the Mothers' Club, describing the Mothers' Club as what makes CBA a community and not just a school. He is very appreciative of everyone being here tonight, stating it is an exciting time to be part of CBA, as it marks the beginning of CBA's 65th year here in Lincroft. He discussed how CBA is celebrating with a 65th Gala at Shadowbrook in Shrewsbury on March 21, and would like the whole community there, both past and present, to celebrate not only 65 years, but also the culmination of the most recent capital campaign, which has given CBA a lot of the new facilities and programs they are launching and making the most of this year.

Mr. Fales went on to inform parents how the new schedule has affected lunch, which is now down to 4 lunch periods from 6. This has created some crowding issues in the cafeteria. He assured everyone they are working out the kinks and it will get better. They expected some growing pains with the new schedule, but so far the feedback from faculty members and students has been very positive. The new programs and classes (music, business classes and Bloomberg lab) have also had positive feedback in this short period of time. The spaces renovated over the summer are either completed or nearing completion. The spaces that are not finished are scheduled for end of September completion, with hopes of having the students in there by October. They are currently using other classrooms while awaiting the completion. The school store has also expanded a bit and will hold some new merchandise.

Mr. Fales emphasized that despite all the changes at CBA, the core of CBA has not changed, building men of character with moral compass. He discussed how CBA's core remains being

other centered and the importance of serving others. He then spoke of the many service opportunities throughout the year, as well as the service immersion trips over the summer, and ones to come during the school year. He encouraged everyone to have their sons keep an eye out from the service opportunity emails that Mr. Meehan sends. He is proud of the Men of Character of CBA.

Mr. Fales closed out by saying how thankful he is for the vibrant Mothers' Club. The best thing the Mothers' Club can do is be great ambassadors for CBA. He encourages us to tell everyone why CBA is special by word of mouth and discussing personal experiences, especially those new to the area and unfamiliar with CBA. He again emphasized the Mothers' Club makes this place a community, and gives moms the opportunity to share priceless experiences and make memories with their sons.

Next Maureen introduced Colin Purcell '26, to discuss his upcoming bike drive for Pedals for Progress at CBA on Sunday 9/15/24 from 12-3. Colin organized this bike drive after a family trip to Morocco, where he noticed the people walked everywhere, and had no other means of transportation. Pedals for Progress collects unused bikes and ships the bikes overseas to people who need them. They sell the collected bikes at a very low cost and provide trade schools to teach the people how to maintain bikes. Colin likes the idea of paying it forward, like he was taught here at CBA. If interested, bikes can be dropped at CBA on Sunday and 2 hours of service will be provided for anyone who drops a bike off. They will also be collecting sewing machines and donations of \$20 that will help cover shipping costs for the bikes.

Maureen thanked Colin. Maureen asked everyone to look at the copies of the calendar provided of Mothers' Club events and load the dates into their personal calendars. She explained there are no dues, you are not required to volunteer, and everyone is simply included in the Mothers' Club. Your participation is entirely up to you, you can attend the monthly meetings, or come to the weekly prayer group meetings on Thursdays at 11AM. Those will begin shortly, more info to come on that. Maureen introduced the chairperson, Colleen Doogan, and stated if anyone has questions for her, to please see her. She also noted they put together the Mothers' Club retreat, which is a day of reflection and prayer, which will be on March 13th this year. She encouraged members to take time out of your schedule and join us at one of these to refresh, renew, refocus, and bring God into your life.

If anyone is looking for a little more involvement, Maureen described some of the Mothers' Club's other events and introduced the chair people for anyone that has questions for them or are interested in helping for one of these events. The most popular and highly anticipated of the events is the Mother Son Dinner, which is chaired by Jen Alexander and Mary Jensen. This year the event will be held on April 10th at Addison Park in Aberdeen. Every CBA mother and son is invited to join us and ends up having around 1000 guests. Planning for this event begins next month. If you would like to help with any of the little details for this event, such as centerpieces, favors, making gift baskets, transporting the baskets, please come see Jen or Mary at the end. Another big event, in January, is Pocketbook Bingo, and Paula McKeon, the outgoing Mothers' Club president, will be leading that event. It was very popular last year, and planning will begin

in November. We are looking for someone to take the leadership role for this event, so if you are looking for more involvement in the Mothers' Club, this is a great opportunity, please talk to Paula to hear more about this role. Some other events are the Tuition Raffle, where a year's worth of tuition is raffled off in the spring, and the raffle winner is pulled at the Father Son Communion Breakfast at the end of March. Raffle information is mailed in January, so be on the lookout for that. Lawn signs are sold to senior parents in the spring, starting in February. The signs are coordinated by Denise Sullivan, so if you have any questions about them please see Denise. And finally there is the Freshman Mothers' Welcome in May, being presented by Tara Langan. If you would like to get involved with helping coordinate that, please speak to Tara at the end. A new Committee starting this year that will need someone to take a leadership role for is Care Packages for all the students during finals week. The care packages have snacks, candy, pencils, and inspirational quotes. They get put together in May and are distributed in early June. Someone is needed to gather the items for the packages, coordinate wrapping them, and bringing them to the office in time for finals. If anyone is interested in leading the Exam Care packages, please see Maureen.

Maureen saved the first event on the calendar for last- Cash Bingo, on Friday October 25th. It is a chance to have a Girls Night Out, so bring your mom, sister, new friends, platters of food, and bottles of wine. We will play 9 different games of Bingo for money. Every game has 2 chances to win. Tickets go on sale next Monday 9/16, you will get an email with a link to register. The link will also be posted on social media, so be on the lookout for registration for that.

Maureen asked if anyone had any questions regarding any of the committees or the calendar. Someone asked what Deck The Halls was, Maureen explained that on December 3rd we gather moms and sons to transform the academy halls for Christmas. We decorate about a dozen different Christmas trees and make the place look festive. The boys love to be a part of it, they get service hours, and we give them pizza, and it's a great night. A sign up will go out for that. Also, the Christmas liturgy is on the calendar as well and you are invited to join us for mass on 12/16 to celebrate the real reason for the season and it is followed by a reception as well. We encourage you to join us for as much as you can this year. Our next monthly meeting is on October 8th. Also, Maureen mentioned that Hospitality is looking for help as well. Hospitality is responsible for putting out the food and drink for the monthly meetings. Anyone interested in helping please see Eva Mastroly.

Maureen invites everyone to join us for our next monthly meeting on Tuesday October 8th, where Mrs. Szablewski will join us as guest speaker. Mrs. Szablewski is the Dean for Student Life here and an alumni parent of 2 boys. She will speak to us about ways our boys can get involved. Maureen asked that everyone please make sure you signed in for the meeting and then raffled off some coffee mugs to 3 winners. She thanked everyone for coming and reminded everyone the Academy store is open for your shopping pleasure, and to please enjoy the snacks Hospitality provided.

Meeting time: 47 minutes