

# 2012 Mardi Gras Madness

## FAQs

### What can I expect the night of the event?

As the ticket flyer says, be prepared for:

- ◆ A fabulous dinner menu created by the wonderful chef and staff at Whitford Country Club (a copy of the menu can be found at [www.school.sspj.net](http://www.school.sspj.net))
- ◆ Live music and dancing with one of our favorite local bands, Crow's Feet
- ◆ Great fundraising opportunities – Silent Auction, Live Auction, Raffles and, of course, our 2012 Mardi Gras Madness Electronics Raffle!
- ◆ Fun with karaoke, door prizes and more!!

There will be one central bar with food stations placed throughout the event as well as butlered hors d'oeuvres, allowing you to mingle.

### Why the change in venue?

We had much success taking the event off-site last year, so we are doing it once again. While we did receive positive feedback regarding last year's venue, the Sheraton Great Valley, for its beautiful facility and wonderful menu, we realized that it is not large enough to accommodate all of the event's attendees comfortably. With that in mind, this year we have chosen Whitford Country Club. Now, the entire event can be held in one large room, while maintaining the same level of quality, beautiful atmosphere and close proximity within the Parish as last year.

### Where is Whitford Country Club located?

Whitford Country Club is located at 600 Whitford Hills Rd. in Exton.

For more information regarding the facility, please visit their website at:

<http://www.whitfordcc.com>

### What is the dress code?

This may very well be the number one question asked. We are recommending business casual attire, although you may get as dressed up as you would like. In keeping with Whitford Country Club's dress code, jeans will **not** be allowed.

### Is there transportation to and from the event?

We are not providing transportation to and from the event, however, if you are interested in this, feel free to visit the following websites for local cab and transportation companies. Please note that we do not endorse any of these companies, we're only providing some suggestions.

<http://www.yellowpages.com/exton-pa/taxis?g=exton%2C+pa>

<http://restaurantvalet.com/>

## **How did the ticket price get established and what is included in the price of the ticket?**

The School Administration, Home & School Association and the event co-chairs recognize that taking the event off-site leads to an increase in ticket cost. As with last year, every effort was made to keep the cost as low as possible without compromising the quality of the event.

Once again, the band, Crow's Feet, has graciously donated their time, eliminating any money spent on entertainment. Many thanks to the Doyle family for making this happen. You can sign up for e-mails about their upcoming appearances by sending an e-mail to [pat@crowsfeet.cc](mailto:pat@crowsfeet.cc) or you can find them on Facebook by searching "Crow's Feet" (note the apostrophe).

The base ticket price is \$95.00 a couple and \$50.00 for an individual. Both include one drink ticket per person.

EXTRAS (in addition to the ticket price):

- \$7.00 for additional drink tickets purchased in advance or you may opt to purchase drinks with cash that evening - drink prices will be posted at the bar.
- \$25.00 per person for open "house-brand" bar (bracelet will be given that evening).
- Please note that any beverages not listed on the menu will require a drink ticket. We are please to announce that that this year, sodas are complimentary and will not require a drink ticket. Complimentary beverages served will be soda, iced tea with lemon, lemonade, fresh brewed coffee, decaffeinated coffee and assorted hot teas.

As stated above, you may purchase additional drink tickets in advance or choose to pay cash for your drinks that evening. You can mix and match tickets based on your preferences.

Last year, the ticket price was offered at below the actual cost of the event since a corporate sponsor helped underwrite the event. This year, ticket prices reflect the actual cost of the venue and well as food and discounted drinks. Whitford Country Club has given us the best price possible in regards to drinks by reducing the cost of the individual drink ticket and open bar bracelets for house-brand beer, wine and liquor. The "house-brand" refers to the specific brands of wine and liquor that Whitford CC uses on a daily basis. In addition, "house-brand" beer selections include assorted domestic bottles. "Top shelf" brands can be purchased separately with cash.

To see a full description of the the menu, please visit [www.school.sspj.net](http://www.school.sspj.net).

## **What is the deadline to buy tickets?**

The deadline to purchase tickets is February 24th.

Anyone wishing to attend after this date will have to pay a late fee of \$10.00 per person. The deadline to purchase tickets with the late fee is March 7th, three days before the event. No walk-ins will be allowed - no exceptions.

Please contact Beth Creeger, Patti Kelly or Maureen Lacey if there any additional questions.

We can be reached at [sspjspring@yahoo.com](mailto:sspjspring@yahoo.com) or individually:

Beth Creeger - [bcreeger@verizon.net](mailto:bcreeger@verizon.net)

Patti Kelly - [brianpattiandgang@verizon.net](mailto:brianpattiandgang@verizon.net)

Maureen Lacey - [kevin.lacey2@verizon.net](mailto:kevin.lacey2@verizon.net)

**Is this limited to SSPJ school families?**

No, please feel free to bring along anyone. You can purchase tickets for them or they can do it themselves. The greater the turnout, the more successful the event.

**Is there a rain date?**

We will not be having an alternate date in case of inclement weather so please pray for good weather!!!!

**How does the Silent Auction work?**

All of the items up for silent auction have been generously donated by the school and parish community as well as local businesses. All items are sold "as is" and "where is" and without warrant or representation of any kind as to the correctness of description, genuineness, authenticity, condition, quality, or fitness for a particular use. The values of the items being auctioned are estimates only and are not warranted by the Auction Committee. They are for tax purposes, general value and bidding purposes.

Each item or package has a bid sheet with a description of that item or package. Included is the approximate value of the item or package with the minimum opening bid that must be used to open the bid. In addition, a minimum dollar increment for additional bids is noted and at the minimum, this dollar amount must be used when increasing your bid. If these numbers are not used, your bid will be invalid.

Each person receives a bid number at registration and it can be found on the back of your program. To make a bid, simply put your bid number on the next available line with your desired bid amount on the bid sheet in front of the desired item.

Proxy Bids will be accepted before the event. If an item has a Proxy Bid, it will be noted on the item description label with a red/bold **PB**. Please note that these bids will remain sealed until the bidding has closed. Before the winner is announced, the Proxy Bid will be opened and at that time, the winner will be determined based on the highest bid.

Silent auction items will be closed in sections, starting at approximately 8:30 and continuing at set intervals until all tables are closed. The bid sheets will be collected and the results will be posted shortly after the bidding is closed for those items.

Check out will begin at approximately 10:30 PM. Since you could potentially bid on several items, payment will not be accepted until all of the items have been closed. When you are ready to make a payment please go to checkout room which is located on the same floor as the event. There will be signs directing you to this area that night. All "sales" are final and there are no exchanges, refunds or substitutions by either the donor or the Mardi Gras Madness Committee. Please see the question regarding event checkout for additional details regarding this process.

## **How does the Live Auction work?**

A few of the most in-demand, donated items will be placed up for live auction this year, instead of silent auction. This will give multiple people access to bidding at a much quicker rate than the silent auction and we're hoping it will provide a bit of entertainment as guests watch potential bidding wars over items.

To participate in the Live Auction, place your bid by raising your bid number (located on the back of your program) toward the Auctioneer. The Auctioneer will try to advance the bidding until only one bidder remains. The highest bid acknowledged by the Auctioneer shall be the Buyer. In the event of a dispute between bidders, the Mardi-Gras Madness Committee Chairs and the Auctioneer will determine the successful bidder/buyer or will re-auction the item in dispute.

The values of the items being auctioned are estimates only and are not warranted by the Auction Committee. They are for tax purposes, general value and bidding purposes. There will be no proxy bids for this event. You must be present to participate.

The Buyer must be able to present payment for the auction item they've won during the checkout process that evening. The item will be placed up for auction again if payment cannot be made that night. When you are ready to make a payment, please go to the checkout room which is located on the same floor as the event. There will be signs directing you to this area that night.

All "sales" are final and there are no exchanges, refunds or substitutions by either the donor or the Mardi Gras Madness Committee. Please see question regarding event checkout for additional details regarding this process.

## **How do the raffles work?**

There are various items being raffled off during the event. Each raffle item will have a corresponding ticket price. Simply purchase tickets for the raffle item you are interested in, fill the form out with your contact information and submit payment. Raffle tickets will be sold in many ways. The ones involving SSPJ school students (free tuition, NUT passes, etc.) will be sold in school. Flyers with complete instructions will come home via the School Reach e-mail system and sometimes paper copies will be sent in your child's homework folder. All other raffle tickets will be sold in advance after masses on select dates. These dates will be announced in the future.

For the electronics raffle, simply follow the directions listed on the flyer that was sent out. This flyer can also be located online at [www.school.sspj.net](http://www.school.sspj.net). Payment and completed tickets can be sent in through school Attn: Carol Loffredo or they can be placed in an envelope marked "Raffle Tickets" and dropped in the Sunday collection basket.

You can also purchase raffle tickets for each and every item during the event, right up until the item's winner is drawn.

All raffles will be drawn the evening of the event. You do not have to be present to win any of the raffles. There is no limit to the number of raffle tickets you can buy for any and all of the raffles. Winners not present will be contacted the next day, so remember to include your phone number when filling out your raffle form. Winners present that night can claim their item by presenting the winning ticket at the checkout room which will be located on the same floor as the event. There will be signs directing you to this area that night. Please see the question regarding event checkout for additional details regarding this process.

All “sales” are final and there are no exchanges, refunds or substitutions by either the donor or the Mardi Gras Madness Committee.

### **What is the checkout process & how does it work?**

Checkout will be held in the same area as the event this year. The closing schedule is as follows:

**SILENT AUCTION CLOSE**  
sections 1 - 3 close at 8:30  
sections 4 - 6 close at 9:00  
sections 7 - 8 close at 9:30

**LIVE AUCTION END TIME**  
end time is approx. 10:30  
(start time is 9:30)

**KARAOKE CLOSE**  
final bid sheets  
due at 10:30

Checkout will begin at 10:45, once all three areas listed above have closed. If you have any winning bids, proceed to the checkout area where you will be given a listing of all items won and their corresponding amounts. Once you have paid for your items, you will be given a receipt that you will need to give to one of several volunteers that will be stationed at the auction basket area. They will then give you your items. Should you opt to leave prior to closing, you will be informed on Sunday, March 11 of any items won, amount due, payment instructions and where to pick up your items.

The SSPJ Home & School Association Board has volunteered to facilitate this process. You may locate them or the Mardi Gras Madness co-chairs at any time during the evening for questions or assistance.

### **How do I know if I've won something if I cannot attend the event?**

All winners not present will be contacted the next day, Sunday March 11th so please remember to include your e-mail address and/or telephone number on any correspondence, raffle ticket, etc. You must be present to win any door prizes or to participate in the live auction.

## **What are Corporate & Private Sponsors of the Event and how can I become one?**

To help make this event a success, we are looking for assistance from private donors and local businesses. Donations can be made to the actual bottom line of the event, with all of these funds going directly towards the school's technology program.

Sponsors can also donate items that can either be raffled or auctioned off (silent or live.) In the past, families have donated use of their vacation homes, sports memorabilia, electronic items and so on. Businesses have donated items such as tickets to sporting events and gift cards. This year, we are also looking for companies to donate services. Some examples, are; 1 free room painting by a commercial painter, free tutoring given by teachers, a home cleaning offered by someone who owns a housekeeping service, etc. This is a great way to give as well as to spread the word about your business!

Depending on the donation tier chosen, sponsorship will be prominently acknowledged in the event program and/or signage throughout the event. Based on donation amounts, corporate sponsors can have additional acknowledgments in the church bulletin, school website and various locations in the school.

All donations are tax-deductible under IRS 501 (C) (3). Our tax identification number is (23-1552181) for your record keeping purposes.

For additional information, please contact the following individuals:

Corporate Sponsors for event underwriting- Barb McClay - [barbaramccclay@hotmail.com](mailto:barbaramccclay@hotmail.com)

Private Donors for event underwriting- Judy Cecco - [jacecco@mmm.com](mailto:jacecco@mmm.com) or Jolynn Thomas - [jolynnthomas@verizon.net](mailto:jolynnthomas@verizon.net)

All other donations (corporate and private) - [sspjspring@yahoo.com](mailto:sspjspring@yahoo.com). The event co-chairs will direct you to the appropriate sub-committee chairperson.

## **How did my \$5 per child donation help the event?**

Thanks to your generosity, we raised over \$2600.00. We were able to purchase a 46" Samsung 3D LED TV, an Apple i-pad 2, and a Sony Internet TV Blu-Ray Player. Any remaining funds are being used to purchase additional small electronic items that will either be included in Silent Auction baskets or become part of a Live Auction.

The Electronics Raffle is being opened up to the parish. Announcements are going out in the church bulletin and via the SSPJ School Reach system, with additional paper copies coming home in your child's homework folder. The raffle form and additional tickets will also be available on the school website: [www.school.sspj.net](http://www.school.sspj.net).

Some people have expressed an interest in selling raffle tickets for the Electronics Raffle to friends, work, etc. If you are interested in doing so, please contact us at: [sspjspring@yahoo.com](mailto:sspjspring@yahoo.com) or individually:

Beth Creeger - [bcreeger@verizon.net](mailto:bcreeger@verizon.net)

Patti Kelly - [brianpattiandgang@verizon.net](mailto:brianpattiandgang@verizon.net)

Maureen Lacey - [kevin.lacey2@verizon.net](mailto:kevin.lacey2@verizon.net)

### **What exactly is being purchased with the funds raised?**

Saints Philip and James School is committed to providing our students with the latest in technology-based educational resources. Monies raised from the event will help maintain and improve the school's technology infrastructure.

### **What about future communications?**

We plan to keep you updated right up until the event.

If your children attend SSPJ School, correspondence, flyers, raffle tickets, etc. will be sent home via the School Reach e-mail system and sometimes paper copies will be sent in your child's homework folder.

Event information will be also placed in the Sunday Church Bulletin.

All flyers, forms and correspondence will also be available on the school website: [www.school.sspj.net](http://www.school.sspj.net). Feel free to check this regularly.

You can also contact the event co-chairs at [sspjspring@yahoo.com](mailto:sspjspring@yahoo.com) or individually:

Beth Creeger - [bcreeger@verizon.net](mailto:bcreeger@verizon.net)

Patti Kelly - [brianpattiandgang@verizon.net](mailto:brianpattiandgang@verizon.net)

Maureen Lacey - [kevin.lacey2@verizon.net](mailto:kevin.lacey2@verizon.net)

### **How can I help?**

There are many ways to lend your support:

- \* bring friends
- \* bid on auctions or buy raffle tickets
- \* help sell tickets for the Electronics Raffle
- \* become a private donor or corporate sponsor
- \* patronize the event supporters listed in the program and let them know where you've heard about them
- \* most of all, come out and have a good time