

## 2008 Spaghetti Supper Decorations Committee Report

Committee: Elizabeth Acquaviva, Chair  
Lonnie Harvey  
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It is the responsibility of the Decorating Committee to decorate the cafeteria on the day of the Spaghetti Supper. The decorations that are needed are centerpieces, table numbers, tablecloths and seasonal decorations to make the cafeteria, lobby and entrance festive.

Table Centerpieces: 40 burgundy mums, wrapped in foil, were donated by Millbrook Farms on Barretts Mill Rd. in Concord (Paula Souza). Millbrook Farms also donated 2 corn stalks and 2 hay bales for the lobby entrance. However, the pumpkin patch did not survive the wet summer planting and they offered to supply them to us at their cost. Millbrook carved out and filled the two large pumpkins with two of the 40 donated mums.

Pumpkins: 2 large carved out pumpkins and one Cinderella pumpkin were delivered by Millbrook Farms. However, the price tag for these three pumpkins was surprisingly high - \$75. The Acquavivas donated them. Also, we supplied additional pumpkins and gourds from our homes to help decorate around the corn stalks and hay bales.

Bows for Mums: Art of Flowers by Bonnie in Bedford donated 40 pre-made bows and table number sticks to insert into the mums.

Signage: Laminated "Welcome to the Spaghetti Supper" signs and Exit Only signs were hung on the appropriate doors. These are reusable.

Posters: Posters that thanked the donors (especially those that do not make it by the deadline to be listed in the program) were prepared and hung in the cafeteria.

Table Cloths: Four burgundy table cloths were loaned by Linda Tonies to cover the ticket and raffle tables in the lobby and the projector table (to announce raffle winners) inside the cafeteria. The tables for ticket sales and raffle item displays were longer than 6'.

Art Work: A 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Art Exhibit was hung in the lobby for viewing by attendees.

- Table Numbers: Laminated table numbers were created for the centerpieces to ensure that each student could locate the table to which they were assigned. Also, table tent cards were made informing diners that the mums were for sale at the end of the supper for \$5.
- Photographs: Photos of each 6<sup>th</sup> grader were taken (with permission from the front office as well as 6<sup>th</sup> grade teachers) to create a bulletin board that identified the 6<sup>th</sup> grade servers as well as to add to the festive atmosphere. The film developing was donated by the Tonies family and each child took home their photo.
- Decorations: Leaf garland and decorative fake leaves were used to decorate some of the columns in the cafeteria. Fall colored fabric was used behind the photographs. Scarecrows were loaned to go on cornstalks.

On the day of the supper, the committee met at 12:30 to decorate. Millbrook Farms delivered the mums, carved pumpkins, hay bales and corn stalks at 12:45 (after the K-4 buses had left). The tables were already arranged by the maintenance crew under the direction of the Wait Staff Committee which provided us with a table chart so we could arrange mums with appropriate table number signs. By the time we finished hanging art exhibit, photographs, decorating columns with leaves and garland, hung signs, arranged centerpieces with bows and table numbers/mum tent cards, placed table cloths on appropriate tables, arranged hay bales, pumpkins and corn stalks it was close to 3 pm.

NOTE: This Committee is also responsible for taking away the decorations at the end of the evening.

#### Recommendations/Observations:

1. Millbrook Farms again provided mums that were a bit too large to serve around and some were moved to the window ledge by attendees or wait staff to make room for plates. I had gently requested that the donated mums be smaller than the previous year's mums in order to allow for conversation. In addition, the mums were not as crisp looking, but there was a freeze the night before that may have faded them. Note: Our original plan was to use ornamental grasses for centerpieces from Alison Saylor's garden, but she relocated to China in September! I also got the sense that Paula may not be interested in donating every year and we should consider looking at other options every other year.
2. Only 5 mums were sold for a total of \$25. We gave one each to Sue Robichaud for her support in the kitchen, each 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, the art teacher, the front office workers and delivered many to the COA which some were used around Vivian Chapult's memorial. Also, since the remaining mums were difficult to transport in a car, we offered one to each of the raffle table workers and decorating committee members since they were the last to leave the school building.

3. Millbrook indicated that the pumpkins would be at THEIR cost and I felt obligated to purchase them from Millbrook since they were donating mums and I asked for hay bales, corn stalks and pumpkins. (I decided that I would just donate them to the supper vs. submitting a receipt.) However, Paula Souza of Millbrook called me AFTER the Spaghetti Supper to inform me that I owed her \$75 for the 2 carved out pumpkins and the Cinderella pumpkin. This was a bit higher than I anticipated. It should be noted that Whole Foods sold nice sized pumpkins for \$6 each the last couple of years and this may be the way to go next year for pumpkins. It may be too much getting "donated" from one farm stand; especially in a bad economy or wet season.
4. Based on the mums being larger than needed and not many were sold at the end of the evening, I would suggest that we start selling them earlier than 7:30 or raffle them off or try a centerpiece other than mums.
5. We tried to connect with Al Dentino to secure the CCHS Pep Band but he did not respond to emails or phone messages. He eventually sent a message through a Pep Band member declining to perform and it was too late to arrange alternate entertainment for people waiting in the supper line.
6. The art exhibit and photos of the 6<sup>th</sup> grade class really added to the spirit of the evening.

The Committee members either donated, loaned or secured donations for ALL decorations, so no reimbursement was requested from this fundraising event. The team worked really well together.