



NEWSLETTER

DR. LOU WHITAKER, PRINCIPAL
MS. TONYA PETERS, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL



MISSION STATEMENT

Notre Dame Catholic School recognizes that each student is a unique child of God, our Father. We proclaim the Gospel message of Jesus, pray together and build community as we encourage student to open their hearts to the Holy Spirit, their minds to learning and their talents to service.

We strive to provide a strong, spiritual, academic and physical foundation in a safe and comfortable learning environment where mutual respect increases a student's potential for responsible decision making and allows students to move confidently, with Christ beside them, into an ever changing world.



SCHOOL OFFICE HOURS
8:00 AM - 3:30PM
Monday - Friday

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Two highlights of this Advent Season was watching our little ones perform in our Christmas Program, and observing the 6th, 7th and 8th graders participate in an incredible **Retreat Day**. Even though our new music teacher has only been here less than two months, she managed to pull off a delightful Christmas program. Thank you... Mrs. Susan Falcone for getting us into the Christmas spirit!

Last week the **Body, Mind, and Spirit** students traveled down from Pope John Paul II Catholic School to join our students for an incredible retreat. It was organized and facilitated by Mr. Jason Carter, Mr. Scott Foley, Life Teen Band Director, and the Disciples from St. Frances Cabrini Catholic Church in Spring Hill. Mr. Carter is the Youth Director for his parish. As many of you know, his wife, Mrs. Nicki Carter, is our 6th, 7th & 8th grade Math and Religion teacher.

The day was filled with prayer, reflection, games, activities, food and fun. The retreat ran from 9:00 until 3:00 and then the students were invited to stay for a "Social" which included dancing, volleyball, basketball, games, snacks and loud music! Just what the kids wanted!

And how did it all turn out? Just ask any of our students what they thought about the retreat... "AWESOME!" It was wonderful seeing our children develop new friendships and all the fun they were having. But the real highlight was listening to our students talk about their faith and their association with God.

When I heard Mr. Carter talk about his personal relationship with Jesus and what an incredible opportunity we have to deepen that relationship through the Eucharist every time we attend Mass....well, you could have heard a pin drop in the gym. We as parents and teachers can lecture all we want, but when our children hear young leaders speak from their hearts about their personal faith and devotion to our Church, well...it's priceless! By the way, Mr. Carter and the Disciples provided the day as a donation to our students and our schools. (So... do you think they live their faith and are models for all of us???)

I would also like to personally thank the entire staff and our parents who took the time out of their very busy holiday season to help us begin our **Strategic Planning for Schools**. Mr. Alberto Vasquez, Superintendent of Schools, was here on Saturday morning and led us through this exciting process. He was so impressed with our school that he has even asked if he could **use us as the model** for the rest of the Diocese! Of course I said yes, so don't be surprised if you see other Diocesan Associates at our next meeting as Mr. Vasquez demonstrates how to help schools through this process.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

NOTRE DAME CATHOLIC SCHOOL "OLD TRADITIONS... NEW HORIZON"

1095 COMMERCIAL WAY, SPRING HILL, FL 34606
352-683-0755 – FAX: 352-683-3924

WWW.NDISCHOOL.ORG

December 19, 2011

Please mark your calendars, for he'll be back on **Saturday, February 4, 2012 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00.** The committees were given the assignment to review the information provided to each group and to create examples of mission statements for Notre Dame. The *Mission Statement Committee* will then pull all recommendations from the 11 committees and present a draft of our new Mission Statement at our next meeting. Remember there is always room for more volunteers to step forward and help us through this process. The response from everyone has been that it was a very productive day and we're anxious to continue the process. If you're wondering what all the flip charts are in the gym... well, they're the hard work and ideas of the numerous committees! Be aware there is much more to come!

In closing, we ask for a very special blessing for Mr. Carter, Mr. Foley and the St. Frances Cabrini Disciples for their generous donation of their time and leadership for the incredible retreat day for our students. And thank you Mr. Vasquez for personally coming to Notre Dame and sharing your enthusiasm and passion for Catholic Education.

May you and your family be filled with the joy and anticipation of the birth of the Christ child. This is the time to pull the family together and stay focused on the reason for this very blessed season. Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and a Healthy, Happy New Year!

In Christ's Peace,

Dr. Lou Whitaker, Principal

ART ARENA

Dear Parents,

I would like to take this opportunity to invite you see what your child is doing in the art room.

Your child has been working on a portfolio which is a collection of art work. Most of your child's art work is kept in the art room, in their portfolio or displayed on the walls for the entire year. This way I can follow the progression and your child can continue to create & complete on-going projects.

You are welcome to arrange a time to come in and review your child's portfolio. Please e-mail me.

In addition to the portfolio the expectations or rubric is posted on whiteboard in the art room. This has been explained and review with the children in 3rd-8th grade.

FYI, the following is taken into consideration for each grade entered into power school weekly.

1. Follow direction & requirements/ craftsmanship (neatness counts!)
2. Originality /creativity
3. Design elements / Design principles
4. Teamwork / cooperation / participation
5. Attitude including attendance

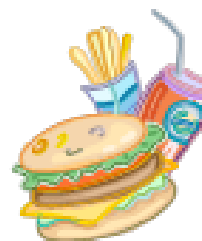
Thank you.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Schoonmaker



Look For Our New Lunch Menu

Taco's, burger and fries, and grilled cheese are being added to our lunch menu! We have had a little problem with pricing, and I apologize for that. But, we promise to have



it fixed and running smoothly soon!

Thanks for being patient. - Ms. Peters

NOTRE DAME CATHOLIC SCHOOL "OLD TRADITIONS... NEW HORIZON"

1095 COMMERCIAL WAY, SPRING HILL, FL 34606
352-683-0755 – FAX: 352-683-3924

WWW.NDISCHOOL.ORG

December 19, 2011



NEWSFLASH!!!! Body Mind and Spirit, Middle school students learn about the benefits of YOGA, improves balance, promotes flexibility, builds strength, increases endurance, promotes weight loss, strengthens bones, builds muscle, improves body awareness, and improves concentration. Mrs. Schoonmaker, a certified yoga instructor, demonstrated various yoga postures, as well as the pranayama breath of joy and savasana or final relaxation, stressing the importance of breathing and focusing especially during balance challenges. Yoga's roots go back over 4000 years. Yoga itself is a science, practiced without the confines of traditional religion.

STUDENT COUNCIL NEWS

The Notre Dame Student Council wishes to sincerely thank the Spring Hill Touchstar/Sapphire Movie Theater for its recent popcorn donation to our school. Their generosity helped to make our first GYM JAM a huge success.

Your Student Council advisors, Mrs. B. Williams & Mrs. N. Williams also wish to thank Mrs. Graham, Mr. Joey & all of the members of Student Council for their hard work and support at our GYM JAM.

Due to the success of our recent Student Council functions such as the GYM JAM and our Christmas Raffle, your Student Council will be able to make several donations to local charities this Christmas Season.

Your Notre Dame Student Council wishes to thank all of our families and staff for their support and well wishes. May your Christmas-time be peaceful, healthy and filled with the TRUE meaning of this wonderful season. May God Bless each and every one of us and may God Bless Notre Dame.

With Peace & Love,

Mrs. Barbara Williams & Mrs. Nicole Williams

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Please note that there has been a calendar change for January 10, 2012. January 10th will be a half day, so that our faculty and staff will be able to take part in a special In-service. This change will not effect any other calendar dates. Please note that Extended Care will be available from dismissal until 6PM that day.



NOTRE DAME CATHOLIC SCHOOL **“OLD TRADITIONS... NEW HORIZON”**

1095 COMMERCIAL WAY, SPRING HILL, FL 34606
352-683-0755 – FAX: 352-683-3924

WWW.NDISCHOOL.ORG

December 19, 2011



During the holiday's...

Remember each class is still competing against one another to bring in the most Labels for Education (Campbell Soup Labels) & Coke Rewards Points!!

Be sure to collect them during the Holiday to help raise easy money & points for our school! Competition Ends January 13th!



Next date:
January 14th
9:00 to 1:00

Mustang News

Way to go varsity volleyball team! They received 1st place with 8-1 in the regular season. December 8th at BMCHS our lady mustangs won the Volleyball tournament.



Congratulations Coach Carter and the girls on a great season...
Go Mustangs!

NOTRE DAME CATHOLIC SCHOOL
“OLD TRADITIONS... NEW HORIZON”
1095 COMMERCIAL WAY, SPRING HILL, FL 34606
352-683-0755 – FAX: 352-683-3924
WWW.NDISCHOOL.ORG
December 19, 2011



A great BIG thank you goes out to Jason Carter, Youth Minister at St. Frances Cabrini, Scott Foley, Life Teen Band Director and the High School Disciples for putting on such a great retreat for the joint Notre Dame & Pope John Paul II Middle School Students! The retreat theme was “Pieced Together”, portraying the message of “We are ONE BODY IN CHRIST.”

IMPORTANT DATES:

Dec. 19 - Jan. 2 - Christmas Vacation

Jan. 3 - Classes Resume, Early Dismissal

Jan. 6 - Circles of Life

Jan. 8 - Pancake Breakfast @ SFC, 1st Grade and Library will be Spotlited!

Jan. 9 - Home & School Association Board Meeting 3:30PM, Library

Jan. 10 - Early Dismissal, Teacher In-Service

Advisory Board Meeting, 6:45PM

Jan. 16 - No School—MLK

Jan. 19 - Notre Dame’s Science Fair



School Pastor: Father Richard Jankowski
Principal: Dr. Lou Whitaker
Assistant Principal: Ms. Tonya Peters
Bookkeeper: Ms. Anna Webster
Secretaries: Mrs. Juana Aragon (AM)
 & Mrs. Elma “B” Bartocci (PM)
Business Manager: Mr. Ed Carpio
Development Coordinator: Mr. Joey Monticciolo
Newsletter: Ms. Peters & Mr. Joey

**Due to this newsletter the next one
 will not be until... Jan 16th!**

NOTRE DAME CATHOLIC SCHOOL
“OLD TRADITIONS... NEW HORIZON”

1095 COMMERCIAL WAY, SPRING HILL, FL 34606
 352-683-0755 – FAX: 352-683-3924

WWW.NDISCHOOL.ORG

December 19, 2011