



# NEWSLETTER

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



## From the Principal's Corner...

Dear Notre Dame Families,

In my last newsletter I talked about the new project we were about to begin – **Long Range Strategic Planning for Notre Dame Catholic School**. This is a wonderful opportunity for you to become involved in formulating the vision and design for our Catholic school of the future. In order to begin this process, we need to set up a meeting for all interested stakeholders where everyone will have a very clear understanding of what Notre Dame is all about. At this meeting, we will present our Iowa Test of Basic Skills test scores, our ACRE (Religion test) scores, enrollment trends, budget information, etc. This first meeting will be held on **Thursday, Nov. 10<sup>th</sup> starting at 6:30 p.m. at St. Theresa's Parish Center**. I am requesting that all staff members, School Advisory and Development Council members, Home and School Officers, Booster Club Officers and other interested parents, grandparents, and parishioners step forward and participate in this exciting endeavor. At this first meeting we will explain the various committees where you will be given an opportunity to join one of the groups and begin formulating our goals and action steps.

The meeting after this one will be with Mr. Alberto Vazquez, the Superintendent of Schools for the Diocese of St. Petersburg. All the schools in our Diocese will be going through this process over the next two years, and I asked Mr. Vazquez if he would consider working with Notre Dame as soon as possible since there were false rumors floating around that the school was doomed to close. He graciously accepted and gave us his first opening which is **Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon**.

I know how busy we all are, but from what was expressed to me regarding parent concerns, I felt it was imperative that we turn this negative attitude around immediately and begin planning for our future. At the Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> meeting Mr. Vazquez will explain in detail the entire process and the steps we need to take to complete our design. And then right around the corner, next year, we'll begin our **School Improvement Process** (FCC Accreditation). This lengthy process will help us articulate our goals for improved student achievement and help us receive the recognition we deserve for being an outstanding Catholic school of tomorrow.

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## NOTRE DAME CATHOLIC SCHOOL

**"OLD TRADITIONS... NEW HORIZON"**

1 095 COMMERCIAL WAY, SPRING HILL, FL 34606

352-683-0755 – FAX: 352-683-3924

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### 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.

#### Give Back Charity

7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> – Food Drive  
Charity No Uniform Day  
Nov. 10–Bring a  
Canned Good  
Walk-for the Poor

#### SCHOOL OFFICE HOURS

8:00 AM -3:30PM

Monday - Friday

But all of this takes a great deal of hard work and energy. We need dedicated individuals who are willing to put forth the time and have the desire --- those who only want the best for Notre Dame. Won't you consider joining our Strategic Planning Committee? Mark your calendar: **Nov. 10<sup>th</sup> and Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>** to begin the process. We'll meet once a month, either as an entire group or in smaller committees. Thank you for your consideration.

Please check your Family Envelope to complete a very important form we need for our Long Range Strategic Plan. We have asked the parents to complete the form and return it to school in the sealed envelope that comes with the profile form. You are asked **not** to sign your name. When your child brings it to school, they need to bring it to the gym in the morning during Prayers and Announcements. Coach Cleary will be collecting them in a special box. When the envelope is dropped in the box, the children in your family will receive a "No Uniform Pass" to be used anytime throughout the year (except on days we attend Mass). Please complete the form and return by this Friday, Nov. 11<sup>th</sup>. Thank you.

On another note (pardon the pun), we hired our new Music Teacher. Her name is **Mrs. Susan Falcone** and just wait until you hear her sing! She is a professional singer and a member of the National Association of Teachers of Singing. She was a teacher at Day Spring Academy in Pasco and we are so blessed to have her join our staff. Many of our students currently take lessons from her so just ask around to hear about her accomplishments! Please introduce yourself and make her feel welcomed.

Also new to the staff is our Plant Manager, **Mr. Joe Jackson**. He'll be on campus from 8:00 to 12:00 daily. He's only been here a couple of days and it's amazing how much he has accomplished already! Mr. Ken, one of our afternoon maintenance men will be moving to Tenn. and he will be leaving us shortly. We wish him the very best and thank him for his years of service. **Mr. Otis King** will be taking over his position so please make him feel welcomed also.

We finally have our Title I teacher and will begin services shortly. We're excited to announce that **Mrs. Karen Stalter** (Yes! One of our ND moms and chairman of the Pancake Breakfast team!) has been hired by Hernando County to work with our students who qualify for services. We are frantically trying to complete the remodeling of the Extended Day building, for that is also where the Title I classes will be held.

Just to keep you informed, I was asked to serve on a FCC Accreditation Team and was be in Gainesville (St. Patrick's Catholic School) all week evaluating their School Improvement Plan. All principals are asked to serve on such committees and this experience will help us as we move through our SIP process next year. Thank you Ms. Peters and Ms. Franklin for covering while I was gone.

In closing, there is so much going on at Notre Dame! The Fall Festival was incredible! Thank you Mrs. Stoker, Mrs. Higgins and your team for a wonderful family experience!! We welcome our new staff members and look forward to working with you as we build the future of our school. Mother Mary continues to watch over and bless our school.

Abundant Blessings,

*Dr. Lou Whitaker, Principal*

**REMEMBER...**

**WALK-A-THON PLEDGES!**

**& Campbell Soup, Coke**

**Rewards Competitions!**

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Notre Dame elementary art students bring great Hope & Joy to people at the: **Annual Kairos Retreat @ Sumter Correctional Institute** October 13-16

**Starfish strategies:** meaningful/reflection/choices and emotions  
Using symbols of the church and incorporating borders and patterns to the bright colorful placemats, students used crayon as their media and really encouraged and helped many sad and lonely people feel better because God gives wellness, peace, strength, safety, and calm to us all.



## Upcoming Classroom News!

**Kindergarten** will be participating in a Scholastic webcast bringing them back to Pilgrim times on our Smartboard. They will be having a Thanksgiving feast on November 18th. Also, in their new reading series they are already reading and writing sentences combining the letters and sounds they've covered.

**Middle School MAPA** has started under the direction of Ms. Parrow meeting once every two weeks. The students are enjoying the program!

## Library & Book Fair News...

This fall's Book Fair & Grandparent Event was a huge success thanks to all of you. Our space alien theme proved to be perfect timing with Halloween right around the corner. Thanks to the efforts of our wonderful volunteers, from the moment you entered our Library, you had the definite feeling that you were entering outer space. Many teachers even got in on the act by decorating their classroom doors.

Our book fair ran from Oct. 17-Oct 20, culminating with a very special day planned just for Grandparents. Big thanks go out to Teddy & Hannah Riser's Grandmother, Mary O' Connell, who came in to read to our eager 1st graders and Tres & Caitlin McMahon's grandfather, Deacon James McMahon, who read to our excited 4th graders. This special day ended with free popcorn, free space alien balloons and free glow in the dark space bracelets for all families that attended.

The Library again wishes to thank all of the awesome volunteers, especially the book fair chairperson Mr. Mike Martilotto, who helped to make this event so much fun for the children and for the rest of us big kids too.



**GREAT JOB 3<sup>rd</sup> GRADE ON  
YOUR SAINT PRESENTATION!!  
THEY WERE FANTASTIC!**

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**Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Whitaker!**  
**2011 St. Jude Medal Award Recipient**  
 This award is given to a lay member of a parish for distinguished and outstanding service.

**Congratulations to Mrs. Misener!**

For being one of the few parishioners nominated for: **Mother Cabrini Award** at St. Frances Cabrini

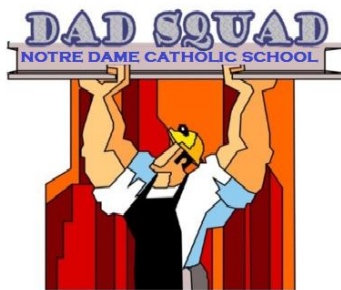


National Junior Honor Society  
 Will be collecting canned goods  
 November 7<sup>th</sup> until the 18<sup>th</sup>!

# Home & School Association News

## Trunk or Treat 2011!

Many families and staff came out to enjoy our first trunk or treat! The children had fun with their friends while filling their bags with treats in a safe environment! Thank you Mrs. Henchey, Mrs. Allnut and all the volunteers who made this event so successful.



## CALLING ALL DADS!

We are in need of some extra help around campus! We have a few projects to get done and would like to put a dad squad together. Our first work day will be: **November 19<sup>th</sup> from 9:00AM to 1:00PM**  
 We are in need of some pressure washers and hoses!  
 If you can help or have any questions, please contact Ms. Peters at [mstpeters@ndischool.org](mailto:mstpeters@ndischool.org) and let her know if you can make it. Thank you!

## THANK YOU!

A Thank You goes out to the Nunag Family for their support of the butterfly garden! It looks great. Be sure to stop by and see the 4 caterpillars that were transferred from the butterfly conservatory to our butterfly garden. A caterpillar is munching away on milk week and crvstallises have been formed.

## Red Ribbon Week

A great big thank you goes out to Mrs. Harrington & Mrs. Goodmok and all the volunteers for all of the time and planning of Red Ribbon Week it was great! The balloon release to end the week was fantastic!



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## Family Faith Formation

Wednesday, November 16, 2011 - School Library – 6:30PM

### **FRIDAY'S:**

### **ROSARY IN LIBRARY**

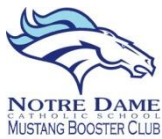
After dismissal students and families are invited to stay and pray the rosary in the library!



### **Educational Investment Information**

We are speaking again in November on the 12th and 13th, Mrs. Rooney will be contacting those that already committed to speak and asking for volunteers to cover some speeches, stuff bulletins, and hand out flyers after Masses. Please do not forget that we are asking each family to donate 2 hours towards this fundraiser.

**ALL TICKETS SHOULD BE SOLD IMMEDIATELY. BILLS FOR UNSOLD TICKETS WILL GO OUT IN DECEMBER.**



#### Booster Club News

Reminder: Casino Night, November 12<sup>th</sup>

Tickets available in school office.

Congratulations to the Stoker family from Notre Dame for winning the October drawing and Mary Klika from St. Theresa's for winning last drawing of 2010 campaign!

### **IMPORTANT DATES:**

**November 7 – 18 National Junior Honor Society Canned Food Drive**

**November 8 – School Advisory Development Council Meeting 6:45PM**

**November 10 – Dress Down Day - Bring in a Canned Food**

**ALL PARENTS... School Strategic Planning Meeting 6:30PM St. Theresa Parish Hall**

**November 12 – Casino Night!**

**November 12 – 13 – Ambassadors speak at masses for Investment in Education**

**November 16 – Family Faith Formation 6:30PM**

**November 18 – Walk-a-thon 1:00PM**

**November 20 – Pancake Breakfast, St. Frances, Spotighting 2<sup>nd</sup> grade!**

**November 21 – 25 No School – Enjoy the time with your family! Count your blessings.**

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

**Next Newsletter**

**November 21<sup>st</sup>!**

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