



From the Principal's Corner...

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
4th Grade, Dawn Center
Charity No Uniform Day
December 15th,
St. Jude Children's
Hospital

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

Dear Notre Dame Families,

Happy Thanksgiving!!! As you take time this week to celebrate the abundant blessings God has bestowed upon you and your family, we at Notre Dame reflect on our blessings also. Mother Mary continues to protect and watch over us and we are ever so mindful of our blessings...too numerous to count.

I am so very grateful for the love and support we have for our children and staff here at Notre Dame. We had our first meeting of our **Long Range Strategic Planning** for the future of our school. I presented a great deal of facts and figures regarding our successes including everything from finances, to academics, to special programs. We have over 20 different committees who have been asked to roll up their sleeves and stimulate their creative juices to help us formulate what we would like Notre Dame to look like next year and in the many years to come.

I would like to thank all of those who attended the meeting and greatly appreciate their enthusiasm and positive energy. Everyone was so supportive and are willing to do whatever it takes to make ND viable and strong for our future. I must admit, however, many of us were disappointed in the number of parents who actually were there. It's disheartening when there are more staff members than parents at these evening meetings.

When we announced that Mr. Pendleton was leaving, we heard a great deal of rumbling that many parents were upset and concerned about the future of the school. We clearly wanted to dispel any rumors and invited those parents with concerns to come to the meeting to see just how stable our finances were as well as hear about how great our children were doing academically. Yet it always seems to be the ones that are so negative... who will spend more time complaining

about the school and less energy in learning the truth about the school. I have very little tolerance for these people. I do have a great deal of respect and admiration for those who came to the meeting this past week and want to get involved in a very positive, healthy way. With teachers, administrators, parents, pastors and our Diocese working together, we have the talents and energy to design any type of future we want for our children.

Continued on pg. 2

NOTRE DAME CATHOLIC SCHOOL

"OLD TRADITIONS... NEW HORIZON"

1 095 COMMERCIAL WAY, SPRING HILL, FL 34606

352-683-0755 – FAX: 352-683-3924

WWW.NDISCHOOL.ORG

If you could not make the meeting but still want to become involved in this planning process, please be assured that you are *very welcomed!* Our next meeting will be with our Superintendent, Mr. Alberto Vasquez-Matos on Saturday, **Dec. 10th at 9:00 a.m. in the school Library.** He will explain the entire process and guide us through our next steps.

You will find in this newsletter an excellent letter from our Home and School and inviting you to become involved in this very important project. Please take time to open and read it closely.

In closing, my sincere thanks to all those who are stepping forward to help us through this lengthily process. We ask that everyone continue to keep Notre Dame in his or her daily prayers. This is such an exciting time in the history of our school. May Mother Mary provide us the wisdom and energy we will need to help us create our model Catholic school of the future.

Abundant Blessings,

Dr. Lou Whitaker, Principal

Home & School Association News



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:
Tomorrow, November 19th 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 mspeters@ndischool.org and let her know if you can make it. Thank you!



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!



NOTRE DAME CATHOLIC SCHOOL

"OLD TRADITIONS... NEW HORIZON"

1 095 COMMERCIAL WAY, SPRING HILL, FL 34606
352-683-0755 – FAX: 352-683-3924

WWW.NDISCHOOL.ORG

Dear Families,

We at the Home and School Board would like to take a couple of moments to update you to some of the upcoming changes we will see here at Notre Dame. Although there were several families that represented Notre Dame at the first Strategic Planning meeting there are still many of you that missed the great information that was shared regarding the future of our school. Dr. Whitaker and Father Jankowski outlined the past and present status of our School including enrollment, expenses, tuition, and budget. Where this was very enlightening to all of us it was most exciting to discuss the future planning of not only Notre Dame but of the entire Diocese.

There are a number of changes going on throughout the Diocese that are soon to be happening. Some of these changes will have a direct impact on our school family. In an effort to ensure this impact will be as positive as projected we are asking for your input. We all come from different backgrounds and specialize in very different skills. God has bestowed upon each and every one of us gifts for us to share with others. Only you know what they are and how they can play a part in your lives and in the lives of others.

Please ask yourselves what gift you can share with the future of our school. It may be that you are a great organizer/planner, strong with finances, resourceful within your community, or even a gifted writer. All of these and many more are valuable assets to our school. Where we recognize your time is limited and very valuable it is now that you can make a difference. Please take a moment to look at the committees listed on the following page. Choose which one fits your special gift and let us know which one you will be serving on. The committees should only be meeting monthly and much of your involvement can be done via email or by telephone.

Where we recognize that several of our families have been here for many years it does not negate the importance of everyone staying involved and playing an active role in the future of our school. Those families have so much to offer to the newer ones within the school. Your knowledge, experience, and positive influence are invaluable. You play the role of the “big brother” or “big sister” to all the younger families that have joined the school. You indeed are the ones we all look up to. So please lead the way and join the committee that you are most comfortable with.

Thank you for taking the time to invest in the future development of your children and Notre Dame. Please return the signup sheet we send out in the white envelope by **Monday November 28th, 2011**. We will need to have all of committees formed in time for our next scheduled meeting with the Superintendent of the Diocese on December 10, 2011.

- The Home & School Association

SAFETY OF THE STUDENTS!

To keep our students safe, you need to drive safe!

It has been brought to our attention that people are not driving slowly nor are they paying attention to where they are going while on the school grounds. As soon as you turn off of US Highway 19 you are in a school zone. Drive slow, watch where you are going, and put the phone down! It only takes seconds to lose a life in an accident! Please keep our students, faculty, and families safe. Speed Limit is 10MPH!



NOTRE DAME CATHOLIC SCHOOL

“OLD TRADITIONS... NEW HORIZON”

1 095 COMMERCIAL WAY, SPRING HILL, FL 34606

352-683-0755 – FAX: 352-683-3924

WWW.NDISCHOOL.ORG

November 21, 2011 - 3 | Page

Technology Newsflash

“Patterns In Kidspiration”

Kindergarten students in Mr. Smith’s class were introduced to Patterns using Kidspiration. They had to complete 3 patterns using different shapes and colors across the workspace in Kidspiration. When they finished they had to create 3 of their own patterns with at least 4 different shapes in each one, which another classmate had to finish. During this learning process the following Starfish Strategies are used: Enriched Environment, Active participation, hands-on activities, Choices made by the learner, not the teacher, Inviting the mind to learn, priming the mind, Non-conscious Learning, Graphics and visuals, Having time to develop patterns, Variety of colors, Exotic or novel to the learner, Feedback given to the learner, and Cross Curriculum learning.



Upcoming Classroom News!

The Annual 2nd and 3rd grade Reading Challenge finals will be held Monday, December 5th at 2:00 p.m. in the library. Parents of the finalists may attend.

4th grade is going to the Springs Environmental Center on December 9th for a science field trip.

STUDENT COUNCIL NEWS:

Christmas Gym Jam

Your Student Council is excited to announce our 1st Notre Dame Gym Jam.

When: Friday, December 2nd **Time:** 5-8pm **Where:** Gym

What: Parents can drop off their Notre Dame Students grades 3rd-8th in the gym for a night of games, food and fun!

Parents: Take this well needed time to do a little holiday shopping or to just enjoy some free time before the holiday crazies start!

Cost: \$5; includes pizza, drinks, popcorn, cocoa and games.

Kids: Make sure you bring a pillow or your sleeping bag to enjoy a movie after dinner.

Permission slips will come home when we come back from the Thanksgiving break.

You MUST RSVP to this event with Mrs. Barbara Williams or Mrs. Nicole Williams



NOTRE DAME CATHOLIC SCHOOL

“OLD TRADITIONS... NEW HORIZON”

1 095 COMMERCIAL WAY, SPRING HILL, FL 34606

352-683-0755 – FAX: 352-683-3924

WWW.NDISCHOOL.ORG

November 21, 2011 - 4 | Page

FRIDAYS:

ROSARY IN LIBRARY

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



WE DID IT!

The National Junior Honor Society Gobble Gobble Food Drive for St. Vincent DePaul was **EXTREMELY** successful! We collected well over **500 cans!** **GREAT JOB!** Thank you all who helped with this project.

Booster Club News

Casino Night was great! Thank you all who came out to support our Mustang Booster Club. Our sports program would not be able to be as successful as it is if it weren't for our Notre Dame Families & Community! A BIG thanks to all of our sponsors as well.



Educational Investment Information

Please note that if you have already paid your \$500.00 Educational Investment and have NOT turned in your ticket information forms please be sure to do so. The forms are available online. If forms aren't turned in tickets will NOT be issued!



*givet*hanks

IMPORTANT DATES:

Nov. 21 – 25 – Thanksgiving Break

Nov. 28 – Classes Resume

Dec. 2 – Check PowerSchool for Midterm Grades

Dec. 2 – Christmas Gym Jam for 3th -8th graders - Sponsored by Student Council

Dec. 3 – St. Theresa's Children's Mass at 9:30 – Wear Uniform

Dec. 8 – Living Rosary

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 December 5th!

NOTRE DAME CATHOLIC SCHOOL

"OLD TRADITIONS... NEW HORIZON"

1 095 COMMERCIAL WAY, SPRING HILL, FL 34606

352-683-0755 – FAX: 352-683-3924

WWW.NDISCHOOL.ORG

November 21, 2011 - 5 | Page