



NEWSLETTER

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



From the Principals Desk...

Dear Parents / Guardians,

In order to improve communication between the school and the home, we have decided to try and send home two newsletters per month. We felt to save cost in printing and paper; we will send them home via email. So please watch for our newsletter on the first and third Mondays of each month. Please let me reiterate the flyer that was sent home explaining this new process. We will only be sending home the white family envelopes when we need items signed and returned.

After our last School Advisory and Development Council meeting it was expressed that many parents are concerned about the future of Notre Dame. By not replacing Mr. Pendleton it was perceived that the school was cutting back for it was doomed to close. Nothing could be further from the truth! Please let me reiterate that the reason he wasn't replaced was because it would take at least a month to advertise, interview and hire a new person... making it the end of November. The timing of his resignation had a great deal to do with our decision of what to do next. We want this model (**Two Schools/ One Principal**) to be successful more than anything else and will continue to work tirelessly to create a solid foundation for the future of our school. After lengthy discussion and prayer, we felt it was best for Ms. Peters and I to just split Mr. Pendleton's workload and finish out the year. We have always made decisions based on what we feel is best for the future of Notre Dame. Please do not listen to the false rumors that are floating around ...particularly those coming from people who are no longer associated with the school. This negative energy only slows us down and really puts a damper on our progress and accomplishments. To negate this, we are making a more assertive effort to update our communication and get more of our parents involved in the continued growth and development

As you know, we are currently in the **Two Schools/ One Principal Model**. This model was approved for two years, and although nothing has been determined for next year, this model may end at the end of this year. If this model is not continued, the traditional model of one principal per school will be in place. And since the FCC regulation states that schools with more than 300 students will have an Assistant Principal, we doubt we will be able to replace the Assistant Principal position next year. We *will*, however, have a Principal and we *will* continue to grow and prosper.

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NOTRE DAME CATHOLIC SCHOOL

"OLD TRADITIONS... NEW HORIZON"

1 095 COMMERCIAL WAY, SPRING HILL, FL 34606

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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

3rd Grade – St. Vincent DePaul

Charity No Uniform Day

Oct. 26th – Wear Red
Walk-for the Poor

SCHOOL OFFICE HOURS

7:30 AM -3:30PM

Monday - Friday

This is very evident when you hear about our upcoming big endeavors. We greatly need your support and involvement in our five year, **Long Range Strategic Plan** for the future of Notre Dame Catholic School. If you remember, last year I talked about how our Office of Schools and Centers from the Diocese of St. Petersburg was focused on beginning strategic planning for all of our schools. I had an evening meeting last year where I explained the beginning process and presented our data and evaluation comments from our stakeholders. The next steps in this process are to develop our goals and eventually create our Action Plan. This will take at least two years to develop. While we are going through this process, we have some other news to share with you. Next year we also have to begin our **School Improvement Process (SIP)**. This is the FCC accreditation process the schools go through every seven years, and next year it's our turn again! So be prepared for two extremely busy years!

As part of the Strategic Planning process, Mr. Alberto Vaquez, Superintendent of Schools, will be meeting with our stakeholders to explain the process and give guidance as we create our plan. WE NEED YOUR HELP! If you have ever been involved in a strategic planning process, you know it takes many, many people and many hours of hard work to create and build the school you want Notre Dame to become. We have been asked to evaluate our school and eventually create goals and design our action plan. We need parents, parishioners (from all 6 parishes) pastors, teachers, support personnel, and community leaders (approximately 60-80 people) to work in groups to create our vision.

Mr. Vasquez will be meeting with us in early December, but now is the time for us to meet and review our **School Profile, Indicators of a Viable School, School Financial Feasibility** report, our **Standards of Excellence for Catholic Elementary Schools** report, our **ITBS and ACRE scores, etc.** We need all of our stakeholders well informed before Mr. Vasquez explains this new process. Therefore, I would like to host a meeting regarding this information. We are in the process of setting up a location and time for this meeting. Be on the lookout for more information soon. Everyone who attends the meeting will be invited to serve on a committee and help us begin creating our ideal school. This is your opportunity to step forward in a very positive way to design our Catholic school of the future.

On another quick note, I like to mention that we are working hard to complete the Extended Day Building. We have received our occupancy permit and would like the carpeting replaced before we open it to the children. Our goal is to have the building blessing at the beginning of November. Again, we want to thank our Knights for the remodeling project! We are truly blessed. We couldn't have done this without their help.

We hope to have our Music Teacher hired by the end of this week. I am pleased to announce that we have four candidates and can't wait to make this announcement. We are interviewing for a part-time maintenance person and hope to have that position filled shortly. We have also been working with Hernando County and are in the process of hiring our Title I teacher. As soon as this is finalized, we will notify our Title I students and begin our classes.

In closing, please feel free to contact me at school (Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays) or through email (lwhitaker@ndischool) with any concerns or questions you may have regarding Notre Dame *today* or about Notre Dame in our *future*. May Mother Mary continue to watch over, protect and guide us.

Abundant Blessings,

Dr. Lou Whitaker, Principal



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Mrs. Carter's 6th Grade Math Newsflash



This month, the 6th grade class went "Beyond the Math", with a cross curriculum science lab in Math class. Using what they were learning in Math, the students were able to calculate the buoyancy and density of an egg in different types of water. The hands on lab reinforced that subjects go beyond their individual classroom setting.

Going Beyond
the Math

October 1

Mrs. Misener's 2nd Grade Newsflash

Subjects! Predicates! Naming parts! Action parts! Who knew sentences were so complicated???? Second grade was just getting comfortable putting their thoughts on paper when they were told that their thoughts actually had special names and special purposes.

Using Starfish Strategies we were able to make the "sentence situation" less complicated once again.

We worked with our partners to share what knowledge we already possessed about sentence parts. After

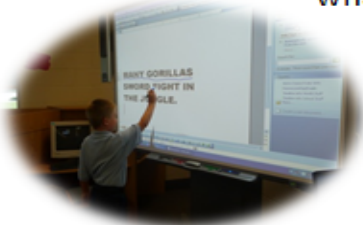
"priming our minds", we were able to

"choose" action words to act out within our small groups. After

further instruction in naming and action parts of sentences, we used these action words to help us form complete sentences by adding a

naming part and completing the action part. We paused every few moments to "teach" our partners what we had just learned. "Reciprocal Teaching" keeps us on task and learning.

For the final assessment we headed to the Smart Board to work with "color" and to see our thoughts in print. **Immediate feedback** was given to all, the **visuals** aided our learning process and **we had fun!**



Upcoming Classroom News!

3rd Grade: November 2nd, 9th, and 16th the third grade will be taking a Virtual Field Trip to the Plimoth Plantation (Massachusetts) at 1PM. We will be learning about the First Thanksgiving celebration, touring the Plimoth Village (living history museum) and a Wampanoag Homesite!
3rd Grade is also preparing for their Saint Presentations which will be on November 1st!

7th Grade Social Studies: Students will be going back in time as "Newscasters" reporting on current events from that time period.

8th Grade Social Studies: Students will be creating debate teams. Their first topic will be whether or not the Afghanistan & Iraq Wars should be stopped.

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Home & School Association News



Competitions!

Starting Monday, October 17th!!!

Each class will be competing against one another to bring in the most Labels for Education (Campbell Soup Labels) & Coke Reward Points!

The classes that bring in the most by January 13, 2012 will receive parties!

Labels for Education: Class receives Donuts & Sweets

Coke Rewards: Class receives TBD

Come Celebrate with Us!

Grandparents Celebration

Thursday, October 20, 2011

10:45AM—12:30 PM



CALLING ALL DADS!

We are in need of completing a few projects around the school and would love a team of dads to help us on Saturday, November 19th at 9:00 a.m. until 11:30. The more dads we get the more we can get done. Please contact Ms. Peters at mspeters@ndischool.org if you are interested in joining our squad. Great volunteer hours!

**Fall Festival: Friday, Oct. 28
3:30PM-6:30PM**

**Trunk or Treat: Monday, Oct. 31
5:30PM-6:30PM**



THE BOOK FAIR IS OPEN!

The Book Fair will be open during school hours Oct. 17th – 20th. On Thursday we will be staying open past the 12:30 dismissal (until about 2-2:30) for our tie-in to the "Grandparent Celebration" festivities of the day. We will have the popcorn machine going after school and have some cool give-aways to any children who stop by with their families.

IN ADDITION: Scholastic has this great new feature which allows Notre Dame to have our very own Book Fair homepage. The wonderful part about this is that any friends or family members, anywhere in the country, can shop on-line for Scholastic books until Nov. 6th. The books will be sent right to our school - NO shipping or handling fees AND we make the profits. The page will officially start on Oct 17th. The address is: www.bookfairs.scholastic.com/homepage/ndcs

Red Ribbon Week



MONDAY, October 24

"Cap Out Drugs" Children may wear a cap to school.
Canine demonstration by the sheriff's department at 2:00 in the gym.

TUESDAY, October 25

"Be Smart—Don't Do Drugs" - Children will receive a treat.
Body, Mind, and Spirit presentations.

WEDNESDAY, October 26

"Wear red" Dress down day for St. Vincent DePaul.
Bring in your dollar for this worthy charity.

THURSDAY, October 27

"Sock it to Drugs" Children may wear red socks with their uniform.
Anti-drug speaker for grade 3-8.

FRIDAY, October 28

"Shade out drugs" Wear your shades to school.
Red Balloon release after Mass, followed by the Walk for the Poor
Fall Festival after school 3:30-6:30!

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Rainy Day Arrival Reminder!

For the safety of the children, when there is rain and/or lightning, the students will not meet in the gymnasium for Morning Prayer. The Morning Care students will still be dropped off at the gym. At 7:45 a.m., the Early Childhood and Kindergarten students will go directly to their classrooms, while the remaining students (1st to 8th grade) will go to the library via the front office doors of the Hurley Building. The gates will be open and parents will be instructed to pull up to the building to let the children out at the front door. Students will then proceed to the library, where Prayers and Announcements will be held. We ask that you do not let your student out and walk up to the library doors for they will be locked.

Wednesday, October 19, 2011 School Library

Topic: Celebrating Advent with your family. Small introduction on new Mass changes.



Speaker: Jason Carter,
St. France Cabrini Youth Minister
FREE CHILDCARE PROVIDED

Educational Investment Information

REMINDER... Please be sure that you are returning your entry forms in to the school. It is important to be sure we are staying on track with this great fundraiser! Thank you Nicole Rooney, and her volunteers for all of their time and effort in this fundraiser.

Booster Club News



Reminder: Casino Night, November 12th
Tickets available in school office.

IMPORTANT DATES

Oct. 17 – Oct. 20 - Scholastic Book Fair
Oct. 19 - Parent Faith Formation Night 6:30PM
Oct. 20 – Early Dismissal, End of 1st Quarter
Grandparents Celebration
Oct. 21 – No School, All day Extended Care Available
Oct. 23 – 24 – St. Joan of Arc Ethnic Festival
Oct. 24 – 28 – Red Ribbon Week
Oct. 26 – Dress Down Day, WEAR RED

Oct. 28 – Honor Roll, ND Walk for the Poor
Fall Festival 3:30PM – 6:30PM
Oct. 29 – St. Vincent DePaul, Walk for the Poor
Oct. 31 – Trunk or Treat 5:30PM – 6:30PM
Nov. 1 - 8AM Mass with St. Theresa Parishioners
3rd Grade Saint Presentation
Nov. 3 – 4 – Early Dismissal,
Parent Teacher Conference

Thank You Mrs. Galmish & Mrs. Gage for
all of your time and beautifying our
Butterfly Garden!



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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