

SAINT THOMAS ACADEMY MOTHERS' CLUB MEETING

Minutes for Tuesday, September 12, 2006

Opening:

Kitzie Nye welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order.

Presentations from Members:

Sandy Ferrian, Cookbook Chair gave an overview of the recipe submission process. See cadets.com to submit your recipe.

Presentations from Staff/Faculty Members:

Dr. Thomas Mich, Headmaster discussed the upcoming school year and outlined highlights and changes:

- 14 or 15 students will participate in the National Merit Program
- The cafeteria's long "prison" tables have been replaced with round tables to encourage talking and interaction among the students.
- A third lunch period has been added.
- 7th and 8th graders have assigned table during lunch.
- The vision is to change the cafeteria into more of a student union.
- The Snack shop will be after school and there may be opportunities for booster group to volunteer and make money.
- The book store has been expanded for walk in purchasing.
- An after-school program run by Mr. Tony Cicallo consists of 45 minutes of study, 45 minutes of physical activity and 45 minutes of entertainment is being well received.
- The ISACS (Independent Schools Association of the Central States) accreditation process continues and a site visit in October.
- The campus should be more user friendly for the students. Planned improvements include adding benches around the school grounds.
- Phase out sugar after school. Introduce healthy snacks.

Mr. Mike Byrne, Assistant Headmaster discussed the Freshman Retreat where 20 seniors helped coordinate and lead. He said he was impressed by the leadership being shown in this year's class of 136 seniors. The Homecoming dance is for grades 10-12 is September 23rd. The cost is \$25.00 per couple. Feel free to contact him if you have questions.

Mr. Mike Sjoberg, Dean of Students discussed school life policies and ideas including:

- Creating opportunities for the boys to become more self-sufficient for example they can do their own laundry and ironing.
- Wash gym uniform
- Two hours of homework
- Attendance – call Rose Dukatz for high school and Mary Hover for middle school

- There is no excuse for being tardy. Can't play sports.
- Middle school students receive Lunch Room Duty (LRD) in place of demerits.
- Getting involved allows your son to meet other students and make new friends. There are over 40 school activities to choose from. At least one sport each season has a "no cuts" policy.
- Middle school boys can join the co-ed Middle School Math Team with the Vis girls
- Parties and sleepovers - you should be calling the host family to confirm, no good happens after midnight
- MySpace and similar sites – the policy is in the handbook, he recommends parents should be looking at their son's postings.
- Drugs and alcohol – are address with the boys in sports, health classes, etc.
- Cell phones – The policy is in the handbook, please review. Text messaging and camera phones have been used in the past to cheat. They students are not allowed to carry them between 8:00am and 2:40pm.

Mr. Mike Fleischhacker, Director of the Middle School welcomed the new 7th and 8th grade moms. There are 65 students in 7th grade and 85 in 8th grade this year.

- Some lockers were moved upstairs to help with congestion between classes
- Electives A & B schedule
- New Middle school only lunch, LRD
- New Gym shorts and shirt are available in the book store
- Involved – girls, math team

LTC Michael DePuglio, Commandant of Cadets discussed the current psychology of young people today. He said the culture is creating a mindset of excuse making. We need to foster a world of self reliance for our sons. He and other faculty shouldn't be hearing things like: "I'm late because my mom forgot to wake me", "My mom didn't iron my shirt", "My mom didn't schedule a haircut appointment". The boys need to take care of their own business. Shine shoes, etc.

Mr. Randall Hallett, Director of Institutional Advancement

- Promote interaction between students and teachers
- Auction
 - Too much for one person
 - Encourage more men to volunteer (mostly women)
 - Evaluations brought up the issue of too many meetings during the day. There should be more meetings scheduled on the weekend to accommodate working parents.
 - Sign up to be a volunteer
- Annual Fund
 - Supports the \$3200 difference between the cost and tuition
 - Parents donation \$150,000, double last year
 - 100% participation from parents
- Endowment Fund
 - Creating young men to make things happen

- Currently 17.7 million, goal is 60 million

Ms. Mary Culbertson, Director of Communications gave an overview of the redesigned cadets.com website. More changes are coming including: a secure page for the student directory, online weekly bulletin, calendar updates, lunch payments online, and event payments online.

Ms. Carole Loufack, Technology Specialist discussed the computer lab and stressed that it is for school use only. She gave an overview of Centerpoint.

Mrs. Mary Woldvogel, Bookstore Manager gave an overview of book store. There are many new items this year. The hours are 11:00am to 1:00pm and 2:30 to 3:30pm.

Upcoming Events:

- Mother/Son Retreat-Monday and Tuesday October 2nd and 3rd at Dunroven retreat Center
- Get Acquainted Gathering and Harvest Mass and Meal Thursday- October 5th
- First Friday Eucharistic Adoration – Friday, October 6th in the school Chapel.
- Grandparents Day
 - Middle School – Monday, October 16th
 - High School – Tuesday, October 17th
- ISACS Event – provide food and such

Drawing Winners:

- Choice of a STA blanket or Mug- Annette Melin and Katie Triggs