

SAINT THOMAS ACADEMY MOTHERS' CLUB MEETING

Minutes for Tuesday, September 9, 2008

Opening:

Julie Brady welcomed everyone and introduced our guest speaker, Archbishop Flynn.

Guest Speaker:

Archbishop Flynn opened our meeting with a prayer and spoke to us about gratitude. He noted that culturally, we say “thank you” less and less, not always noticing those who do things for us and that our prevalent attitude is that what we have is ours, not given by God. He encouraged us to spend more time reflecting on what we have been given and giving thanks for all things. He reminded us that what we have is so much more than what we lack and that God never ceases to be good to us.

Presentations from Administration:

Dr. Thomas Mich, Headmaster, welcomed everyone and outlined the changes that have been made for the upcoming school year.

- Mr. Blankley's classroom is the new classroom created in Rongitsch Commons.
- Chinese has been added to the curriculum, thanks to the administration at Visitation.
- Mr. Steve Bjork is the new college counselor and he is implementing new college counseling software, Naviance.
- The lunch periods have been extended by five minutes, hoping to add some civility to lunch.
- Archbishop Flynn is the honorary chair of the new capital campaign. The capital campaign has a goal of forty million dollars to increase the endowment and scholarship fund, and to build a new math and science center, a student center and a swimming pool.

Mr. Mike Byrne, Assistant Headmaster, encouraged parents to encourage their sons to get involved in the many co-curricular activities available at school. He noted that this enables students to feel connected to school and is now an important part of a college application resume. Mr. Byrne also noted:

- The Homecoming Dance is Saturday, September 27 and there will be a flyer in the next all school mailing with details about the dance and activities during the week.
- Parent night is Monday, September 15, and schedules may be picked up in the cafeteria from 6:00 pm to 6:25 pm.
- Senior Parent Night is Monday, September 22, at 7:00 pm.
- Volunteer training is October 3. Please call the school office to register.

Mr. Mike Sjoberg, Dean of Students, discussed commonly asked questions about school, including:

- Cell phones may not be used from 8:00 am to 2:40 pm.
- Gym uniforms should be brought home to be washed!
- 90% of students have a MySpace or Facebook page and parents should monitor the use and content of such pages.
- Students, grades 9 through 12 may attend the disco mixer. Tickets are being pre-sold for the event this year.
- Athletic eligibility is dependent on students being at school on time and not violating the tobacco, alcohol and drug use policy.

Mr. Mike Fleischhacker, Director of Middle School, welcomed Middle School mothers and noted:

- Please label all belongings.
- LRD stands for Lunch Room Duty, where students help clean the cafeteria.
- Anne McQuillan is the new Assistant to the Director of the Middle School and will soon be sending a monthly Middle School email to parents.
- Friendship Day is approaching and is an opportunity for students to get to know each other better.

Committee/Activities Report (and Volunteer Opportunities).

- Diane Peterson, Membership Chair, introduced the new membership brochure, which members can use to make a financial donation and sign up for volunteer opportunities. There will be a gift basket drawing on Thursday evening for those who have signed up.
- Vicki Sheaffer, Parish Liaison Chair (St. Paul) explained the program and asked for volunteers. She would like one liaison for each parish.
- Jane Wolfgram is looking for an accompanist and Eucharistic Ministers for Mass. Please see Julie Brady if you are interested.

- Kathy Bendel, 9th Grade Rep, is planning a tailgating party for Saint Thomas and Visitation freshmen on Friday, October 10 at 5:30pm.
- Sarah Mealey, Eucharistic Adoration Chair, is looking for volunteers for Adoration on the first Friday of every month. Sign up sheets are available on the information table.
- Jennifer Weichert is looking for volunteers to clear and replant the garden areas outside the cafeteria, library and grotto. A sign up sheet is available on the information table.
- Sandy Ferrian encouraged mothers to support VISTA Fine Arts. Their first meeting is Thursday, September 25, at 3:00 pm at Visitation. They sponsor the Senior field trip to Penumbra for the Black Nativity and the Talent Show.

Reminders:

- Thursday, September 11, 2008 – Get Acquainted Gathering at Pool & Yacht Club. The evening begins for new mothers at 6:00 pm and for returning mothers at 7:00 pm.
- Wednesday, October 8, 2008 – Harvest Mass and Dinner. Mass is at 6:30 pm in the Chapel and dinner is at 7:30 pm in the Cafeteria.
- Tuesday, October 21, 2008 – Mothers’ Club Meeting 7:00 to 8:30 pm in the Multipurpose Room of the Media Center. Our guest speakers are Jan Baker and Susan Hoff of Baker-Hoff Educational Consultants.

Respectfully submitted,
 Mary Johnson
 Recording Secretary