

SAINT THOMAS ACADEMY MOTHERS' and FATHERS' CLUB MEETING

Minutes for Tuesday, November 17, 2009

Opening:

Susie Housh and Rich Chapman welcomed everyone and introduced Father Thomas O'Brien, Chris Ritten, and Ann Girres, all of whom had brief announcements.

Father O'Brien announced the December 12th Day of Reflection for the men of Saint Thomas Academy and encouraged all the men to attend the event. Chris Ritten, Director of Institutional Advancement, thanked everyone for their support of the Annual Fund and encouraged continued support to the fund. Ann Girres gave details of the Book Fair at the Eagan Barnes and Noble on December 12th and 13th. Coupons were available on the STA web-site and part of the proceeds from their use went to Saint Thomas Academy.

Susie Housh gave an open-hearted and appreciative welcome to the Guest Speakers, Dr. Kim and Dr. Jim Harms for generously coming to the Academy to share healing and reflective memories of their son Eric.

Guest Speakers:

Dr. Kim Harms, D.D.S. began by relating stories that revealed the character and person of Eric Harms. Evoking laughter and tears she humbly and honestly portrayed the exceptionally active, talented, and well-liked young man that Eric had undeniably become. She spoke of her continuing journey of healing and the immeasurable importance of her faith. Dr Harms expressed her gratitude to Saint Thomas Academy for their help in shaping Eric into the man he had become and for their continued support of the Harms family through their mutual grief and celebration of Eric's life. Dr. Kim Harms emphasized the utmost importance of education about depression and suicide. Dr. Harms hopes through understanding and education the stigma of suicide and depression will be eliminated and an urgent awareness will prevail to prevent further suicides.

Dr. Jim Harms, D.D.S. spoke softly of childhood memories of Eric. He detailed a couple of uncanny events in Eric's life that hinted at an exceptional future. Dr. Harms dug into the facts surrounding Eric's death in an attempt to understand the situation and prevent further tragedies. He also spoke of the importance of faith to himself and his entire family. Dr. Harms selflessly conveyed his intimate thoughts and feelings with an ardent desire to increase consciousness surrounding the entire scope of depression, suicide awareness and prevention.

Drs. Kim and Jim Harms followed up with a few questions and received a standing ovation.

On behalf of the STA community, **Susie Housh and Rich Chapman** thanked the Harms' for generously sharing their most intimate thoughts with the group.

Learn about suicide prevention at www.SAVE.org

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Pat FitzPatrick
Recording Secretary