



# NOTRE DAME

Preparatory High School

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## PARENT TEACHER STUDENT ORGANIZATION

### General Meeting

September 24, 2008

The meeting was called to order at 7:19 p.m. Approximately 30 people were in attendance. All were given copies of the agenda and mission statement.

#### I. Opening Prayer and Mission Statement – Betty Fritcke

- Betty Fritcke, president, read the opening prayer and stated that the mission of the PTSO is the same as that of the school and invited all present to read the mission statement with her.

#### II. President's Report – Betty Fritcke

- In her welcoming remarks, Betty reported that the purpose of the PTSO is to provide broader opportunities of participation for all NDP community members, and promote opportunity for dialogue among all the various parent and student groups on campus. It also advises the community of all policies and activities that impact Notre Dame Preparatory.

- Betty introduced the current Executive Board:

Co-Vice Presidents: Lora Drummond, Mothers' Guild and George Krueger, Booster Club. Juliana Brutsche is representing the Mothers' Guild tonight for Lora Drummond.

Faculty Representative and Student Activities Director: Brenda Beers

Principal: David Gonsalves

Secretary: Ellen Murphy

- Besides the Executive Board, the PTSO has a Leadership Advisory Committee, twelve individuals who represent faculty, staff, and leaders of Student Government and parent organizations.

#### III. Parent Organizations

- Mothers' Guild – Juliana Brutsche

Juliana welcomed everyone and encouraged mothers to join the Guild. They are thrilled that so many mothers of freshmen have joined. The next meeting will be at the Homestead at DC Ranch at 7:45 a.m. on October 22. One of the purposes of the Guild is to fundraise to support the faculty, staff and students. All of the many Guild committees are listed on the NDP website. Anyone interested in joining can contact Linda Nelson, who is in charge of membership.

- **Booster Club – George Krueger**

The purpose of the Booster Club is to support all athletic programs at the school and to report the accomplishments of the student athletes. All parents are encouraged to join. So far this year, 372 families have joined. 109 of them are new families of freshmen students.

The Purple & Gold Scrimmages of the varsity volleyball and football teams were very well attended. Over 1,000 people were fed between the volleyball and football scrimmages. The Booster Club hopes to do the same thing for the winter and spring sports.

Thanks to an increase in membership, there was money to build a regulation field for freshmen and JV games on the west side of the gym, thereby eliminating the need to rent fields for home games.

There will be a Homecoming Event on October 31 at the football game. Because it is also Halloween, there will be activities for young children before the game to encourage families to come and participate.

The Golf Tournament held on December 1 at Troon is the big fundraiser for the year. Everyone should have received a brochure about the tournament in the mail. Information is also on the website.

Each sport has a parent representative who acts as a liaison between the coach and the Booster Club. Each parent representative gives information to the Booster Club for submission in the weekly emails.

Check the NDP website for any information regarding sports and the Booster Club. There are links to help you find locations for games and information about each team.

- **Arts Angels – Diane Thomas**

Diane Thomas, vice-president of Arts Angels, reported that Arts Angels is a committee of parents, teachers, and alumni who work to support all the arts programs at NDP: Drama, Show Choir, Dance, Jazz Band, Guitar, Photography, Painting and Ceramics.

The focus this year is to nourish the existing programs. Show Choir is the most recent addition starting this fall with 18 students. Enthusiasm is growing. The Talent Show this year was sold out, and it had to be limited to 22 acts. This week the Drama, Guitar, Jazz Band, and Show Choir will perform during 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Day. The Gala on October 4 will showcase the art of NDP students. Auditions for the Drama Club's next performance on November 14 and 15 were held this week. A "Night of Music" will be held on October 25.

Every month a page of the Notre Dame newsletter will be devoted to the Arts at Notre Dame.

New members are encouraged to join. Meetings are held quarterly and there are no dues.

#### IV. Upcoming Events

- The Gala – Chris Mignella

October 4 at 6:30 p.m. is the Gala at NDP. Thirteen Valley chefs will be offering their special dishes. There will be cocktails, wine and dancing. Student art will be showcased and there is a chance to win a Mercedes Benz sports sedan. There will also be a prize drawing for one year's free tuition or \$5,000. This is meant to bring the whole NDP community together to be a "funraiser" not a fundraiser.

#### V. Navigating Notre Dame

- Parent's Perspective – Sara Zeumer

Edline is a valuable tool that keeps parents informed about their student's activities and grades without being in their student's face. Parents receive weekly email reminders to let them know that grades have been updated on Edline. It can be used as a positive experience to congratulate your student on a job well done. The Home page has news on one side with links to activities, attendance policy, college scholarships, and updates from the nurse's office, and even a link to the Bible on line. There is a lot of valuable information on Edline that may not be posted elsewhere. If you have any questions about accessing your Edline account, contact Maggie Duffy at [mduffy@notredamepreparatory.org](mailto:mduffy@notredamepreparatory.org).

- Sister's Perspective – Sr. Yolanda Mendoza

Christian Service is a way of life; it is what good people do. At Notre Dame our Expected School-Wide Learning Results are Reverence, Respect, and Responsibility. Catholic schools promote service to teach our children to care for others, to be good stewards of this earth. If students serve now, then service becomes a habit throughout their lives. When we help others the world will be a better place.

Students need 125 hours of approved Christian Service to graduate from NDP. Twenty hours are expected from each freshman; twenty-five from each sophomore; thirty from each junior; fifty from each senior. The number of hours is meaningful and manageable.

Students took home packets that covered all requirements, the dates, an example of a Christian Service form and ideas for approved service. There were clear expectations that had to be signed by student and parent. Christian Service forms are always available outside Sr. Yolanda's door in the Guidance Office.

Eventually all hours that a student has served will be posted on Edline. Sister is hoping that it is up and running by October.

Parents are encouraged to check the NDP website and click on "From the Heart," a Mothers' Guild committee of parents who organize and transport students to approved service projects. "From the Heart's" intent is to coordinate students' community service with various meaningful projects so that they will truly be serving "from the heart."

Sister Yolanda asks all parents to watch the website for deadlines and help their students to complete their service. Students in sports are asked to check the "From the Heart" list of service projects soon after their season ends. Ask your students what they have learned by their activities. It is important that they give feedback. It's great if parents join their students in serving others, because students learn best by example.

Liturgy Committee meets every Wednesday after school to plan the school masses. Parents are asked to encourage their student to help at mass if they are musicians, lectors and singers.

The Rosary is prayed every Wednesday at 8:00 a.m. in the Chapel.

Sister is best reached by email at [ymendoza@notredamepreparatory.org](mailto:ymendoza@notredamepreparatory.org).

Betty added that service is an integral part of this school. Our responsibility as parents is to ensure that our students become better people. Service is just as important as academic achievements.

- **Principal's Perspective – David Gonsalves**

The NDP Handbook is put together in the spring of every year and input comes from various groups: faculty, staff, administration, and parent organizations. The Calendar is put together by coordinating with many of those same organizations who help put the handbook together. It is printed after May.

Fines were not started to be a money maker for the school, but each year \$12,000 - \$15,000 is collected from fines for various infractions of rules, namely gum chewing and uniform violations. The money is split amongst five groups:

Student Government, freshmen class, sophomore class, junior class, and senior class. The fines were initially set to teach responsibility. Warnings are given the first week of school. All students know what's expected. If they choose to violate the stated rules, the consequences are listed in the handbook.

Drug testing is done randomly and also for cause. The testing is done to ensure the safety of the students. When NDP started drug testing a few years ago, it was one of two schools testing in the U.S. Now there are over 600 schools testing for drugs. Every test is sent to the lab. This year one in every eight tests will be from hair samples. The rest are urine samples. If a student refuses to take a test or skews a test, the student is asked to withdraw.

A student, who is tested positively with an otherwise clean record at school, is asked to have a family assessment and attend a minimum of six sessions with a treatment specialist. Each session is three hours long. The number of sessions may be increased. If a family refuses the treatment sessions, the student is asked to withdraw. The only people at school who know if a student tested positively are the nurse, the dean, the student's guidance counselor, and Mary Ellen Anderson who works with the family and the treatment center. If anyone else knows it's because the student told them. If a student tests positively a second time, they are asked to withdraw.

Drug and alcohol awareness nights are required for all parents of seniors and parents of any student attending prom.

- Student's Perspective – Brenda Beers

Brenda Beers, Student Activities Director, introduced two seniors, Katherine Fritcke and Jessica Maxwell.

Jessica talked about the importance of getting involved in high school sports and activities from the time a student is a freshman. Involvement is not only good for college applications but helps develop the person into a well-rounded individual. Jessica said that involvement also makes high school more fun, and it should be fun!

Katherine is involved in Student Government and started as a junior. Her only regret is that she did not start earlier, so she encouraged her sister to get involved as a freshman. Katherine said the Club Fair was held on campus today and there were activities to appeal to a wide variety of interests: art, service, sports, academic, and student life. Katherine asked parents to ask their student if they signed up for anything. Even if a parent has a senior, Katherine asked them to encourage their seniors to become involved. It's never too late.

## VI. "All About Notre Dame" – David Gonsalves

- Principal's report

1. Traffic – The City of Scottsdale and the AZ Dept. of Public Safety were at school to observe the driving patterns of parents and students. They will make recommendations to the school.
2. Portables – The portables that are on the site of the old tennis courts will be open in the next few weeks once the final work is completed. They will house the students taking study halls and be equipped with computer labs.
3. Answers to submitted questions:
  - a. Can there be a card system for lunch payments?
    - With our small cafeteria, it's not such a good idea. Students lose cards or someone else uses them. In the future if the cafeteria space improves, the card approach may be considered.
  - b. So many students take sports. Could a student get a credit for taking a sport and not have to take a P.E. class?
    - The state mandates that P.E. classes be taken during the school day, so after-school sports cannot serve as a P.E. class and cannot earn a credit.
  - c. The tennis courts are gone for good. The courts now house the portables. The old courts were used for P.E. classes, but seven courts are needed for tennis practices and games. Tennis teams go off campus to practice and compete.

Ideas, suggestions and questions can be submitted to:

[ndpptso@notredamepreparatory.org](mailto:ndpptso@notredamepreparatory.org)

Betty Fritcke thanked all parents who came and asked that they bring a friend for the next meeting which will be held at the Cafeteria on October 22 at 6:45 p.m

The meeting was adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Submitted by,

Ellen Murphy, secretary