

**NORWOOD FONTBONNE ACADEMY
PARENTS ASSOCIATION
GENERAL MEETING
MARCH 10, 2009**

Welcome/Opening Remarks: Regina Forrence, President of NFAPA, offered prayer and a welcome to all parents in attendance. Regina highlights a few of the recent happenings at Norwood: Snowball, Quizzo and Father/Son Mass and Lunch.

Razzmatazz: Kim Cwietniewicz and Meredith Smalley are co-chairs of this exciting auction set for the 2009-2010 school year. The theme will be Casino Night; not as big an auction. Still featuring class gifts, raffles, live and silent auctions, great food and fun. Kim and Meredith are beginning their work this school year to ensure the event's success. They look forward to working with many parent volunteers and invite your queries, time and talents. There is a job for everyone!! They can be reached at cwietneiwi@aol.com and mmkrebs@comcast.net.

Events/Activities Update: Paula Riley delighted all with a presentation that inventoried the many events sponsored by the NFAPA, and stepped through the many benefits to volunteering for this thriving and active Parents' Association. The Highlights: Staff Appreciation Luncheons, Homeroom Contact Parents, Tuition Raffle, Hospitality, Parent Business Directory, NFAPA Website, VCF Communication Folder, Family Fun Night, Networking Night, Clothesline, Scrip, Spring Plant Sale, Market Day, to name a few. Paula encourages the parent body to get involved in this energetic NFAPA to build community, support each other and each other's efforts and to serve others.

The VCF is updated every Wednesday. Paula reviewed the advantages to using the VCF, which include taking care of the environment and staying informed about the events and happenings in the school community and your child's classroom. There is now an icon on the home page to make available the e-mail address of folks you need to contact. The on-line store offers tickets, plants, your order history, so much more, and paying by Pay-Pal is now available. Visit today!

NFAPA Service Recognition: Regina thanked many parents who give freely and generously of their time and talents to the NFAPA; namely, Sandy Stabler, Lynn Dowds, Maggie Bruce and Inge Hamilton.

SCRIP: Patty Hinchey creatively reveals her expansive use of Scrip cards in her presentation of *A Day in the Life*. In one busy day, Patty manages to use cards to all her favorite stops....Sunoco for gas, WaWa for milk, Acme to food shop, Kohl's to pay a bill, Borders for iTunes, Dick's for basketball shoes, and finally Panera's, for a prepared dinner! Dr. Slawek, an NFA parent, offers his services at a discount to students. The Chestnut Hill Business Association gives NFA 10%! Spend \$100 every week of the school year, and you will receive a \$60 rebate!

Nominations/Slate of Candidates for '09-'10: Jackie Woolley reports the Executive Board is full, but Jackie is happy to take nominations tonight for any vacant spots for committees, chair or co-chairs; volunteers are always needed and welcome. Kim

C. is President-Elect for '09; President of NFAPA for '10-'11. Valarie Cofield will take the remainder of Kim's term as publicity coordinator. Parent-at-Large positions are as follows: Pre-school and K, Tasha Giavannone; Grades 1-3, Kelly Anne Cilio; Grades 4-6, Carolyn Bjornson; Grades 7-8, Denise Cilio. Second year for two-year term positions will be underway next year. Jackie will take the name of anyone interested in performing a role on the Board.

Campus Beautification: Dave Cananaugh outlines four spring projects in the works. They're easy, tangible and fun! 400 bricks have been sold to be installed on the Upper Campus outside the entrance to James Anthony Hall over Easter break. Stephanie will still take an order tonight to ensure your family name on a brick!

A grant from Earthforce will help bring to life an outdoor classroom with benches and blackboard for our 8th grade students. Dave will work with the kids to come up with a planting scheme and have the children install it, check the sun at various times in the day, how the plants are growing.

Earth Day, April 22nd, a few areas of need and interest will be addressed by students and parents who would like to help. Blessed Mother statue needs attention, clean wrought iron fence, entrances to the Lower Campus and Upper Campus needs tending. Sign up to help on Wednesday, April 22nd or Saturday, April 25th.

The Wish List: Sr. Marjorie's pond, a walking trail, lighting, parking (function as well as beautification), playground equipment to be replaced, add new equipment and in a better location. Budget needs to be looked at. Mrs. Croney would like a window hothouse or outdoor hothouse, sundial.

Perspectives on Body Image: Joanna Creamer, a member of A Chance to Heal, has traveled around the country talking to experts about the critical issue of body image impacting our youth. She asks that we look to her as a resource in disordered eating. Our society has a debilitating obsession with thinness. Parents sometimes model inappropriate behavior for our children that is harmful. Media encourages us to spend money getting thin. Boys, as well as girls, now suffer with weight issues. Boys are now the largest population suffering from eating disorders. 80% of ten-year-olds fear being fat. 60% of high school girls are on a diet. Elementary school children wish they were thinner. Children interviewed about weight would rather suffer a natural disaster than be overweight. How children feel about themselves leads to a happier, more productive life. Joanna wishes to get a dialogue going, self awareness among parents, educators, religious leaders, anyone that influences the age group between 4th – 12th grades to interrupt the internalization process for children, have them be media savvy in not accepting what they see and hear. Joanna provided handouts, fact sheets, task force sign-up sheet for those among the parent body who wishes to dialogue about how to tackle this issue at Norwood. Are we ready to begin this discussion next year, in two years? Joanna thanks the administration for their willingness to take up this challenge. Joanna closes with the desire to empower our children to have an appetite for life.

Norwood-Fontbonne Academy Principals' Update: (Get Sr. Jean's report)

George Aspen: Mr. Aspen highlights the financial piece of his work. Working hard, diligently, to have a modest tuition increase for these economic times and our families. Finance committee projects budget for '09-'10 to make prudent choices with our resources, protect those resources. Commitment to pass as little to the families. If you have a financial struggle, Mr. Aspen will be happy to speak with you to do as much as he can for a solution that is mutually satisfying for the school and parent. Trying to research ways to support parents and meet the financial commitment to the school. Financial aid, BLOCS, Business Leaders Organized for Catholic Schools, tax credit, tapping into donations for '09-'10. Opportunity now, as in the past, Philadelphia Children's Scholarship Program for Philadelphia residents.

Facilities piece: Working on landscaping, maintaining summer grounds. JA Hall gymnasium to be painted to blend color schemes. Our children are in a safe environment. Background checks for all employees. Adament about supervision, locked doors. Older children sometimes don't understand the limits on the campus. Safety is number one. ESF camp? Will it come back? Campus needs a pool to run a camp. The goal is to have the camp return for Summer 2010. Mr. Aspen has shopped through the VCF! He bought a onesie for his future grandchild!

Development: Stephanie Belzer, Director of Development, reports a \$300,000 goal for the Annual Appeal. Participation rates among faculty/staff and parent body; 26% and 18%, respectively. Participation is a MUST for donors to gift us. Give any amount, just GIVE! Dollar amounts are not shared with potential donors, just that the internal groups are participating. Capital Campaign is still raising money. Raised 2.6 million. Still need a million more. Earthforce grant to 8th grade, \$250. Quizzo Game Night, successful and fun. Will be an annual event. Saturday, April 18th, Alumni Family Reunion. Monday, April 20th, Grandfriends Day for 6th grade students and their grandparents. Alum ambassadors are trying to find alums. EITC. If you own a business, seven tax plan, payment put in the EITC fund. Charitable donation. Giving options on-line, click on EITC. Forms are on-line. Tax payment is in the program. Earmark money, taxes you would have paid, you make your donation to Norwood. Seven different funds, state taxes, then you can participate. Contact Stephanie Belzer for further questions.

Closing: Sr. Jean is privileged to share the podium with such passionate people. Regina is happy to serve this vibrant NFAPA. Thanks to all in attendance.