



THE DE LA SALLE *Dispatch*

23 March 2007

Upcoming Events

The De La Salle School 2007 Spring Gala

Friday – 11 May 2007

Invitations in the mail soon!

Tidings From Brother Thomas

This week's Director's Advisory Council meeting saw eight of our students assembled with nine benefactors and members of the local business, educational, and professional community. During the first part of the meeting our students presented lessons in the ecology of a taiga, a statistical report on a recent football game, an explanation of the native habitat of the Plains Indians, and an account of the Trojan War. Students shared some of their challenges and lessons learned in completing these assignments – how to work as a team, how to pay for project supplies (without asking Mom or Dad for money), how to coordinate schedules and meet deadlines, etc. They also shared some of the benefits – “I didn't know Juan and Alxis that well before we worked together,” noted eighth-grader Chris Collado. “Now we've all been to each others homes and we're much better friends!”

Following the students' presentations, the Council shared some ideas of their own – offering advice and guidance on a number of topics such as how to improve student and teacher motivation; ways to reach out to the local communities for new students, volunteers, and donors; and strategies for procuring tuition assistance for alumni who attend Catholic high schools.

These semi-annual meetings provide a venue for brain-storming and long-range planning from a diverse and talented group of friends of The De La Salle School.

WORD OF THE WEEK

obsolete – *out of date* (14 March)

relent – *to become less harsh or strict* (21 March)

De La Salle Students Going to Law School!

Seven of our students are participating in the 2007 Catholic Middle School Mock Trial program. Hosted by St. Brigid/Our Lady of Hope Regional School and St. John's University School of Law, this program provides students with an invaluable educational opportunity to learn about the legal system, develop analytical and reasoning skills, practice public speaking, and build self-confidence. This year's case, *People v. Pat C. Macintosh*, involves alleged cyber stalking at an upstate college. Our students will "role play" as the prosecution's witnesses and attorneys.

Mrs. Susan Bevilacqua, an attorney and De La Salle School volunteer tutor and benefactor, is assisting the students. "We needed an attorney to moderate our team," noted Principal Roseann Petruccio. "We were so fortunate to have Mrs. Bevilacqua offer her expertise. Working with St. John's University law school student Ms. Kate McGauley, our fabulous De La Salle School team meets twice a week preparing for the upcoming 12 May 2007 presentation."

Excitement is running high with this group of motivated and engaged students as can be evidenced by eighth-grader Ricardo's question, "Why can't we practice on Saturdays?"

Twenty-four Steps to "Gentleman of the Week"

3. Be welcoming

4. Listen

Sponsorship Update

The De La Salle School Student Sponsorship Program is progressing well. To date, 33 sponsorships are in place for the academic year 2006-2007 and we are most grateful to these generous donors. The ultimate goal is to secure an annual sponsorship for each of our fifty-two students. Please contact the Development Office with names of individuals, groups, or foundations you think might consider investing in our students. Also, we welcome any fund raising suggestions you might have.

Published by Abbie Hattauer, The De La Salle School Director of Development

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