



THE DE LA SALLE *Dispatch*

9 March 2007

Upcoming Events

Director's Advisory Council Meeting

Tuesday, 20 March 2007, 4:30 to 6:00 PM, Assembly Room

On the agenda – a report from several students on current academic projects, followed by a conversation about successful professional and student motivation techniques.

Tidings From Brother Thomas

It was summer 2003. The second cohort of youngsters was about to enroll in The De La Salle School. We wanted them to feel welcome and we wanted them to understand our expectations. Who best to turn to for guidance than the pioneering group of young men who had just concluded our school's first year!

On an August evening that first class convened...the promise of pizza prompted good attendance. We challenged those youngsters to reflect on their experience and to assume some leadership. We asked them to define what exactly made a "De La Salle Gentleman." We sought a list of characteristics we could share with the incoming students to help them fit in as new members of the school community. After a brainstorming exercise and subsequent discussion and refinement, a list was generated. The items appeared in random order but this foundation document remains a vital touchstone to a young man's development at The De La Salle School. In fact, each Friday, when a new "Gentleman of the Week" is chosen by our professional staff, the words of our first students guide our choice. This issue of THE DE LA SALLE *Dispatch* initiates a presentation of the two dozen characteristics the students compiled.

WORD OF THE WEEK

eulogize – *expressing highest praise* (28 February)

mandatory – *required or commanded* (7 March)

In a Perfect World

Miss Eileen Madigan, our English Language Arts teacher, recently asked her sixth-grade students to describe what a perfect world would be like. Here's what Abraham wrote:

“In a perfect world people don't fight, or do bad things. People help each other. They try to cooperate. They care about each other. People don't call each other names or steal. That's a perfect world for me, everyone helping and loving. No fighting, just caring and loving.”

Lenten Offering

As part of our on-going lesson in philanthropy, The De La Salle School population is observing the Lenten practice of almsgiving by remembering our Lasallian twin, Mwangaza College, in Nakuru, Kenya. This school teaches impoverished students academic fundamentals as well as vocational skills such as sewing, construction, farming, mechanics, typing, etc. Last year's collection for Mwangaza College raised more than \$650. “It is our hope that this year we will surpass that and reach \$700,” advised Brother Richard Lalime, religion and music teacher and daily ‘cheerleader’ of this project. “What better way to observe a holy Lent than by helping to provide for our Lasallian brothers and sisters in Africa!

Twenty-four Steps to “Gentleman of the Week”

1. Be kind and helpful.
2. Respect people and property.