



# *We Are Better Together!*

*Transition News & Notes - Vol. II*  
*February 5, 2010*



## *Parent Meetings – January 31, 2010*

Thank you to those who attended the second set of parent meetings at Precious Blood Catholic Church. This newsletter is a second in a series of newsletters to keep you informed as we progress toward the consolidation of our new school.

As with the first parent meeting, Father Bill began with prayer and then gave a brief overview of the history that brought Precious Blood and St. Rita Schools to work together. Small groups were created and given a chance to talk about the same topics as the prior parent meeting. The comments are stated below. The goal is to use these questions to guide our work as we begin the task ahead of us.

As of this week, work groups for the consolidation have been formed in the areas of Faith, Academics, Human Resources, Finance/Facilities and Support for Families, Students, and Staff. The members of these groups will meet on February 10<sup>th</sup> to begin working on details of the newly consolidated school for next year.

After consultation between Father Bill and Mrs. Murphy, the position of Assistant Principal was offered to Mrs. Annette Dodsworth. Annette is an excellent Assistant Principal at Precious Blood, she is very respected among parents, colleagues, and parishioners. We are excited to report that Annette Dodsworth has accepted the position of Vice Principal for our school next year. Please join us in congratulating her

*Statements recorded below come from individuals and may or may not reflect the consensus of the group.*

## *Small Group Notes:*

### *1) What are the benefits of bringing our two schools together by consolidating?*

#### **Benefits:**

- Financial benefit
- Bringing the best of both schools together
- Increased Catholic presence
- Keep Catholic schools open
- Building community within pastoral region
- Combining strengths can only improve quality Catholic education for parents who choose
- Unexpected blessings that we will see as we go through the process
- More students will bring more opportunities
- More stability
- All day Kindergarten
- Possible new programs
- Tuition cost down for some
- Better preparation for high school
- Alumni from CJ praises students from both schools
- Different ideas and disciplines will be merging

## 2) *What are the questions and concerns of consolidating?*

### Questions:

- How will staffing be determined?
- Will there be an expanded faculty to compensate for more students?
- What will the school name be? Logo? Colors?
- Will the school be able to take special needs students?
- Uniforms? Will there be a transition?
- What will happen to St.Rita's building?
- Religious Curriculum?
- Will there be a cap on the number of non-Catholic students?
- What will the new curriculum be?
- Will there be enough space?
- Who will decide textbooks? Will there be enough?
- Will all students from both schools be accepted?
- What if we can not fit every student? Will there be priorities of acceptance?
- Will parents be on the staff selection group?
- Will there be more parental involvement in this process?
- Will parents have more information on decisions prior to March 3<sup>rd</sup> registration deadline?
- Should a survey be sent out to determine approximate number of students?
- What are the children's feelings?
- Will the STEP program stay?
- Student/Teacher ratio?
- Will the school hours change?
- How will the discipline policies be combined?
- What will both schools bring to the academic table? (math, science etc...)
- What traditions will be kept?
- Will there be events to help students to meet one another?
- Will the meal assistance program continue?
- Will there be screening for new students?
- When will parents be notified of acceptance?
- How far in advance did the parish forecast

### Concerns:

- Class size
- Enough room for students
- More communication
- Additional needs
- What will the uniform be
- Timely process
- Answers before committing
- Information direct to parents
- Individual attention for students
- Expand Technology
- Discipline and school rules
- Update computer lab
- New students welcomed
- Number of classes per grade
- Positive future for PB
- Negative impact on students
- Adjustment concerns for students
- Student orientation prior to start
- Cost of change in uniform
- Will registration guarantee a spot?
- Affect the support staff
- Volunteer requirement

At the end of the meeting, Mrs. Murphy gave some answers to the above questions.

- All staffs at both schools are required to apply for positions at the newly consolidated school. The Archdiocese was consulted and it was determined that this was the most legal and fair way to address the staffing for the new school. The staff will be interviewed by Veronica Murphy, Joe Hurr, Fr. Ed Pratt, and Sherry Gabert.
- We will try to hold class size to no larger than 25 (a few less will be preferable).
- It is believed that more space will be needed for the larger student body. Currently, there are 3 rooms that are currently under utilized on the PB campus. These rooms will be used and perhaps a modular will have to be rented to accommodate larger number of students.

