

FENWICK MOTHERS CLUB

Tuesday, September 10, 2019
Lunch – Noon, Meeting – 12:30pm

1. CALL TO ORDER

- A. Opening Prayer –Father Richard Peddicord –New FMC Moderator
Father Peddicord welcomed all the mothers in attendance, with a special welcome to the Freshman mothers. He realizes he has some “big shoes to fill” as the new FMC moderator. Father Dennis Woerter (previous moderator) sends his regard from Indiana. Father Dennis’ health is on a very positive track. We will keep him in our prayers. Father Peddicord then led the group in the Mother’s Prayer.

2. INTRODUCTION

- A. Jane Gaffigan introduced herself. Jane is the FMC President for 2019-20.
- B. Jane also introduced the 2019-2020 Executive Board:
Debi Seligmann – President Elect
Maggie McGarel – Treasurer
Jane Walsh – Vice President
Jenny Prangle – Recording Secretary
Janet Waring – Corresponding Secretary
- C. Jane welcomed all the mothers, with a special welcome to the Freshman mothers, to the first FMC meeting of the year. Jane encouraged all to attend the monthly meetings. The variety of speakers alone certainly make attending the meetings worthwhile. Jane invited all to get involved in FMC. She encouraged all to sign up for as many committees as possible to get involved.
- D. News regarding FMC comes out every Monday and Thursday in the weekly Fenwick Bulletin. Scroll to the bottom for the FMC news.
- E. Jane encouraged all to join the FMC. This can be done via the Fenwick website, or even at today’s meeting. Evites and tickets to MC events, such as Oktoberfest and Black & White event, can also be purchased on the website.

3. MR. RICHARD BORSCH -- Director of College Counseling

- Mr. Borsch had a prior commitment in a Theology classroom, so he made his remarks earlier in the program. Both he and Emily Anderson (Senior counselor) are the college counselors for the Class of 2020. Emily Anderson

took over Laura Docherty's role. Ms. Docherty left FHS over the summer. Ms. Anderson has been an excellent addition to the college process team. Both Mr. Borsch and Ms. Anderson are assisting the seniors and writing recommendation letters. The seniors have received an outline regarding the college application process (ie, expectations; what needs to be completed for college applications; scholarship information; SAT/ACT dates, etc.). Over 200 college representatives will be at Fenwick from now until November. Seniors should check out Naviance for a list of who is coming to FHS. Dr. Quaid will address additional senior/college issues in his remarks.

4. FATHER WINKELS – Associate Director of Technology Services
Father Winkels teaches Studio Arts and is the Associate Director of Technology Services. Due to a prior commitment, Father Winkels also addressed the FMC earlier in the meeting. Father Winkels discussed CIPA – Children's Internet Protection Act. CIPA is required for schools and libraries to protect children, who go on the internet while at school. FHS is CIPA compliant. The internet is filtered at FHS. Email is also monitored by a service to prevent bullying. All Freshman must complete their Digital Citizenship. This program outlines how students must act online to have "good citizenship" online. Father Winkels encouraged parents to discuss internet safety with their children. All students should have good, strong passwords. Students should not share their personal information with others.

5. OLD BUSINESS
 - A. Treasurer's Report – Maggie McGarel
FMC dues are down a bit. Please encourage your friend's to join FMC and to pay their due. Anyone who would like to join today, can do so. Credit card payment is available.

 - B. Thank You – Acknowledgements –Jane Walsh thanked the following individuals for their time and talents given at recent events:
 1. Last year's Senior Mass and Brunch – Jane Walsh, Meg Breslin, Melanie Domke and Melissa Vrdolyak
 2. Last year's Post Prom – Janet Waring, Colleen Ehrhardt, Jennifer Dowd, Leslie Shearer-Meretsky and Cathy Dolsen
 3. Directory –Kerri Sedlack and Katie Filbin. Extra directories are available for purchase. Directories will also be for sale on Mini Class Night, across from the Friar Shop.
 4. Uniform Resale – Heather O'Bryan and Amanda Miller. This committee will be looking for uniforms for resale at the end of May and early June.
 5. Faculty Welcome Luncheon – Jennifer Polston, Peg Donnelly and Melissa Burns
 6. Freshman Welcome Coffee –Laura Jachim, Lina Velliotis, Michele Chudik and Joanne Scarlatis

6. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Freshman Liason Chairs – Nancy McNamara and Kerry Wood
All freshman parents will be contacted by a committee member.
This is a great resource for all new parents to FHS.

- B. Oktoberfest – 9/21/19 at Riverside Golf Club
Jenny Jones, Debbie Hultquist and Melanie Domke are the chairs. German food and a 9-piece German band will be at this very fun event. Jenny Jones encouraged wearing festive German costumes. There will be a prize for the best costume. This event is co-hosted by the FMC and FFC. This is an adults-only event. \$100 raffle tickets are available for the Peleton bike. Come see Father Peddicord ride the Peleton bike at Oktoberfest! Come meet new Fenwick parents!

- C. Black & White Shopping Night – 10/23/19 at 7pm at FHS
Cara Panares Pietrzak, Lauren Kapusta, Vicki Bennett, Dori Schleiter and Amy Miller are the chairs. Tickets are available on the FMC website. Tickets are \$21 in advance and includes one raffle ticket. \$25 tickets at the door. Vendors are being secured, along with many new ones. Great variety of items will be sold. Bring your friends for a very fun night of shopping.

- D. OutReach – Janet Waring
Janet spoke about the FMC Prayer Chain, and how prayers are offered for those in need. If you would like to be added to the Prayer Chain or want prayers said, please contact Janet Waring. Janet also mentioned that a Retreat will be held on February 13 at Visitation Church from 8:30am-noon. Father Peddicord will lead the Retreat.

- E. Hospitality – Carol Fox, Merrillee Lepore and Connie Sullivan
Jane thanked the Mothers' Club Board for providing today's lunch. Volunteers and donations are needed for future meetings. Sign-up sheets are available, so please volunteer. You can volunteer for a specific item on a specific date or provide your name to be contacted for last minute needs. Thank you!

- F. Giftware – Tina Hutchinson and Nicole Yungerman
Fenwick giftware is available at all FMC meetings, the Black & White Shopping Night and FMC Christmas Mass. New silicon cups with the Fenwick shield are a new top seller. Come shop with the "Giftware Ladies Supreme"!!

- G. Christmas Mass & Luncheon – 12/5/19 at Oak Park Country Club
Elly Frymire and Jane Walsh are the chairs. This lovely event is a wonderful way to celebrate the season with your MC friends.

- H. Faculty Christmas Luncheon – 12/20/19 at FHS
Ana Dimailig, Margaret Murphy, Felicia Nelson, Amy Rogowski and Debbie Turner are the chairs and committee. This event is held on the last day before Christmas Break. It is greatly enjoyed by the FHS faculty and staff. Raffle basket items will be needed. Please consider volunteering or donating an item.
- I. Faculty Staff Appreciation Fund – Tina Dillon & Jodi Darrow
Jane welcomed these two ladies as past FMC past Presidents, and thanked them for their time and efforts in chairing this important and greatly appreciated fund.
- J. Fashion Show and Dinner – 3/12/20 at Drury Lane
Pam Malchow, Molly Morrissey, Caroline Prabhu, Donna Coffey, Julie Gies, Rita Fioravanti and Susan Reagan are the chairs and committee. This year's theme is the Roaring 20's.

7. SPEAKERS

- A. Father Richard Peddicord
 - 1. Father Peddicord talked about the 90th Anniversary of Fenwick HS. During lunch, 23 birthday cakes were enjoyed by the staff and students. At the all school celebratory mass, there will be a good contingent of Dominican Friars in attendance. In fact, Father LaPata and Father O'Malley were classmates from the Fenwick class of 1950. Father O'Malley is 87 yrs young and is legally blind. Both reside at St. Vincent Ferrar. Father LaPata "shepherds" Father O'Malley. Hence, they remain "Friars for life". Here at FHS, life long friendships are most certainly the norm.
 - 2. Father Peddicord is teaching a Theology class, so he will be here for Mini Class Night to meet and greet parents. Father Peddicord thanked Mr. Groom for putting him back in the classroom in 2019. He taught 14 students 11th period! That class was by far the best teaching experience of his life. Now for his current class, Father Peddicord has 32 students, 1st period! Father Peddicord thanked the FMC Administration for all they do at FHS. It will be an excellent year! He ended his remarks with a sales pitch – "Buy that Peloton bike!"
- B. Mr. Peter Groom – Principal
 - 1. Over the years, Mr. Groom has moved from a teaching role to a school administrator. It is much easier to be in the classroom!
 - 2. Mr. Groom indicated current enrollment is 1135 students. The freshman class has 295 students. A new freshman program was recently introduced – The Shield Program. The transition into freshman year is typically a difficult one. The Shield Program was implemented to get the freshman more comfortable in the Fenwick

environment. Mary Visteen and Erin Power, along with Dr. Quaid, have rolled out this one year program. Basically, upperclassmen monitor and engage a small group of freshman. Thus far, the Shield Program has been well received.

3. On 9/16, all freshman and sophomores will attend the Club Fair in the gym. Great opportunity to check out the many clubs offered at FHS.
 4. Homecoming is 10/5. All dancing must be appropriate. No mosh pit dancing allowed.
 5. There are several new courses this year, including:
 - A. AP Psychology (5 full sections)
 - B. Music Appreciation (old Fine Arts course)
 - C. History of Chicago --Ms. Magrady and Mr. Groom taught this summer course. Consideration is being given to making it a semester course to be rolled into the Civics requirement.
 - D. FHS is exploring adding Mandarin. Ms. Shana Wang is working with the Foreign Language Department in that regard.
 - E. Room 57 is now a STEM facility, focused on engineering and computer science
 6. There are several new faculty members including, Mary Ann Korosa (graduate of Fenwick's 1st co-ed class), Andrew Zelm, Terry O'Rourke (English), Dan O'Keefe (Social Studies), Jim Segredo (frosh counselor) and Dan Conlin (chemistry). There are now 5 licensed engineers on staff.
- C. Nancy Buffalino –Chief Operating Officer
1. As COO, Ms. Buffalino is responsible for many of the daily aspects of FHS. Such areas include financial aid, information technology, operations (maintenance, transportation and security), human resources (all employees compliance with Protecting God's Children), etc. Security is taken very seriously at FHS. Jerry Ruffino is the school's hands-on security officer.
 2. There was much discussion regarding the construction of the new 6 level parking garage and the limited street parking for the Fenwick students. The garage should be completed in 10 months. Many mothers voiced frustration with the limited student parking. Students cannot find legal parking, and are late for school. Many students have already incurred hundred's of dollars worth of parking tickets. Fenwick students are becoming a "money maker" for Oak Park. 120 hang tags were sold to the FHS students. The Village of Oak Park has indicated that 265 parking spots are available for drivers with the hang tag. However, parent Erin Bennington has physically driven and counted all legal spots, and found a significant discrepancy with the number noted on the village's website. Ms. Bennington will continue to pursue clarification with the Village. Ms. Buffalino stated that the previously leased Madison vacant lot was not a viable parking option because the Village is parking their construction vehicles in that lot

during the renovation of Madison Ave. Ms. Buffalino promised to also check with the Village as regarding the true number of legal parking spaces.

- D. Mr. Chris Ritten –Vice President of Institutional Advancement
Mr. Ritten assured the audience that the new parking garage (300-350 spaces) will most certainly alleviate any parking issues in the near future. The 3D printed model of the fabulous master plan of the new Fenwick facilities (dining hall, student union, entryway, etc.) is on display in the atrium. This extensive project will be completed by 2029. Mr. Ritten is responsible for marketing, fundraising, alumni relations, etc. at Fenwick. Mr. Ritten will address annual parent giving at Mini Class Night.
- E. Mr. Scott Hardesty –Development/Director of Marketing and Mark Vruno –Development/Media Content Manager
This department’s main focus is to “tell the Fenwick story”. This is done via the FHS website, emails, weekly bulletins, and social media. The website specifically has a Marketing/Communications section. Student, faculty and alumni achievements are highlighted.
- F. Dr. James Quaid –Director of student Services& Enrollment Management
1. This is Dr. Quaid’s 38th year in education, having worked at 3 other schools besides Fenwick. His department focuses on attendance, discipline and counseling.
 2. The Shield Program is a new program involving team building workshops and mentoring with the current freshman class. It was implemented at freshman orientation. Overall, the Shield Program has been well received, and is of great benefit to the students. Student Services is also working closely with the Campus Ministry. 9/23 is the freshman retreat.
 3. Parents are the primary educators of the children. FHS is working hard with the teachers to communicate with parents better.
 4. Enrollment: There are 295 freshmen. Maximum admitted is 300. There was an increase in entrance exam test takers from the prior year: 457 to 515.
 5. Social worker, Sandra Montes, has been hired to assist the students. Kyle Kmiecik continues in his role as Learning Resource coordinator.
 6. The capital campaign project was not implemented to grow student enrollment. Rather, the goal is to sustain excellent outcomes by providing the best facilities in conjunction with excellent academics.
- G. Class Counselors
1. Mr. Jim Segredo – Class of 2023
Mr. Segredo is the new freshman counselor. He will be with this class for the next 4 years. He previously was a college counselor at DeLaSalle HS. His motto is “students come first!” The freshmen have

received academic goal packets. Obviously, the long term goal is getting into college. Each student has set specific goals, and Mr. Segredo will assist them in achieving and breaking the goals down. He wants the freshman to have a fantastic first year. Freshman can see him by making an appointment on the sign-in sheet. Mr. Segredo is a visual presence in the hallways. He is there if the students need him.

2. Ms. Mary Visteen – Class of 2022

Ms. Visteen is the sophomore counselor. The sophomores have been given a career interest profiler to assist them in college and major selection. The students can also use Naviance as a tool to plan for college. Naviance will give them information re reach vs safety schools based on GPA and standardized test scores. PSAT testing for all freshmen, sophomores and juniors will begin after Columbus Day.

3. Mr. Pat Jacobsen – Class of 2021

Mr. Jacobsen is the junior class counselor. Juniors are the most anxious and overwhelmed students as they begin the stressful college process. Junior year is as big as you and your student make it. Please encourage your student to do their best daily. PSAT scores are given more weight junior year due to National Merit Scholarships. He will be talking to the juniors regarding college visits and the college application timeline.

H. Mr. Kyle Kmiecik – Student Services/Learning Resource Coordinator/
Friar Mentors Moderator

There are 120 juniors and seniors who re Friar Mentors. They are available to help in English, math, foreign languages, and speech. Friar Mentors are available each morning from 7:25am-8am and during all lunch periods. Teachers are aware who is going to Friar Mentors.

MEETING ADJOURNED –2:00PM

Jane Gaffigan thanked everyone for attending the first FMC meeting of the year. She also thanked all the speakers, and extended a special thank you to Father Peddicord, our new moderator. Jane and the MC board look forward to getting to know the new Fenwick families better. Please come to Oktoberfest on September 21st and the Black & White Shopping Night on October 23rd.

NEXT MEETING – 7pm Tuesday, October 15th in the Atrium.