

A to Z List: A quick-reference guide that provides short, accurate definitions of most Notre Dame events, activities, places, groups, and people that are often mentioned throughout the year. This list will come in handy when you ask yourself something such as: “My child keeps talking about AmeriTowne: what is AmeriTowne?” The list is not comprehensive in scope or depth, and will evolve along with Notre Dame. FMI means “For More Information please contact”. The best places to get information are at the school office, the Early Learning Center, FastDirect and the school web site.

Academic Decathlon: An annual competition for academically-talented 6th to 8th grade students in participating Archdiocese of Denver Catholic Schools. There are ten events. Two are collaborative team efforts – a logic quiz with 20 rigorous thinking problems, and a super quiz with 50 multiple choice questions on five broad academic themes. The remaining eight events test individual knowledge of the Roman Catholic doctrine, English, Literature, Science, Mathematics, Current Events, Social Studies and Fine Arts (Art and Music). Awards are given for individual and team performances.

ACRE Test: The Assessment of Catechesis/Religious Education is a national standardized religion test administered at all Archdiocesan Catholic Schools to students in 5th, 8th and 12th grades. The test measures understanding of Catholic identity, faith and values. It is a useful instrument in determining the effectiveness of the schools’ religion programs. (All Catholic school teachers were also expected to take the exam in the spring of 2010.)

Adopt-a-Family*: 1st graders, faculty, and Student Council buy Christmas presents for about 20 needy families from the St. Anthony of Padua Parish in West Denver. Each participant is assigned a family member. The students wrap the gifts donated and have them delivered to St. Anthony’s. Student Council purchases their gifts from funds raised from Casual Dress Days.

AdvanceEd: An educational accreditation organization. In November of 2009 it accredited the schools in the Archdiocese of Denver. As part of its review it visited Notre Dame. Accreditation is a method of quality assurance which evaluates and verifies an institution’s quality and encourages continuous improvement. FMI: Archdiocese of Denver School Superintendent at Schoolinfo@archden.org.

Advent Program: Presented in the church by 2nd, 4th, and 6th graders on an evening during Advent. The Music teacher combines Biblical readings and songs to provide the students a deeper understanding of the Season of Advent. FMI: Mrs. Amidei (Music teacher) through FastDirect.

Agenda: A spiral notebook in which students write homework assignments, tests to study for, and projects due. It covers the entire school year and also contains the Student/Parent Handbook. Each student is given an Agenda at the beginning of the school year.

All School Liturgy: Approximately once a month the entire school attends a 9:00 a.m. Mass just for the school. All parents, grandparents, friends, parishioners, etc... are welcome to attend. During this week the school does not attend the Thursday 8:00 a.m. Mass. The different grades take turns planning and serving this Mass with assigned readings, offertory, and ushering done by the students in that grade. FMI: school calendar and/or FastDirect weekly updates for the schedule.

Altar Serving: Boys and girls who have completed their First Communion are encouraged to become altar servers starting in 4th grade. Altar serving can be for all Sunday Masses as well as daily Mass at 8 a.m. Altar serving for funerals while school is in session is done by junior high students. They receive a small payment for helping at the funerals. Children interested in becoming altar servers need to go through a short training session. The training and scheduling of all altar servers is done by Jeff Stano. FMI: jeff@stano.com.

AmeriTowne*: 5th and 6th graders attend Young AmeriTowne every other year in the spring; it alternates with the Seder Meal. Young AmeriTowne is a mock city made up of 17 businesses that children run for a day, learning about business, economics and free enterprise in a fun, hands-on

way. The 8,000-square-foot facility that houses Young AmeriTowne at 401 South Pierce Street in Lakewood is a complete village with a Town Hall, police station, snack shop, newspaper, radio station, market, medical center, parcel service and many other shops. Through the operation of these ventures, students get a basic understanding of how an economy works. They take their paychecks to the bank and support the economy by shopping at the other businesses. Students spend many hours in the classroom preparing for this event. This program is paid for by the PAT.

Archdiocese of Denver Office of Catholic Schools: The Office of Catholic Schools (OCS) is the head of the 37 Catholic grade schools and 2 Catholic high schools in Northern Colorado. The superintendent, Mr. Richard Thompson, and the two associate superintendents: Sister Elizabeth Youngs and Mrs. Mary Cohen have their offices at the John Paul II Center. The curriculum is written, revised and reviewed through OCS. The office also gives a great deal of educational support to the principals and teachers of the Archdiocese of Denver. FMI: schoolinfo@archden.org.

Archdiocese of Denver: The Catholic district formerly under the jurisdiction of Archbishop Charles Joseph Chaput; a successor was not named at the time of this publication. It includes Denver and all of northern Colorado. FMI: www.archden.org.

Athletic Directors: Roman and Valerie Fresquez are the Athletic Directors of Notre Dame. They are responsible for all facets of the program: game and practice scheduling, uniform buying and management, facilities management, concessions, hosting Notre Dame Tournaments and CSAL tournament games, and many other athletic department functions. FMI: Roman or Valerie Fresquez at notredamead@msn.com.

Athletic Program Spaghetti Dinner*: Spaghetti, meatballs, sausage and wine = everybody is happy!!! Silent auctions and raffles add to the fun. Usually held in the Family Center on a Sunday afternoon in the middle of January. Proceeds go to the Athletic Program. FMI: school calendar or Roman or Valerie Fresquez at notredamead@msn.com.

Athletic Programs*: Athletics at Notre Dame is an after school athletic program that exists to help students develop their motor skills, cooperative skills, life skills, and basic skills to play the game; to learn the rules of the game; and to develop team sportsmanship. The emphasis is on team work and having fun. Notre Dame offers the following programs for 3rd to 8th graders: Fall: Girls' Softball and Boys' Volleyball; Winter: Girls' and Boys' Basketball; Spring: Girls' Volleyball and Boys' Baseball. There is a fee for each sport. Fees go to pay for gym costs, referees, uniforms, etc... Included are an individual photo of the player in uniform, a team photo and an end-of-season awards pizza party where all the teams are recognized. FMI: Roman or Valerie Fresquez at notredamead@msn.com.

Back to School Night: Yearly event that takes place on a weeknight about two weeks after school starts. This is an opportunity to meet the Notre Dame teachers and hear all the latest news regarding the start of the school year. Usually various committees and organizations address the parents about their current and future activities. FMI: school calendar.

Book Fair*: A fundraiser held every year at the end of the first quarter during and after parent-teacher conferences. It is held for a period of about 5 days in the school library. This is also a good time to buy books to donate to the classrooms: teachers make a wish list. Books are consigned by Scholastic Books to the library, which in return gets a percentage of sales in order to buy books. FMI: PAT.

Buddy Program: This program lets a younger grade "buddy up" with an older grade. This is beneficial to both grades involved. Preschool buddies with 3rd grade, kindergarten buddies with 4th grade, pre-kindergarten buddies with 5th grade, and 1st grade buddies with 6th grade. They do many activities together throughout the year. The highlight of the 1st/6th grade buddy system is their field trip in the fall to Miller Farms.

Campbell Soup Label and Box Top for Education Program*: Points are earned for school supplies from the Campbell Soup Labels and there is cash-back provided from the Box Top Program. All members of the community are encouraged to turn the labels in to the office or to the plastic container next to the trophy case outside of the office. Money received from the Box Top for Education program will provide technology to the school. Campbell Soup Labels can be redeemed for equipment and school supplies. FMI: PAT.

Car Line: See "Pickup Procedure."

Casual Dress Days: Days when the school allows the students to come to school in casual clothing (instead of uniform). In return, students are usually required to pay a small fee. The fee is collected by Student Council and is used to fund their activities. Please refer to Parent/Student Handbook for guidelines of acceptable "casual dress." FMI: school calendar.

Catholic Cultural Arts Fair: An annual event, hosted by one of the Catholic Schools in the Denver area, held in the spring each year for the Archdiocese of Denver Catholic Schools. The Notre Dame Art teacher submits various works of students that are judged at the Fair.

Catholic Schools' Week*: A national celebration of Catholic schools held the last week in January. The National theme is incorporated into the events held throughout the week at Notre Dame. We begin the week of celebration on Sunday with recognition of our school at all of the Masses and an Open House. There is an All School Liturgy on Monday, a family breakfast provided by the Notre Dame Knights of Columbus on Tuesday or Wednesday and we end the week with a faculty vs. the 8th grade students volleyball game. It is a week full of fun for the entire community and a special time for recognizing the value of a Catholic education.

Cell Phone Policy: "If cell phones are brought to school, they must be turned off, stored in the student's locker, and are not to be used between 7:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Violators will have the phone confiscated and will only be returned to a parent. Camera phones are forbidden at all times on the Notre Dame campus and at school related events." From the Student/Parent Handbook. FMI: read Student/Parent Handbook.

Chili Cook-Off*: A family oriented, community-building fundraising event that takes place in the Family Center. Chili contestants and Salsa contestants compete for the prestigious Best Chili and Best Salsa awards. Raffle items are available as are games for children. A silent auction gives everybody an opportunity to help the school. A good time for the entire family! Proceeds go to the PAT. FMI: PAT and school calendar.

Cinco de Mayo Dancers: A group that entertains the school in the Family Center with a dance on or around May 5th some years.

Class Liaison*: An appointed parent who attends the PAT meetings held once a month and reports back via FastDirect to the parents in their child's class as to what was discussed at the meeting. This is to encourage more involvement and engagement of all of the school families.

Classroom Parties*: Grades 1-6 celebrate most of the holidays by having a party in the classroom. The holidays include Halloween, Christmas, Valentine's Day, and more. Parties vary based on grade level and holiday and are coordinated by the designated home room parent for that classroom. Party fees are collected from each student at the beginning of the school year to pay for snacks and supplies needed. FMI: school calendar

Confirmation: Preparation begins in 8th grade and is open for students up to 12th grade to participate. Registration is in January and classes begin in February and run through the middle of May. Classes start every Sunday at 8:45 a.m. and end before the 10:30 a.m. Mass. Candidates have to complete community service requirements during the summer. Sponsors and candidates are required to attend a retreat in August. Candidates are confirmed in late September. FMI: Ken Sladovnik at ksladovnik@notredameparishdenver.org.

CSAL: The Catholic Schools Athletic League is part of the co-curricular activities available to students enrolled in Archdiocese of Denver Catholic Schools. Co-curricular activities include athletics, spelling, speech, and the art fair. CSAL athletic programs are for 5th to 8th graders; 3rd and 4th graders play in the Widget League. FMI: www.eteamz.com/csalden/index.cfm.

CU Science and Denver Museum of Nature and Science Classroom Labs: Traveling educational programs provided by CU and the Museum that enrich the Science curriculum at Notre Dame. The programs are paid for by the PAT.

Defibrillators: An electrical device used to counteract fibrillation, an irregular twitching, of the heart muscle and restore normal heartbeat by applying a brief electric shock. They are located outside the school office and in the hallway that leads to the Family Center.

Destination ImagiNation*: An educational program in which student teams solve open-ended Challenges and present their solutions at Tournaments. Teams are tested to think on their feet, work together and devise original solutions that satisfy the requirements of the Challenges. Participants gain more than just basic knowledge and skills - they learn to unleash their imaginations and take unique approaches to problem solving. FMI: www.idodi.org.

Development Committee*: A committee whose mission is to cultivate relationships with the community for the purpose of building the spiritual and financial foundation of the school. It runs the Annual Fund (a fundraiser) and hosts Springfest (formerly Winterfest.) All proceeds go directly to the school budget to reduce the subsidy the parish gives to the school. It reaches out to the alumni of the school by publishing the Alumni Newsletter and hosting an annual volleyball tournament. FMI: school office.

Dia de Los Muertos (Day of the Dead)*: The 5th graders learn about this Mexican tradition during Halloween by preparing a memorial to a recently deceased relative or friend. These memorials include a picture and a favorite item of the deceased person and are set up at the Youth Center. The 5th graders parade through the school dressed in black and wear decorated masks (decorations representing characteristics of the deceased) made of plaster. They also enjoy a wonderful Mexican luncheon and a piñata celebration at the Youth Center.

Drama and Speech Class: Provided for one quarter each school year for students in 1st to 6th grades. When the specials' rotation is two music classes in a week, the second class, which falls on Friday, is drama and speech.

Dress-up Days: On days of All School Liturgies, the class responsible for the preparation and presentation of the liturgy must dress up. The following are guidelines for dress up days: Boys: Slacks (no jeans), dress shirt with collar and tie; Girls: Dresses, dressy skirts, slacks and blouses (no jeans). FMI: Student/Parent Handbook.

8th Grade Retreat*: A retreat held at Snow Mountain Ranch in Granby, CO in May. The whole 8th grade class leaves with parent chaperones right after school starts (usually on a Thursday) and returns just prior to school letting out the next day (usually on a Friday). Done at the same time as the 7th graders attend Outdoor Lab. FMI: Ken Sladovnik, at ksladovnik@notredameparishdenver.org.

ELC : The Early Learning Center is part of Notre Dame Catholic School. It is a separate building located north of the main school building. It includes preschool, pre- kindergarten and kindergarten classrooms, and extended care. FMI: Joan Geldaker Martinez at jmartinez@notredamedenver.org.

ELC Child Care: The Early Learning Center is open year-round Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. for ages 3 years through 8th grade. Extended Care is available before and after school for children in preschool through 8th grade. Extended Care is provided from 7:00 a.m. -8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. FMI: Joan Geldaker Martinez at jmartinez@notredamedenver.org.

End-of-Year Chair Washing*: A group of volunteers wash all the chairs in the entire school at the end of the school year. This is done on the Zenobia side of the school in front of the maintenance and gym area. Please think about volunteering for this fun event! FMI: Connie Miller in the school office.

FACTS: The provider of Notre Dame's automated monthly tuition payment plan. Payments are deducted on the 5th, 10th or 20th of each month from August to May. All families who want to make monthly tuition payments must complete the application for FACTS.

Faculty vs. 8th Grade Volleyball Game*: The 8th grade takes on the teachers and staff for a fun and competitive game of volleyball in the Family Center during Catholic Schools' Week. The other grades attend and make up posters and cheer for their favorite team to win. The game takes place right after the last lunch hour and all families, relatives and friends are invited to attend this exciting event. Don't forget your ear plugs!!! FMI: school calendar.

Fall Fest*: The PAT oversees the school's main fundraisers: the Fall Fest. Fall Fest changes from year to year but all grade levels are encouraged to participate in this fundraiser. Proceeds from Fall Fest help pay for many of the programs and extras provided to the school that would not be available within the school budget.

Family Appreciation Breakfast: During Catholic Schools' Week at the end of January, the Knights of Columbus provide an opportunity for our families to mingle and socialize in the morning prior to school. They provide a delicious pancake breakfast in the Family Center. This event is free and the teachers serve while the Knights cook. It is held from 6:30 a.m. until school starts at 8 a.m. FMI: school calendar or weekly FastDirect updates.

Family Center: A shared facility that is often called "The Gym." It is used for Physical Education and Health classes, to host Notre Dame sporting events, as the lunch room, as a place for large meetings, as a stage for musical and theatrical productions, as a center for fundraisers, etc...

FastDirect : An internet-based service that manages school data in a secure, efficient and easy-to-use format. The FastDirect site lets parents view teacher's electronic bulletin boards, gradebook for 3rd to 8th grade students, and calendars. The site offers secure messaging between parents, teachers/staff and parent access to online progress reports and report cards. Initial sign-up is required: Contact school office. FMI: www.notredamedenver.org/fast-direct.

FastDirect Weekly Update: A weekly newsletter from the school office sent usually on Fridays via FastDirect. It is the only way to receive the school newsletter. You need to be activated on FastDirect to receive it. This is a great way to be well informed as to what is going on at Notre Dame. FMI: www.notredamedenver.org/fast-direct.

Field Day*: A day in May when the 1st through 6th graders compete in the field between the ELC and the Rectory against classmates in the traditional "field day" contests: high jump, long jump, sprints, etc... All relatives and friend are invited!

Field Day, ELC*: A pre-school, pre-kindergarten and kindergarten event in May in which the children run races, throw balls, have sack races, bean bag tosses and much more. FMI: Joan Geldaker Martinez at jmartinez@notredamedenver.org.

Field Day, Junior High*: The Junior High participates in a separate Field Day in May. This day usually takes place at the Mullen High School field with several other Catholic schools in attendance. FMI: school calendar or Sister Loretta (Physical Education and Health teacher) on FastDirect.

Field Trips*: Trips taken by each grade to specific destinations for educational purposes. Recent places visited have included the Denver Zoo, Miller Farms and Bear Creek State Park. Parent chaperones are each assigned a small group of students to supervise.

First Friday Exposition: The Host is displayed on the altar in the Monstrance on the first Friday of every month starting after the 8:00 a.m. mass until 2:00 p.m. All are welcome to come in and spend some time in adoration of Our Lord.

First Holy Communion: A Sacrament taught by parents/guardians to their child(ren) through the direction and support of the Notre Dame Director of Religious Education. The parent determines when they feel their child is ready to prepare; this most generally occurs when the child is in 2nd grade. FMI: Tomas Fuerte @ 303.922.9875 ext. 2415

Fish Fry*: A fundraiser held on every other Friday during Lent in the Family Center. Fried cod fillets, baked potatoes, clam chowder, cole slaw and rolls are usually served along with all the fixings, drinks and sweets. The Kids' Corner offers pizza, pasta or macaroni and cheese, tater tots and root beer floats. The Youth Group students host and help serve at this event. All proceeds go to Notre Dame Senior High Scholarship Program. Over the past 8 years over \$25,000 in scholarships have been awarded to Youth Group members attending colleges and universities all over the country! An excellent opportunity to have a wonderful meal with community members while supporting the Youth Group. FMI: Ken Sladovnik at ksladovnik@notredameparishdenver.org.

Focus 11: A vocation awareness day for 6th and 12th grade Catholic school students throughout the Archdiocese. Students spend the day learning about the various religious orders, the difference between canonical vocations, careers and jobs and ministries in the Church. The day begins with a Mass followed by panel discussions, games and other activities focusing on the students developing awareness and understanding of vocation. Focus 11 is hosted at various sites throughout the Archdiocese.

Food Drive*: Organized by the 3rd graders every year before Thanksgiving. Food items donated by students and parishioners are accumulated in the Parish Hall and delivered weekly. Beneficiaries include needy families at St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Denver and Catholic Charities.

Geography Bee: A competition among students in each class for the opportunity to take a written test. If the student does well on the test he/she is invited to the State Competition at the University of Denver. The winners compete against each other to represent the school at a district-wide competition. 4th through 8th grade compete.

Girl Scouts*: There are several Girl Scouts Troops at Notre Dame. Any parent is welcome to start a troop by first contacting the school office and then contacting the Girl Scouts office at 400 South Broadway. Troops can start as early as kindergarten. If you are interested in getting your daughter involved in an already existing troop, contact the school office or your teacher to find out the name of the leader.

Golf Tournament*: An annual fundraiser hosted by the Notre Dame Parish Holy Name Society. It is held in the middle of June at Indian Tree Golf Course in Arvada. Participants also enjoy a wonderful dinner with drinks and silent auction in the Family Center in the evening. Proceeds go to the Holy Name Society and the Athletic Program. FMI: school calendar.

Grading Scale: Notre Dame conforms to the Archdiocese of Denver mandate to use the "10 point" grading scale. All A's are awarded for 90% or greater, B's are given for 80-89%, with C's handed out for 70-79%, as D's are given for 60-69% and anything below 60% is not a passing grade of F. Honor Roll is awarded based on a different system. (See Honor Roll in this document.)

Graduation – 8th grade*: Graduation from 8th grade takes place approximately one week prior to school ending for the summer. Graduation is a Mass on a Friday evening at 7:00 p.m. followed by a reception in the Family Center. All relatives, friends, and anyone interested in attending are invited to this special event. Many awards are given to the graduates after the Mass. FMI: school calendar and weekly FastDirect updates for the date and time.

Graduation Committee*: A group of graduating 8th grade students' parents who organize the end-of-year graduation activities which includes a luncheon (done the day before graduation day)

attended by the graduates, the junior high teachers, the principal and the pastor. The dance (attended by 7th and 8th graders) that follows the luncheon and the reception in the Family Center that follows Graduation are organized by the 7th grade parents.

Grandparents' Mass: Usually in the fall, the school celebrates their grandparents by inviting them to the classrooms and to attend a Mass in their honor. If grandparents are unable to attend, then parents, aunts, uncles, or other relatives can attend in their place. FMI: The school calendar and weekly FastDirect updates for the date and time.

High School Placement Test: A requirement for all 8th grade students applying to Catholic high schools in the Denver area. Usually taken on the first Saturday of December, it is used to assist with admissions, scholarship selection, and curriculum placement. Results are forwarded to local Catholic high schools. Notre Dame prepares its 8th grade students for this exam. Preparatory courses are also available at Catholic high schools. FMI: Admission Offices at Catholic high schools.

Holy Family High School: Holy Family High School is an Archdiocese of Denver high school located in Broomfield at 5195 West 144th Avenue. Acceptance into Holy Family requires the high school placement test, registration paperwork/fee, and interview. The school has approximately 600 students on campus. FMI: 303-410-1411 or holyfamilyhs.com/

Holy Name Society: A group of Notre Dame parishioner men who sponsor some activities at the parish. Over the years they have donated thousands of dollars to the athletic program and have built, bought or paid for many items in and around our facility such as: The Grotto, the gym's scoreboard and bleachers, and various statues around the parish. FMI: Ron Guida.

Home Room Parents*: Parents who organize classroom activities that require parental volunteering and contributions. Most of these events are holiday parties held in the classroom. Sign-up by contacting your child's teacher at the beginning of the school year. FMI: Teachers.

Honor Roll: All Archdiocese schools use the 10 point grading system for awarding grades to students. However, Notre Dame recognizes students that excel with a separate Honor Roll scale. The title of "High Honors" will be awarded to 1st and 2nd grade students earning "E" grades in all subjects and 3rd to 8th grade students earning a grade of 93% or higher in all subjects. The title of "Honors" will be awarded to 1st and 2nd grade students earning "E" and "VG" grades in all subjects and to 3rd to 8th grade students earning a grade of 85% or higher in all subjects. Certificates are given out after the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd quarters at a school Mass or Prayer Service that takes place about one week after report cards are available. The 4th quarter certificates are sent home on the last day of school along with the final report cards. FMI: school calendar.

Interactive White Boards: A large interactive display board that connects to a computer and projector. The projector projects the computer's desktop on to the board's surface on the wall where users (students and/or teachers) control the computer using a pen, finger or other device. Students in the 21st century are visual learners and this technology supports this style of learning. Notre Dame has four SMART Boards, one Poly Vision and seven Mimios in the classrooms.

Irish Step Dancers: A group that entertains the school every year with a dance on or around March 17th.

ITBS*: Iowa Tests of Basic Skills are administered to 2nd through 8th graders in February. It is important for your student(s) to be present all days and to be well rested. The ITBS measures achievement and critical thinking skills in Reading, Language, Mathematics, Social Studies, Science, and Sources of Information. Results, along with national percentile rankings and grade equivalencies, are returned within 5-6 weeks. Look for grade-by-grade results on the web page or at the school office. FMI: school calendar.

Junior Achievement*: Helps students in kindergarten through 8th grade learn the value of contributing to their community. Volunteers show students how to generate wealth and manage it,

how to create jobs, and how to apply entrepreneurial thinking to the workplace. FMI: Anita Cook in the school office.

Junior Great Books*: A program for students in 5th -8th grade who meet for ten informal discussions of classical books every two weeks in the evening throughout the school year. Students invited to join are chosen by their ITBS scores. Groups are guided by a trained leader using the Socratic Method of discussion. The main goal of the program is the development of the participants' critical thinking abilities. The books discussed are considered classics and may be re-read by the students in high school. FMI: Lydia Regalado (a parent) via FastDirect.

Junior High : Grades 7th and 8th are considered the "Junior High" at Notre Dame. The Junior High classrooms are located below the Family Center. Some classes are gender-divided: boys and girls are separated for Science, Math and English. Junior High students change classrooms periodically during the day using 4 separate classrooms, including a science lab. All Junior High students have a locker with individual combination locks in the hallway. The Junior High students are encouraged, through tutoring and hosting younger grades, to be mentors for the rest of the school. Notre Dame prepares Junior High students well for their high school studies.

Junior High Dances*: Dances are held in the Family Center for 7th and 8th graders on Halloween, St. Valentines Day and Graduation. Parents and teachers chaperone these events. This is a great chance for the junior high students to dance and mingle with each other under close supervision.

Kindergarten Continuation Program*: This is a ceremony that marks the last day of kindergarten for students. This event helps the students make the transition into the big school and 1st grade. FMI: Joan Geldaker Martinez at jmartinez@notredamedenver.org.

Kindergarten Parade and Pizza Party*: A ceremony for kindergartener families, where pizza is provided at the ELC. Kindergarten then parades from the Early Learning Center to the big building where they enjoy special activities while their parents meet with the 1st grade teachers and hear an overview of the 1st grade program. FMI: Joan Geldaker Martinez at jmartinez@notredamedenver.org.

Knights of Columbus: A parish organization of men who provide service to the church and school. They serve breakfast at the Family Appreciation Breakfast, help out with some fundraisers and host a yearly banquet for altar servers and their parents. FMI: www.archden.org

Las Posadas: A re-enactment of Joseph and Mary looking for an inn before the birth of Jesus. They go from classroom to classroom until they reach the church, where they find a place to stay. This is done during Advent by the 8th graders.

Lenten Project: Service is learned, supported and encouraged at Notre Dame Catholic School. Each year a service project is promoted and organized through the Student Council during Lent to provide the students an opportunity for almsgiving. The outcome of the project is recognized at the Closing Prayer Service on Holy Thursday.

Leprechaun Post: A monthly publication written by junior high students in computer class. It includes articles about Notre Dame events, 8th grade profiles, Heroes of God profiles, dates to remember, birthday listings, book reviews and a Fun Page! This publication is sent home once a month with your child.

Leprechaun Stampede*: A 3K race through the adjacent neighborhood of Harvey Park. This is one of the primary PAT fundraisers of the year held usually in the fall. Students obtain pledges for their race and run for individual and classroom trophies. Prizes are awarded based on levels of donations obtained by the student. FMI: school calendar or PAT

Library*: Located on the main floor of the grade school building and decorated by beautiful murals, it stores Notre Dame's books that are available to students to check-out. It is also the site of many meetings and the yearly Book Fair.

Living Stations of the Cross: Performed on Good Friday in the church by the Youth Group. 8th-12th grade can participate. Narrators lead the 14 scene performance and the church choir provides the music. FMI: Ken Sladovnik at ksladovnik@notredameparishdenver.org.

Lunch Room Program: Students can enjoy a hot lunch ordered from outside vendors Monday-Thursday. Monthly order forms are available online and/or can be sent home with your child if you do not have computer access. The forms must be filled out and, along with proper payment, returned to school by the appropriate deadline. The vendors used included: Michael's of Denver, Bonnie Brae, Chick-Fil-A, Burger King, Fazoli's, Arby's, etc... White milk, chocolate milk and water are available for purchase every day the lunch room is open: they cannot be pre-ordered. FMI: www.notredamedenver.org/files/forms.

Lunch Room Volunteering*: Our hot lunch program runs with help from volunteers. Without volunteers, we would not have a program. Therefore, we ask that everyone consider helping out at least a couple of times each year in the lunchroom. It is easy duty and you get to see your child(ren) during school. Volunteers are needed Monday through Thursday from 11:30 a.m. to approximately 1:30 p.m. All volunteers must have completed the Safe Environment Training Program to be eligible. Signup is done in the school office on a calendar – see anyone in the office or call the office to sign up. FMI: Christa Wilson via school office.

Machebeuf: Bishop Machebeuf High School is an Archdiocese of Denver high school located in the old Lowry area (approximately 6th avenue and Quebec). Acceptance into Machebeuf requires the high school placement test, registration paperwork/fee, and interview. The school has approximately 400 students on campus. Inquire about open houses. FMI: 303-344-0082 or machebeuf.org/.

Marketing Committee*: A committee that organizes Notre Dame's marketing effort. FMI; Bobbie Baca (a parent) via FastDirect.

Math Facts*: A formal Math Facts program is taught in 1st to 6th grades. Students in 2nd to 6th grades are tested first on their writing ability and speed. It is then determined how many problems out of 40 each student can do per minute. Each student progresses at their own rate, charting their progress on a rocket. There is a great deal of research that supports the importance of children learning math facts for success in Math. Because these grades have the math facts almost daily, and the children are expected to get immediate feedback for practice at home, the tests must be graded on the day the test is taken. We are always looking for volunteers to grade the math facts.

May Crowning: Held on or around May 1st by 8th grade students who participate in a discernment process to prayerfully select the 8th grade girl who will crown Mary at the All School Liturgy. This is a long-standing tradition at Notre Dame Catholic School. The 8th grade takes its graduating class picture in the church following this event. FMI: school calendar.

Mountain Madness*: A junior high youth conference that takes place at the YMCA of the Rockies in Estes Park usually in the middle of February. It starts Friday night and ends Sunday morning. Through powerful guest speakers, uplifting music, Mass and Adoration, participants discover the joys of God's love for all of us. Each year about 700 participants from youth groups throughout the Archdiocese of Denver attend. Usually Notre Dame has about 40-50 youths, 2 adult chaperones, and 4 high school student chaperones who attend. Cost in 2011 was about \$120 per participant. FMI: Ken Sladovnik at ksladovnik@notredameparishdenver.org.

Mullen High School: A Catholic college-preparatory high school in Denver, Colorado run by the (Lasallian) Brothers of the Christian Schools. Attended by about 1000 students, the school is run independently within the Archdiocese of Denver and is located southwest of Lowell and Hampden at 3601 South Lowell Boulevard. FMI: 303.761.1764 or www.mullenhigh.com.

Music Clubs: The music teacher collaborates with the students to determine the desire for music clubs. There have been, in the past, guitar and piano clubs based on the students' desire to participate. FMI: Mrs. Amidei (music teacher) through FastDirect.

Nature and Science Museum Programs: (see CU Science)

Noon Dismissal: Days when school is dismissed at 12 p.m. Usually scheduled on days before vacations and when the Family Center is used for Senior Luncheons on the second Wednesday of September, November and March. The ELC is available for students who can't be picked up at this time: a fee will be charged and students must bring a sack lunch. FMI: school calendar.

Notre Dame Web Site*: A great place to get the latest information about the school. It provides information about all facets of the school. Some of the many actions you can perform are: get forms, read faculty profiles, get the schedule of events, read the principal's blog, and access FastDirect and school's Facebook. It constantly evolves to meet the communication needs of the school. FMI: www.notredamedenver.org

Open House*: An occasion when Notre Dame School is open for tours. Open House is for parents and students to have a brief time to get acquainted with the teacher(s), see the classrooms and perhaps get a quick overview of class expectations and curriculum for the year. FMI: school calendar, church bulletin, or school office.

Outdoor Lab*: 7th graders attend this fun, educational, 3 day-2 night event in May. It is held at Camp St. Malo, located at the base of the eastern side of Mt. Meeker, 12 miles south of Estes Park. Students are exposed to hands-on, experimental, authentic learning in an outdoor setting. In addition, they are made aware of their role in appreciating and preserving the environment. Students also get to walk on the same path John Paul II used when he visited Colorado for World Youth Day in 1993. How cool is that!!! This event is supported by the PAT.

Parent Surveys*: Every 2-3 years the school asks the parents for their opinion on many aspects and issues about the school. The results are used to identify the areas that parents are most concerned about. The administration then takes steps to address those issues by asking for more parental input, by providing parents more information about certain issues and by implementing solutions.

Parent-Teacher Conferences*: A one-on-one time with your child's teacher to speak about your child. Conferences are typically held after the first quarter report cards (early November) are available and are the perfect time to discuss concerns and/or create an action plan to help your child do his/her best work during the school year. Conferences are also available by request toward the end of the 3rd quarter. FMI: school calendar.

Parish Hall: An area to the north of the church's altar that is used for extra seating space on Sunday and holiday Masses. During the week it is closed off by a room-divider partition and is used for meetings, banquets, picture taking, etc...

Parish Pastoral Council*: Like every parish, Notre Dame has a Pastoral Council. The council is picked by our pastor Father Michael Gass and usually meets once a month. The council is an advisory group for the pastor. FMI: Notre Dame rectory at 303-935-3900.

Parish Picnic*: Usually held after the 12:00 p.m. Sunday Mass during the summer in the field between the ELC and the Rectory. Hot dogs and hamburgers are served along with drinks and ice cream. The Parish Pastoral Council hosts this free event. FMI: Church bulletin.

Parish Subsidy: The financial help given by the parish to the school. The cost of educating each Notre Dame student is about \$1000 more than tuition paid. The parish generously supports the school each year with a \$150,000 to \$200,000 subsidy.

Party Fee: A fee paid to the PAT by every student at the beginning of the school year used to fund classroom parties. This fee is about \$6 for 1st to 6th graders and about \$15 for 7th and 8th graders.

Pastor: The administrative leader of the church and school. Our Pastor is Father Michael Gass.

PAT*: The Parent and Teacher Organization ("PAT") represents parents while assisting faculty and administrators. Its mission includes: encouraging parental involvement, building a sense of community, promoting communication between stakeholders, welcoming new families to Notre Dame, running school fundraisers, providing assistance to faculty and administrators and providing parent education opportunities. The PAT is the conduit between proceeds from fundraisers and the programs it funds. PAT meetings are held the second Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. in the school library or some other designated location in the school. FMI: www.notredamedenver.org/pat.

Peer Tutors: Students in junior high are given the opportunity to peer tutor for one quarter each year. The peer tutors work with the students in the lower grades and correct Math Facts Tests in the upper grades. It is one more opportunity for our students to be servant leaders.

Pick-up Procedure: The age of the oldest student in a household attending Notre Dame will determine which side of the building a student will be released at dismissal. If the oldest sibling is in 6th grade or older, all siblings will be released to the Zenobia side of the school through the doors near the Family Center. Several teachers are available to supervise. All lower grades will be released through the Family Center door on the Sheridan side. If pick-up is on the Sheridan side, cars will form a "snakelike" line through the parking lot and pick up student(s) once the car reaches the Family Center. This is coordinated by the principal and many of the teachers. All ELC students will be released in front of the ELC (Sheridan/west side.) FMI: school office or ELC.

Picture Day*: Lifetouch Photography comes to the school during September to take the children's photographs. Order forms are sent out in advance. Retakes are done a few weeks later. Lifetouch also takes the class pictures in April and prints our yearbook.

Play Like A Champion: A program developed by the University of Notre Dame that all our coaches are required to attend. It teaches coaches that athletics is a ministry of the school, why kids play sports (to have fun), to make a positive impact on the players and to teach the players how to play with respect and class. FMI: Roman or Valerie Fresquez at notredamead@msn.com.

Pre-Kindergarten: The first formal academic classroom-based learning environment that a child customarily attends at Notre Dame. For 4 year olds. FMI: Joan Geldaker Martinez at jmartinez@notredamedenver.org.

Pre-School: The academic year preceding Pre-Kindergarten. For 3 year olds. FMI: Joan Geldaker Martinez at jmartinez@notredamedenver.org.

Principal: The administrative leader of Notre Dame Catholic School. Our principal is Mrs. Charlene Molis, a 30+ year veteran of this school.

Professor Zero: Professor Zero is a wonderful program for the 5th grade students. Professor Zero is Mr. Wayne Vargo, a retired science and biology high school teacher. He comes into the 5th grade 4-5 times each year and performs interesting and exciting science experiments for the students. Ask any current or former 5th grade student and they will tell you it is one of the highlights of 5th grade. This program is paid for by the PAT.

Qualistar: A Colorado organization whose mission includes: improving child development and age-appropriate learning experiences for all pre-kindergarten children. A Qualistar Rating is a process to measure best practices related to quality care. A rating of 0-4 stars are awarded based on points received through this process. Components of the rating are: Learning Environment, Family Partnerships, Training and Education of the staff, Ratios and Group Size and National Accreditation. The ELC has scored 3 stars. FMI: Joan Geldaker Martinez at jmartinez@notredamedenver.org.

RCIA: Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults. Anyone interested in becoming Catholic as an adult must go through the RCIA program. FMI: Tomas Fuerte at 303.922.9875.

Read Aloud Month*: Celebrated during the month of March. Volunteers come to the classrooms and read to the children.

Reconciliation: Shortly before Christmas and Easter students who have received their First Communion have the opportunity to confess their sins in a school-wide Reconciliation. Reconciliation before First Communion is a separate event.

Rectory: The main office of the parish and the residence of the parish priests are located on the corner of Evans Avenue and Sheridan Boulevard at 5100 West Evans Avenue. Our pastor Father Michael Gass, as well as the business manager, Glenn Fox can be reached by calling the rectory at 303.935.3900.

Regis Jesuit High School: A college preparatory Jesuit Catholic high school located in Aurora. It has about 1700 students. The school is unique in that it has a boys' division and a girls' division; academically the schools are separated by gender, but their sports and other extra-curricular activities are co-ed. FMI 303.269.8000 or www.regisjesuit.com

Registration Process: When new families register for 1st-8th grades the principal meets with the parents and child. It is encouraged for the child to spend a half to a full day shadowing (when a prospective student attends the school) and the student is administered the Woodcock Johnson III test to determine their proficiency in reading and math.

Religious Education Office: Located across the street from Notre Dame at 2160 South Zenobia Street it has the offices of: Tomas Fuerte, Director of Adult Faith Formation and Director of Religious Education; Lillian Deidel, Music/Liturgy; Deacon Church Parker, Liturgy; and Deacon Kevin Leiner, Baptism Preparation. FMI: 303.922.9875

Report Cards: About a week after the end of each quarter report cards are available on FastDirect. 4th quarter report cards are sent home with students on the last day of the school year.

Sacramental Preparation: Parents prepare their children for Reconciliation and First Holy Communion with support from the parish Director of Religious Education, Tomas Fuerte. Confirmation is taught on Sundays beginning in January of a child's 8th grade year. They are confirmed on the last Sunday in September. Ken Sladovnik, the Notre Dame Youth Minister, teaches and leads the program. FMI: Tomas Fuerte @ 303.922.9875 ext. 2415 or Ken Sladovnik at kkladovnik@notredameparishdenver.org.

Safe Environment Training: A requirement for all faculty, staff and volunteers who have contact with students at Notre Dame Church and School. The purpose of the program is to identify and create awareness of areas of concern regarding the safety of children and to provide training methods for the prevention of harm to children. It requires attending a 1-2 hour class taught by the Archdiocese of Denver and a background check. Classes are held as often as every two weeks at various parishes and organizations throughout the Archdiocese of Denver. FMI: www.notredamedenver.org/safe-environment-training-for-volunteers and www.archden.org/index.cfm/ID/117/Safe-Environment-Training-Sessions/

School Advisory Council*: The SAC provides advice on planning, policy, financing, marketing, development and public relation issues to the pastor and principal in order to assist them in the achievement of their mission. The SAC does not engage in matters regarding discipline, parent grievances, program development, approval of materials, and the hiring, evaluation, or termination of teachers and principals. Members are appointed by the principal and approved by the pastor. The SAC meets the last Thursday of every month. FMI: www.notredamedenver.org/school-advisory-council.

School Choir: Students in 3rd through 8th grades are invited to join the Notre Dame School Choir. The choir leads the singing at the All School Liturgies. Practices are once a week after school on Mondays. FMI: Mrs. Amidei (music teacher) through FastDirect.

School Counselor: Our school counselor is Lorie Thomas. She is available two days a week from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. for all students from Preschool to 8th grade. Students are to be referred to her for the following reasons: social issues, life transitions, family problems, bullying, or other concerns. Counseling can be a one-time session or can be ongoing with the written permission from the child's parents. Her office is located under the Family Center, before you enter the Junior High. FMI: Leave a confidential message at 303.742.2382.

School Supply List: Each student must bring school supplies to school on the first day of the school year. The items required are on grade specific lists available on the school web site. FMI: www.notredamedenver.org/files/form

Science Fair*: An exhibition of science projects in the Family Center held during an evening in January. All grades will be represented; however, it is mainly a competition for the junior high students who begin their projects at the beginning of the school year and continue until an interview and judging process determines winners in a variety of categories. Winners go to the regional competition held a few weeks later at the Nature and Science Museum. All who attend the Science Fair vote for the Parent's Choice Award. This is a very large project for the Junior High students and worth taking an evening out to see all their hard work. FMI: school calendar or Miss Mock (7th grade teacher) through FastDirect.

Seder Meal*: A re-enactment of the Passover celebration, a Jewish ritual that is adapted to our Catholic beliefs. This is attended by the combined 5th and 6th grades every other year, alternating with AmeriTowne. It is held in the Family Center right after the Tableau on Holy Thursday with many parent/guardian volunteers as leaders in the meal. FMI: school calendar and Sister Loretta (PE /Health teacher) through FastDirect.

Senior Citizen Luncheons*: Notre Dame has a history of reaching out to the community and in this venue we reach out to our seniors, most living in assisted living. This event takes place the second Wednesday of September, November and March. Due to the luncheon, the school has a noon dismissal these days. The luncheon is held in the Family Center and hosted by senior volunteers with some 8th grade students helping. The event starts with a Mass for the seniors, held in the Family Center, and then follows with lunch. The majority of the food is donated by a selected grade. Notices go home with your student if their grade has been picked to donate food. Please help as much as you can with your donation when asked.

Sertoma Award: Yearly award given at graduation to two 8th graders who best personify good citizenship. It is sponsored by the Mile Hi Sertoma Club. Sertoma is an acronym for Service to Mankind

Snow Day: A day that Notre Dame School is closed due to heavy snow and/or extremely cold temperatures. Announced by 6 a.m. on the main television and radio stations in the Denver area, on the Notre Dame web site and via FastDirect.

Specials*: Art, World Languages, Music and Physical Education/Health. Students attend these classes on a rotating schedule. The frequency depends on the grade.

Spelling Bee: A yearly contest that begins with a written test. All participants scoring over a benchmark go to the Archdiocese of Denver Catholic Schools contest with the winners going to the state-wide competition. Competitors meet after school once a week to practice with a faculty advisor.

Spring Concert: Students in 1st, 3rd and 5th grade perform in the annual Spring Concert. Preparations are done during music class. It is usually held on an evening in May in the Family Center. FMI: Mrs. Amidei (music teacher) through FastDirect.

Springfest (Winterfest)*: An annual dinner/dance held in the spring at Pinehurst Country Club. Dinner is followed by dancing and a silent auction. All proceeds go to the Development Committee. Leave the kids with a sitter and have some fun with your spouse and other couples!!! FMI: school calendar.

St. Mary's Academy: An independent, all girls, Catholic high school in Greenwood Village. The school is run by the Sisters of Loreto. FMI: 303.762.8300 or www.smanet.org.

Staff Development Day: Effective teachers are life-long learners. As education evolves it is important for teachers to be given time for learning. There are nine staff development days required each year by the Archdiocese of Denver. Three to four of these days are the first week back for teachers, the week before school starts. The other staff development days are throughout the year and can be planned on a specific need of the school or may be planned through the Office of Catholic Schools for cooperative staff development. These are always wonderful opportunities for teachers to extend their learning in specific subject areas as determined by the faculty. There are two sources of funding for staff development: Title II funds which are given to each school from the federal government and the PAT.

Steubenville of the Rockies Youth Conference*: An opportunity for 9th-12th graders to develop a closer relationship with God. It takes place in Denver during a weekend in the middle of July. It is attended by over 3000 high school teens from around the country. Usually the 11th and 12th graders also are able to attend an out-of-state Steubenville conference held on a college campus (University of Arizona and San Diego State University were recent sites) so they can get a feel for college life. FMI: Ken Sladovnik at ksladovnik@notredameparishdenver.org.

Student ASSET Group: The Student Asset Group is a group of 8th grade students selected by the 8th grade teachers to help support and promote Assets for Youth. FMI: Ken Sladovnik at ksladovnik@notredameparishdenver.org.

Student Council: Student Council members lead the school service projects and are actively involved in issues that are pertinent to the culture of the school. Officers and representatives are elected by their classmates. The president and vice-president are 8th graders and the secretary and treasurer are 7th graders - all four positions are elected by the entire grade school student body. Each class also elects a class representative and an alternate.

Student Learning Goals: "We envision a Notre Dame Catholic School student or graduate to be a Servant Leader who is an Active Catholic, an Active learner, and an Active citizen." This is the end-result Notre Dame seeks for its students not only at the point they graduate but for the rest of their lives. FMI: notredamedenver.org/curriculum.

Student-Parent Handbook: It includes most of the rules and guidelines of Notre Dame. It is available on the school web site or in the front part of the agenda. Because it is updated and revised every year, both the student and parent are required to sign (to confirm that both have read and agree with the handbook) on the last page of the handbook and turn it in to your child(ren)'s teacher shortly after the beginning of the school year. FMI: www.notredamedenver.org/files/forms.

Summative Projects: A project-based formal academic assessment used to determine the depth of learning and achievement of objectives as outlined in each subject's curriculum. Summative projects are designed to be completed in the classroom at the end of a unit such as in Science or may be cumulative at the end of the year such as in the Language Arts Summative Project. Summative projects are required for all subject areas, except Religion, for grades Preschool through 8th grade.

Summer Math: At the end of the school year students are asked to purchase a workbook that contains math exercises reviewing the math concept presented throughout the year. Students complete the workbook during summer vacation and turn it in to their teacher at the beginning of school.

Summer Program: The Early Learning Center offers a fun and exciting summer program for the children. A planned program of daily activities, field trips, swim lessons, art and crafts, visitors and more will keep your children active and happy. FMI: Joan Geldaker Martinez at jmartinez@notredamedenver.org.

Tableau: The Tableau is a reenactment of the Lord's Supper by selected 8th grade students performed in the Church on Holy Thursday at 9am. All are invited to attend this solemn event. FMI: school calendar or FastDirect weekly updates.

Talent Show: Held in the Family Center in the middle of February. Aspiring participants audition and then lose sleep over the coveted call-backs. The show starts after school is dismissed and lasts about 1-2 hours. Come see the fantastic talents of our Notre Dame students! FMI: school calendar or Mrs. Amidei (music teacher) through FastDirect.

Taste of Notre Dame*: A community-building event taking place in the Family Center soon after school starts. This is a "potluck" dinner with dishes provided by parents as a "taste" of the culture of our community. This is a free and fun event. FMI: school calendar or the PAT.

Teacher Appreciation Lunches and Dinners*: Provided by parents during Parent-Teacher Conferences. FMI: PAT.

Team Parents*: A parent on a sports team who coordinates snack provisions and parent-volunteers during games. FMI: your child's coach or Roman or Valerie Fresquez at notredamead@msn.com.

Technology Committee*: A committee that reviews the technological needs of the school and makes recommendations on how to purchase equipment. There is a 5-year Technology Plan which supports 21st century learning. FMI: Linda Amundson in the school office.

Thanksgiving Feast*: 1st graders perform a Thanksgiving Program in church on Monday or Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. the week of Thanksgiving. 1st grade parents provide the food for the children and faculty to have a Thanksgiving meal at the Youth Center.

Toy Drive*: The 4th graders collect gifts from the entire student body for a Christmas Toy Drive each year. For the past two years, the toys have been sent to a small village church called Our Lady of Mercy Parish in Hatch, New Mexico. Many of the parishioners at Our Lady of Mercy Parish are poor farm workers and it was their parish priest that asked Notre Dame for help. This service project has provided many Christmas gifts to children who would not have otherwise received one!

Trunk or Treat*: Usually held on or before Halloween in the Family Center and the parking lot. The children, and sometimes adults, wear costumes. There are games in the Family Center and then goodies are given to children from Halloween-theme decorated car trunks in the parking lot. Cost to attend (in 2010) was \$1 and 1 bag of candy per child. FMI: school calendar and/or PAT.

Uniform Sale (Used)*: A day when you can sell and buy used uniforms. It is usually held in August before school is in session. FMI: school calendar.

Uniforms: Uniform rules apply to grades Kindergarten through 8th. The Uniform Code, as stated and defined in the Parent/Student Handbook, also includes rules for grooming, make-up, jewelry, Dress-Up Days and Casual Dress Days. Uniforms are to be purchased at the Dennis Uniform's store in Highlands Ranch or online at www.dennisuniform.com. FMI: www.notredamedenver.org/files/forms.

Volunteering: Notre Dame school could not run without the help of volunteers. There are many areas where your help is needed: committees, lunchroom, library, classroom grading, PAT, fundraiser events, field day, field trips, chair washing, and many more. It is not only an opportunity for you to make Notre Dame a better place, but to also spend time with your child(ren) and see their educational experience first hand. It is also a good way to meet other parents and get to know the teachers and staff better. All volunteering opportunities are a fun and rewarding time. Parents are expected to volunteer 20 hours each year. Hours are to be submitted to the school office quarterly. Safe Environment training and background checks are required for most volunteering.

Week of the Young Child: An annual celebration sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). The purpose of the Week of the Young Child is to focus public attention on the needs of young children and their families and to recognize the early childhood programs and services that meet those needs. The ELC celebrates this event during the month of April with fun activities for the children and with an Open House. FMI: Joan Geldaker Martinez at jmartinez@notredamedenver.org.

Weekly Mass: The entire school attends 8:00 a.m. Mass on Thursdays. Any exceptions to this will be posted on the school calendar or FastDirect weekly updates. Students need to be at school by 7:45 a.m. in order to be in the Church before 8:00 am. Any students arriving after Mass has started, will wait in the Parish Hall until Mass is over. This is a regular daily Mass and is open to anyone wishing to attend with their child. FMI: school calendar.

Western Academic Talent Search: For children who score at the 90th percentile or higher on the Iowa Test of Basic Skills and have a high academic ability in grades 3rd-8th. These students are invited to take a Placement Exam up through 6th grade and the ACT or SAT in junior high. Students who score at a high level are invited to take summer courses at the University of Denver. This is a wonderful opportunity for students who are academically gifted. FMI: school office.

Widget League: An athletic league set-up up for 3rd and 4th grade sports. Notre Dame participates in the Widget League run by Catholic schools of St. Louis of Englewood and St. Bernadette. The emphasis in the Widget program is on learning and developing skills through participation. Equal playing time for all children is required. FMI: Roman or Valerie Fresquez at notredamead@msn.com.

World Languages: A curriculum program written by the Archdiocese of Denver Office of Catholic Schools that requires all schools to expose their students to various foreign languages and cultures. World Languages is one of the Specials. FMI: Mrs. Zamudio (World Languages teacher) via FastDirect.

Yearbook*: Yearbooks are available for purchase via order forms sent home with your child(ren) in April. The yearbooks are delivered before the school year ends. If you have any pictures you feel would be great in the yearbook, please forward them to the yearbook committee: They are always looking for more pictures and input. FMI: Valerie Fresquez at notredamead@msn.com.

Youth Center: Located at 2162 South Zenobia Street across from the school. It is where most Youth Group meetings are held. The junior high students are invited to congregate most days after school, and at monthly junior high breakfasts that start at 7:00 a.m. and end a few minutes before school starts. FMI: Consult quarterly calendar for list of events published by the Youth Minister, the church bulletin, or contact Ken Sladovnik at ksladovnik@notredameparishdenver.org.

Youth Group*: For junior high and senior high students who participate in faith building experiences such as: local and national youth conferences, outings to fun places and amusement parks, service projects for the community and performance of the Living Stations of the Cross on Good Friday. Junior high students meet every other Thursday at 7:00 p.m. during the school year and high school students meet every Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. during the school year. FMI: Ken Sladovnik at ksladovnik@notredameparishdenver.org.

Youth Minister: Our youth minister is Ken Sladovnik. His focus is on service: service to our church, service to our community and service to each other. He fosters the participant's faith through many group meeting, fun events and community service. His passion and enthusiasm with the junior high and senior high students is contagious! FMI: Ken Sladovnik at ksladovnik@notredameparishdenver.org.

Zenobia Street Pickup: See "Pickup Procedure."