



HYDE SCHOOL

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HYDE NEWSLETTER

April 1986

Dear Hyde Community Member:

The progress of Hyde is exciting and accelerating.

I. Spring Family Weekend

We just finished one of the most successful Parent Weekends.

1) Over 70 families will be returning next year, the highest percentage (90%) I can ever remember.

2) Parents helped organize our fund-raising efforts and raised over \$75,000.00 from parents, with more expected. What is even more remarkable is the total includes only two gifts in excess of \$2,500.00 plus at least 25 families who either applied for or received financial aid!

3) Attendance: We had nearly 85% of our parents involved, which I believe is the highest percentage yet.

4) Performing Arts: Four regions put on shows with little help or urging from us. The student body performed three of their numbers from the show they are preparing for graduation. It was rough, but the spirit was such that the parents gave it a spontaneous standing ovation.

5) Faculty: A group of parents showed their gratitude for the faculties' dedication and hard work by donating a dinner for the entire faculty at year's end.

6) Parent Leadership: Marge Freston and Suzanne Faller from our Advisory Board ran seminars on our new format for regional parent leadership next year. We now have ten regions and we are setting up our schedules a year ahead of time. The seminars were well received. FLC went exceptionally well this year with over 80% of our parents participating.

II. New Faculty

Paul Hurd has done a fine job in screening new candidates and we are in the process of making some outstanding additions to the faculty, which we hope to complete and announce by graduation.

The weekend confirmed for all of us that we have potentially a tremendous group of families and parents for our future growth. They are interested, enthusiastic and involved, amazing when you consider that 70% were attending their first Fall Parents Weekend.

III. School Spirit

I want to make special mention of the spirit of the students, faculty and staff. In sports, we have been clearly outmanned in virtually every contest because of our small school size and so many kids playing for the first time. However, the attitudes of the kids have been impressive. It is truly a "character-building" season and bodes well for the future. Most students are still struggling with the concept of "brother's keeper", but I sense a growing understanding of the Hyde concept and a beginning foundation for student leadership. (A local reporter remarked she was impressed with the maturity of kids she met with - hopefully, we will begin to get a "good" press again.) Discipline has been remarkably better than I had expected at this particular point.

The faculty show an unusual dedication; they are pretty much out straight, but are maintaining their enthusiasm. It is also great to see staff people like Bob Masse and John Brawn become inspired by the teachers and kids again. I know my comments may sound like a broken record, but I do hope many of you will journey to Bath this year so that you can share our growing sense of excitement.

IV. The Future

While the last five years have been a very difficult struggle both for Hyde School and me personally, I think this period will prove to be both productive and important - perhaps where we lost the battle, but learned how to win the war. We learned the need to integrate intellectual with character growth; therefore, we expect to develop an exciting and sophisticated academic curriculum. We have learned our limitations of how far we can go to help students and to the extent that we need to rely upon parents. This has led us away from the controversial methods that clouded Hyde in the past and will prove Hyde as a far more mature and exemplary school. I think we now realize how critical it is that we develop a unique potential-character curriculum outline that can be applied on a day to day basis. We have already begun this task.

During the last five years the national climate for the Hyde concept has also changed considerably. Polls indicate that teachers and others now consider character development in school as the primary concern. "A Nation at Risk" and other reports have clearly focussed national attention upon education. A major report by business executives has bluntly concluded that schools are doing a poor job in preparing students for careers in industry and have suggested major reforms that favor the Hyde concept. A major study on 120 super-stars in various fields strongly concludes that it is a blend of outstanding teachers and parents dealing with unique potential that leads to genius - not outstanding talent.

There are other important developments, but in summary we strongly feel that Hyde School's time is coming and we have some exciting ideas on the drawing boards.

V. Our Needs

We are committed to developing Hyde into a truly exceptional school. On the plus side: We have a concept that works. We now have a foundation for an exceptional faculty and staff. We have the foundation for a committed Alumni and Alumni Parents. We have the foundation for a committed group of families. On the minus side: While we have the foundation for an exceptional campus with the mansion and 145 beautiful acres, we hardly have the foundation for exceptional facilities, which in some cases almost borders on embarrassment. Some dorms need major renovations; we need to overhaul the Student Union and the gym; we need almost completely new laboratories, plus a new computer lab, additional classrooms and more dorm space; we need new desks, beds, mattresses, bureaus, furniture and so on. To build and rebuild a plant that is consistent with exceptional people and an exceptional concept, we will easily spend a million and really need two.

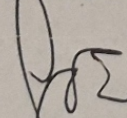
At this point, we need some plank holders who really believe in Hyde School and its future enough to make a five year financial commitment to lead a major fund-raising effort. With this kind of leadership, I think we have the resources to do the job.

We will be in touch with you further about our specific plans, but I do hope that those of you who are most concerned will step forward to offer your help before we ask. We specifically need:

- 1) "Plank holders" who will make a five year financial commitment;
- 2) Individuals to help develop both the fund raising and admissions efforts;
- 3) Alumni who will annually visit the school and serve as evaluators;
- 4) Alumni Parents who will help guide our regional parent meetings.

The ball is rolling and the momentum is building. We are planning a major celebration this June for our 20th anniversary. But right now, we need your help and involvement.

Warm regards,



Joseph W. Gauld
President

JWG:fam