From The President

Dear Parents,

When my children first started at O’Connell, I felt a slight sense of loss, worried that I would not be able to have the same level of involvement that I had been able to have with them in their Catholic grade school. O’Connell felt so big and there were already seemed to be plenty of parents involved in the many activities that I wasn’t sure how my time and talents would be needed. As the kids enter their senior year, I find myself president of the PTO and deeply grateful for the many ways I’ve been able to stay connected to my children and be a part of their high school experience.

Whether you are a new parent or the parent of a returning student, I want to open the doors of possibility and tell you a little more about the ways, big and small, that you can contribute to the quality of your child’s experience at O’Connell - and that of the entire O’Connell family.

The PTO exists to provide service to the school in terms of volunteers, fund raising, and organizing and staffing important events like Back to School Night, the Faculty & Staff Christmas Breakfast, and the All-Night Graduation Party. We also work closely with parent volunteers in other groups like the Boosters to keep things moving along. And while it may seem that “in-the-know” parents are everywhere, already helping with everything that needs to be done, there are many dreams we have for our school and many, many ways for more parents to partner with us.

As you read through this short newsletter, look for possibilities. If your interest is peaked by what you read. Stop. Make a note. Put a reminder on your phone, send yourself an email. And then follow through. Visit the O’Connell website PTO pages (www.bishopoconnell.org/PTO) and go to the sign up page to see the many opportunities to participate. You can also contact Chris Morrison Varela at ptovolunteercoordinator@bishopoconnell.org or 703-548-8456.

As Dr. Vorbach said in his letter at the end of last year, “We thank God for the energy and the sense of the possible that our students bring to school each day.” Become a parent volunteer at O’Connell and share the sense of possibilities with your children as they move through their high school years and prepare for college. I can assure you from my own experience that the blessing of your service will be returned many times over.

May you all be blessed with a happy, successful school year.

Sincerely,
Pat McGee
President, Bishop O’Connell PTO

Bishop O’Connell 2012 Used Book Sale (UBS) Funds Pay $25,000 for School Wifi Network

The PTO UBS offers students and parents an easy and effective way to sell their old text books and uniforms and to acquire slightly used and less expensive text books/uniforms for the next school year. The PTO sells the books on consignment, donating a portion of the proceeds to the O’Connell community.

Each year we invite parents of students to volunteer their time to this important service. The actual sale is a one-day event in July, but the work goes on all year. We need parents who enjoy logistics and inventory and working with teachers to become experts at the text books used in various subject areas. We need parents who enjoy interacting with the students to check books and uniforms in at the end of the year. We need parents who like to build spreadsheets and handle money to help with the accounting.

Most of all, we need a new chair to coordinate the work of this small army of volunteers!!!

If you would like more information, please send a message to usedbooksale@bishopoconnell.org. To sign up, go to the PTO pages (www.bishopoconnell.org/PTO) and click Sign Up.

650 checks in the total amount of over $98,000 were mailed to O’Connell families in 2012.
### 2012-2013 PTO OFFICERS

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email*</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Pat McGee</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vice President</td>
<td>Denise Brown</td>
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<td>Treasurer</td>
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<td>Secretary</td>
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<td>Ways And Means</td>
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<tr>
<td>Used Book Sale</td>
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<td>Communications</td>
<td>Mary Bean &amp; John Riordan</td>
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<td>Faculty Representative</td>
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<td>Athletics Boosters</td>
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<td>Art/Music Boosters</td>
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<td>Mothers’ Club/Hospitality</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Denise Brown</td>
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<tr>
<td>All-Night Grad Party</td>
<td>CHAIR VACANT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Baccalaureate Breakfast</td>
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<td>Parent Education &amp; Spirituality</td>
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<tr>
<td>Member at Large</td>
<td>Chip Kunde</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ckunde@darden.com">ckunde@darden.com</a></td>
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*note: all email addresses are @bishopoconnell.org unless otherwise indicated

### PTO Activities During This School Year*

#### July 2012
- Sponsors Annual Used Book Sale for O’Connell community

#### September 2012
- PTO funds campus-wide wireless network
- Host refreshments at “Back to School Night”
- Mothers’ Club “Back to School” Parent Mixer

#### October 2012
- PTO Board Meeting

#### November 2012
- PTO provides annual Student Directory

#### December 2012
- PTO hosts faculty and staff at annual Christmas party

#### January 2013
- PTO Board Meeting

#### March 2013
- PTO hosts World Language Honor Society reception
- PTO hosts Senior Parent Night

#### April 2013
- PTO Board Meeting

#### May 2013
- PTO hosts annual faculty/staff appreciation lunch
- PTO hosts seniors, parents and faculty at annual Baccalaureate Breakfast
  - PTO funds annual gift to the IHM Sisters

#### June 2013
- Sponsors Richard Martin Scholarship Award
- Sponsors All Night Graduation Party for seniors

*PTO Board meetings occur each month but are not listed when there are also other activities occurring that month.

### Stay Connected!

- **PTO webpage**: www.bishopoconnell.org/pto
- **Friday Blitz***: www.bishopoconnell.org/blitz
- **Daily Announcements**: www.bishopoconnell.org/announcements
- **Twitter**: www.twitter.com/oconnellhs
- **Facebook**: www.facebook.com/oconnellhs

*Friday Blitz is weekly emailed information from the school*

### Join the New Bishop O’Connell PTO Mothers’ Club!!

We are pleased to announce that the Bishop O’Connell PTO has formed a Mothers’ Club. The new Mothers’ Club acts as a welcoming arm of the PTO, handling hospitality functions and fostering fellowship in the DJO community. The club is open to all DJO moms – it’s a great way to get to know your fellow parents at events like the Freshman Tea recently held for Freshman moms (see below). Another great opportunity sponsored by the Mothers’ Club is the Back to School Parent mixer on September 28, from 7:30-10pm. Hope to see all of our parents there. Look for updates, meeting information, and volunteer needs in the Friday Blitz and in our section of the PTO web page.

**Welcome Tea for Moms of New Students**

On Sunday, September 9, the Mothers’ Club hosted over 80 mothers of our new freshman and transfer students at the first Freshman Mothers’ Tea. It was a wonderful social event that welcomed mothers new to the O’Connell community and gave them a chance to meet each other and become more familiar with our school.