

October 30, 2017

WHAT'S HAPPENING? - The Weekly Newsletter of Northlake Mandeville Rotary - Vol. 1 No. 6

WE HAD A GREAT TIME! And we really learned a lot about the No.1 school system in Louisiana (and probably in several other states as well).



Highlighting our visit to the St. Tammany Parish School System Office was a talk by Trey Folsie, who is in his eighth year as our superintendent of schools. Supt. Folsie leads a winning team of teachers and administrators who serve 55 schools in St. Tammany.

There are 39,000 students and our school system includes 5,773 employees. The parish has between 25,000 and 30,000 households, and the number of students is growing by about 250 bright youngsters per year.

The annual budget is \$419 million, and our school system is the largest employer in the parish. Folsie said successful schools mean successful businesses. He proudly reported that St. Tammany's Composite ACT Score of 22.0 is best in the state and above the national average.

Our schools are a reflection of our community, and St Tammany's schools are a model for the nation, according to the superintendent. Asked what is the most challenging part of his job, Folsie said it is school safety. He said he is most proud of the school system of which he is a product. His involvement with our parish schools has occupied 45 of his 57 years.

THEN WE TOOK A TOUR of the wonderful three-story old school building that serves as the school board office. Actually, the old school was doubled in size, and from the outside you can't tell the old from the new. (Inside you can tell the difference because the old part has beautiful refinished squeaky hardwood floors and wooden stairs.)



Top school administrators broke us into small groups and served as guides. Our guide was Associate Superintendent Peter Jabbia who showed us his office where he has a couch that becomes his bed when a hurricane threatens, and a half-dozen of the top senior administrators must live in their office 24/7.

IT WAS BACK TO SCHOOL FRIDAY AFTERNOON for one of Ben Motion's Pizza Parties for students of Chatta Ima School in Lacombe. The lively group of 25 earned the right to attend the party by reading 20 books and writing 20 book reports. Ben announced that a drawing will be held at the end of the school year for a Kindle. Students who do 20 book reports get their names in the pot!

STUDENTS OF THE FATS DOMINO SCHOOL OF MUSIC were saddened by his passing last week at nearly 90. This led to specials on radio and t.v. featuring some of his greatest hits including ***Ain't That A Shame*** with the lines:

*There was an old lady named Brewster, who had ten hens and a rooster.
The rooster died, the old lady cried, my hens don't lay like they used ta!*

God Bless The Fat Man...but don't stop the music!

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