



Hello Dads,

I'd like to be among the first to welcome you to the 2006/2007 MQP school year. For those of you who are returning, welcome back and for those of you who are new to the school, we welcome you and invite you to join the Cougar Paws. Cougar Paws is the MQP dads club. Our job is to help the school and the church make MQP a better place for all our children to attend school. For those of you who don't know me my name is Robby Darrah and I am the president of the cougar paws for this year.

I would first like to thank Dean Arnett for all that he has put into the cougar paws over the last 2 years. It was Dean that started this organization and has kept it going during that time. From the time I first got here until now this organization has grown tremendously and has really taken a leadership role within the school. And almost all of that credit goes to Dean. I would also like to thank Danny Hollander for his commitment to the cougar paws board. Danny served as our treasure last year and did an excellent job (we finished the year with money!!!!). Both will be missed but have promised me to stay active in the cougar paws. The board for this year will consist of:

**Robby Darrah - President
Ray Serpas - Vice President
Stephen Griffin - Treasure
Tony Adams - Secretary**

Without trying to make this email too lengthy, I'd like to go over what we as a board decided would be our focus for the coming school year. While we do have many outstanding social events (which we will continue), from the school BBQ to the dance, we will try and put more emphasis on community service projects this year. The dues that you pay to the cougar paw's will help support projects like, "adopt a highway", cleaning up the school play area, the family BBQ, athletic equipment and jerseys for both the boys and girls teams, and much more. We will still provide drinks at meetings, but we will not use cougar paw funds to pay for nights on the town. Over the past year I have heard from several dads as to why they should pay dues when they can't make the nights out. This year all dues will be directed toward our kids and the school.

I would like to thank all the dads who came out and helped on August 5th. We were able to re-do the mulch and the 4x4's in the back play area, repaint the lines in the front yard, weed the gardens and put desks together. While there were a lot of familiar faces we also had some new dads as well. I encourage ALL dads, whether you want to participate in the social events or not, whether you're new or not, to try and make these work days. The work

we do benefits ALL of our kids. If you have not seen the back yard since they laid the sod and fixed the modular buildings, you need to go check it out. It look's great. Because the electrical panels for the modular buildings won't be in until late August, the kids will be holding class in temporary locations until they arrive. When the panels do come in, we will need to have an emergency work day to help the teachers move their class rooms into the new buildings. I'll email everyone as soon as Jan tells me they're in.

Finally, our first social event will be our back to school picnic. We are doing it in conjunction with the youth ministry and the parish. It will be held on September 17th at St. Paul's high school. The parish has booked the place and a band. The youth ministry is paying for hamburgers and hot dogs. It will be B.Y.O.B. (the last B is beverage). Dean Arnett is getting us a grill so our only responsibility will be to cook the food and host several father/child events. We will have a sign up tent for new dads to sign up for the dads club. Father Ronnie will say mass at 12 noon on Sunday and the picnic starts shortly after. The band will start at 1:30. Rap up should be around 4pm. As I mentioned earlier we will need cooks, so be on the look out for an email in a couple of weeks with more information.

Dues: Dues will again be \$35.00 for the year. Attached below is a Cougar Paws registration form. Even if you were a member last year, please fill out the form and send it in with your check. You can mail the checks back to me at:

**Robert Darrah III
538 Casey Dr.
Mandeville, La. 70471**

Or you can bring it to our first meeting. We will have 4 meetings this year and tentatively they are scheduled for:

**Thursday August 31st.
Wednesday Oct. 18th.
Tuesday Feb. 6th.
Thursday April 26th.**

I look forward to a great year and please remember to get involved. The more we do, the more money we raise, the more things we can do for our kids. If you have any question please call me anytime at 985-373-0497.

Sincerely,

Robby Darrah