

To all Dommerich Chiefs,

First of all, a hearty *thank you* for signing up on the reunion web site! We are equally excited that you share the same enthusiasm for a Dommerich Reunion event as the Committee does. Here are some exciting updates and important requests that we need for you to fully review:

The May 2<sup>nd</sup> reunion date is set in stone and will be a *self-guided* tour event from roughly 10am-2pm. The details of this event continue to be expanded upon, including the presence of several of your former teachers. Mrs. Hotaling, the school's music teacher from 1973-2001, has graciously accepted our invitation to join the Committee and assist us with the teachers' portion of the day. We are excited to have her assistance with a critical component of the event planning! The PTA has also been a joy to work with and will assist us in putting together a day to remember.

How would you like to become a permanent part of the "New" Dommerich Elementary? The Dommerich PTA and the Orange County School Board are working together to offer Customized Engraved Bricks, to be used in the construction of the new school. Featuring your name, dates of attendance, a personal message or a tribute to a favorite teacher, these bricks will be built into the walls for generations of Dommerich students to view and read. Show your pride in the heritage of Dommerich Elementary, and help the PTA fund needed programs by purchasing a brick for yourself! We will be adding a link to the reunion web site for on-line ordering later this month, or you can purchase them at the reunion on May 2, 2009. Remember, it's also tax deductible.

Apparel sales are also available now as well as at the event. Go to the "School Store" tab on the Reunion web site and simply follow the links. Due to inventory concerns, only samples will be available at the event. So if you want to see them in person, you can wait until May 2<sup>nd</sup> or pre-order now and wear your colors on the big day!

An off-site barbeque event is still in the planning stages. In order for this event to be a success, we need SPONSORS. In fact, we need sponsors for a host of things right now (to secure services, purchase banners, billboard ad space, etc.). If you can help out with any of this, please alert a Committee member (see the web site for the list). You are guaranteed prominent space on our web site and at the event(s) for your kind consideration.

Be on the lookout for the next issue of *Orlando Magazine*. Our very own Gary McKechnie (Class of '74) has penned a great article on the Reunion and recollections of "growing up in Maitland." We anticipate the article to be in the December issue, which should be released the weekend of Nov 29-30. We also have at least one local news network keenly interested in covering the event(s), so if you have any media contacts then please let us know about them!

Just a quick reminder that the Reunion web site has a message board and blog. They are there for your use, so don't be afraid to post something and start building a network of former classmates through them.

For those who are "Old School", we have a deal for you! Following the reunion, the Dommerich PTA will be offering you a chance to own a piece of history. As our Dommerich Elementary is demolished next September, pieces of it will be salvaged and offered for sale to the alumni. Think about this for a moment. You could own the door

to your sixth grade classroom, or a desk or chair that's no longer needed. Or, buy the flagpole out front and impress your neighbors with your school spirit! At this time, we don't know exactly what will be available, but there will be items for sale. All proceeds will benefit the Dommerich PTA's student programs, and let us help the current generation of "Chiefs". Keep an eye on the web site for future details.

Last favor...**KEEP SPREADING THE WORD ABOUT THE WEB SITE AND THE REUNION PLANS!** Word-of-mouth has been a huge tool to get the planning this far. The Committee is convinced that many visitors to the web site have not taken the time to register. It's free, completely confidential and provides us with the opportunity to communicate to a large group simultaneously. Please encourage your former classmates to register so that we have a better feel for the true number of potential participants on May 2. The Teacher Registration page has also been a great tool...We have heard from many former teachers that appreciate the kind notes that many of you have sent to them! Way to go!

In closing, and speaking for the entire Reunion Committee, we wish to thank you again for signing up, helping us spread the good word, and for any leads you can provide us on sponsors and/or service companies that are willing to provide us "freebies" in exchange for advertising. You are all in store for an incredible day in May!

Best regards,

Dean Harisis ('74) and Kevin McKechnie ('69)