



ST. FRANCIS HIGH SCHOOL

KNIGHTS & DAYS

Volume 12 Issue 1

September 2009

www.sfhs.net

Upcoming Events and Activities

- Thursday, Sept. 3**
Booster Club Mtg. 7 pm
- Friday, Sept. 4**
Freshman Retreat 8am-3:30 pm
- Monday, Sept. 7**
Labor Day-NO SCHOOL
- Wednesday, Sept. 9**
College Knowledge Night for Srs/Parents 7 pm
- Sunday, Sept. 13**
Back to School Day
Orientation in Gym at noon
"Classes" begin at 1:00p.m.
Optional mass @ 3 p.m. in the chapel
- Thursday, Sept. 17**
Parenting Group Meeting 7 pm
- Friday, Sept. 18**
Welcome Dance
- Saturday, Sept. 19**
Alumni Mass and Reunion
- Monday, Sept. 21**
Alumni Golf Classic
Progress Reports sent
- Tuesday, Sept. 22**
Junior Class Rings-Make up orders
Student Fundraiser begins (through Oct. 9)
- Thurs.-Fri. Sept. 24-25**
Set conference time via "Pickatime" (see website for details)
- Friday, Sept. 25**
Sophomore Discipleship Retreat
- Saturday, Sept. 26**
Practice SAT Exam
- Monday, Sept. 28**
Parent/Teacher Conferences 6-9 p.m. (by appointment)
- Wednesday, Sept. 30**
Friday Schedule-Department Meetings
Blood Drive
- Thursday, Oct. 1**
Student Body Liturgy (MASS DRESS)
- Monday, October 5**
Feast of St. Francis Observed (NO SCHOOL)
- Wednesday, October 7**
Mothers Guild Meeting 8:30 am
Bake Sale/Newsletter sent!

WELCOME FROM FR. TONY

Dear Parents:

Welcome back to a new school year! I am looking forward to seeing you again at our gatherings and to greet your sons on campus. And to those parents who are new at the school, it is a great joy to have you as members of the St. Francis family.

St. Francis High school is a great place for young men to get a first class education and to get involved in a number of other activities. Above all, we hope that the development of

their spirituality and the teaching of Franciscan values will prepare them to be men of integrity, strong character and also of service to others they will meet for their rest of their lives. We are grateful to you for your confidence and great trust. We will do our best.

I ask you to please speak with your sons about their academic performance and about all the other activities here at the school whether they are athletics, Fine Arts programs, clubs and

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2009-2010 SCHOOL YEAR OPENS

This first month of the year there are many activities and events to orient and welcome our new families. The most important piece of advice is for each family to review the Student/Parent Handbook that includes the school calendar. A copy was given to each student on the first day he attended school. We ask that each family take time to review school policies and consequences, critical calendar dates (testing, progress report and report card mailings and re-registration deadlines), and school personnel. Parents may receive an additional copy by stopping by the school office during business hours or on "Back To School Day." The complete handbook and calendar are also available on our website, and we will do our best to update changes in calendar each month! Student Directories will be available soon.

Our Edline program is now active and returning parents may use your screen name and password from last year to access your son's academic information (teacher expectations, syllabi, and progress reports.) If you have forgotten this information or need some help, please telephone or email our Technology Department. Parents of new students received their access codes for Edline at the New Parent Meeting on August 27. Each month (usually the first Wednesday of

the month) the Knights and Days newsletter will be available. The newsletter will be posted on our school website on the day of the Mothers Guild meeting each month. We will not mail it, instead we will email each family a message when the newsletter is posted so that you can read (or download) it at your convenience. If we do not have an active email address for you, please contact our registrar at extension 502. The newsletter contains reminders about upcoming events, policy clarifications, and news about school activities. We ask parents to take the time to stay informed about all the activities on campus. We have an exciting and challenging year ahead of us!

In reviewing the school calendar, we particularly would like to remind parents to check the dates of quarter and semester exams immediately. These comprehensive tests conclude a grading period and are a significant part of a student's grade. We expect that parents keep these dates sacred and schedule appointments/family vacations around them because of the difficulty (for both teachers and students) of scheduling make-up exams. Please note that senior quarter exams begin on October 8, due to the first Kairos retreat this year. Especially due to the brevity of the first

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The Principal's Notes ...continued

semester, we expect that all students are present during first quarter and first semester examinations.

We will welcome all parents to "Back to School" Day on Sunday, September 13. An orientation meeting and introductions of staff will begin at noon in the gym. We request that parents bring the most up-to-date copy of their son's schedule with them on that day. Beginning at 1:00, parents will have an opportunity to visit each of their son's classes for ten minutes to hear the instructor's philosophy, an explanation of grading policy and expectations for each student, and view student work. This particular day is not a time to discuss individual situations.

The first opportunity to meet regarding individual concerns will occur on Monday evening, September 28, from 6-9 p.m. Parents who wish to make an appointment must log on to "Pickatime" beginning noon on Thursday, September 24 and ending at noon on Friday, September 25. **Please consult the Student Handbook and/or the check the website for details on making appointments.** Progress reports will be emailed on September 21 to any student who is working below ability. We encourage parents whose sons have received a progress report to meet with his teacher(s) to discuss what steps you may need to take to remedy the situation.

The school will be closed on Monday, October 5 as we celebrate the feast of St. Francis.

We would like to thank and congratulate our maintenance staff, for the fabulous work done this summer on the physical plant.

Our Director of Operations, Mr. Frank Nevaril has supervised all of these projects as well as the construction and renovation projects we have done (and are doing) exceptionally well. All of our classified personnel (maintenance, secretarial and business office staffs) have worked extremely hard to make the opening of the school year as smooth as possible and we are grateful for their dedication and diligence. We also want to express our gratitude to Mr. Jeff Durfee and the summer session teaching staff for their efforts during the summer. And we are grateful to Mrs. Denise Gunter and our student LINK Leaders for their work in assisting the class of 2013 in their transition to St. Francis.

Christian Service Opportunities will be published on our website and on Edline, and will be announced to students regularly during homeroom. If you have questions, please contact Mr. Gleason, Director of Franciscan Spirit and Life at extension 545 or by email at emgleason@sfhs.net.

Finally, we would like to remind parents that we have high expectations for our students and we recognize that we are also asking for great sacrifices from our parents. We encourage you to stay informed about school events, to communicate with your son's teachers and counselor, and help develop his interest in school and other activities. We pledge to communicate honestly and directly, to start all meetings and activities on time, and to challenge each student to reach his potential; spiritually, academically, socially, and physically. Please stay in touch with us, especially if you hear anything that concerns you.

MOTHERS GUILD PROMISES A BUSY YEAR

Welcome to another school year! For those of you who are new to St. Francis, we look forward to meeting you; for those who are returning, we hope to see you at a meeting or event soon. Being moms of both incoming Freshman and SF grads, we are a little bit of both and hope to reach out to as many of you as possible.

As always, we are anticipating a very busy year with many opportunities to be involved. There is always an open invitation for all moms and guardians to join in Mothers' Guild activities. If you missed the September 2nd meeting, don't worry. We meet on campus the first Wednesday of every month, alternating between morning and evening meetings, so please come and catch up on what's going on next month.

In the meantime, many of our committees are gearing up, so don't hesitate to call and offer your assistance: Bake Sale (Colleen Welsh 626/398-8173); Dance Chaperones (Sakae Manning 626/398-9827); Faculty Lounge (Angelica McCoy 626/793-6407); Faculty Lunch (Rene Korth 626/298-2288); Homecoming (Ginger Brody 626/447-7914); Monthly Meetings (Anita Parys 626/836-0601); and Knightwear (Sharon Swart 626/359-8454). These are some of the committees that will be active in the next few weeks. A complete roster of committee chairs and co-chairs will be published in the school directory and posted on the St. Francis website.

We hope you've marked your calendars for Back-to-School Day on Sunday, September 13th. Our Hospitality Chair for this event

is Trina Cabrera (323/855-1528). If you would like to help out, please give her a call.

For those of you looking for the latest in Knightwear, Mothers' Guild has a new shipment of merchandise available – t-shirts, sweatshirts, sports bags, bears, coffee mugs and those beautiful SF crystal bracelets and earrings for us. Look for our tables at home football games, Back-to-School Day and Mothers' Guild meetings.

This year, we are also continuing with our Dinner Knight-Out Fundraisers. Proceeds from these dinners support the MG Hope Fund and SF families in need. Dates and details are being finalized; we will get this information to you as soon as we can so that you can save these dates.

Our next meeting will be held October 7th at 8:30 a.m. in Founders' Hall. Immediately following our regular meeting, we are hosting our first Parent Connection. This is an informal gathering for new (and returning) parents and guardians to meet other parents and ask questions that will help you navigate around school the first few months. Join us for light refreshments, meet other new parents, and have all those questions answered. We look forward to seeing you there and becoming involved in a productive, fun year of activities in support of our sons and St. Francis.

*Kim Kunitake & Beatrice Harendza,
Co-Presidents*

The President's Letter ...continued

retreats. We need your support and involvement. We need your help.

We have an excellent group of women and men in our faculty and staff who are ready and willing to work with your sons. During the parents/teacher conference you will be able to discuss with them your sons' performance.

This summer I reflected a number of times on my involvement here at St. Francis and I expressed my

gratefulness to God for the great blessings I received during my first school year in 2008. I am looking forward to this new academic year and to continue doing everything that I can to maintain the high standards that have made St. Francis a premier College Preparatory School. May God continue to bless you.

Sincerely in Jesus and Francis,

Fr. Tony Martí, OFM Cap
President

BOOSTERS CONTRIBUTE TO SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

Welcome to the 2009-2010 school year. School started early for the students this year, August 19, however, as I learned, the faculty, staff and Booster Club volunteers work steadily throughout the summer preparing for the new school year.

I have also realized that I have some very big shoes to fill as new President of the Booster Club. Last year's President, John Moe, worked tirelessly all year instilling the importance of working together to provide service and support to the St. Francis Athletic Department and St. Francis athletics.

As Booster Club President, John provided outstanding leadership to the Booster Club and his dedication to St. Francis was evident in every decision he made and the direction he provided to the Board of Directors. John was at St. Francis virtually every morning before going to work from mid-summer until after the football season. John has also worked continuously with me and other Booster Club members this summer preparing for the new school year and football season. Thank you, John, for your dedication to St. Francis and the Booster Club.

This year the Booster Club is very fortunate to have three past Presidents actively involved in the Booster Club; John Moe (2008-2009), Ray Arriola (2007-2008) and Dave DePinto (2006-2007).

Brian Polchow is Vice President this year and will transition into President of the Booster Club for the 2010-2011 school year. Brian will also remain in the role of Treasurer. Tim Stratz will stay on as Secretary as well as the Alumni Association Liaison, a new position. Betty Dowling has taken on the leadership for the football programs, a big job, with the assistance of Jay Mitra and Joe Sember. Security for the football games will be led by Vito Palazzolo and Burt Garavaglia. Dan Perugini will return for another year as head of security for basketball. The reserved tables will again be supervised by Jay and Letty Mitra. Doug DeVore and Tim Gavotto will return as co-chairs of membership. New Board Members, Julio and Angi Barrera, will take over responsibility for football and basketball ticket sales. Genae Compagna and Lisa Palazzolo will return as co-chairpersons for merchandise sales. George Landis will return as Parliamentarian. Candice Ingram will take on the enormous job as volunteer coordinator, with her co-chairpersons and new Board Members, Tina Dionisio, Veronica O'Connor, Maria Romero-Toscano and Moira Love. Kevin Susank will be returning as the chairperson for program sales.

New Board Members Carolyn Polchow and Debbie Enterante will be our Mother's Guild Liaisons. Ed Boyer will return as

the 50/50 raffle chairperson. Sean McCarthy and Joe Orlandini will return to coordinate our Christmas tree sales. Last, but not least, our chairpersons for the concession stands are all returning; Ron Smith and Brad Recker supervise and run the concession stands for all home football games, Tim Rahtz heads the basketball concessions and Jim Ondrejko is our soccer concession chairperson. I would like to thank each of you for your dedication to St. Francis and the Booster Club.

On Saturday, August 22nd, the Booster Club hosted Pride Day which was highly successful because of the participation of Booster Club Members, parent volunteers and students who worked together to prepare the stadium and the concession stands for the upcoming football season. Thank you to all who participated!

Over the summer, many members of our Board of Directors worked diligently to prepare for this upcoming school year. Christmas trees were ordered and volunteer lists were compiled. No one put in more hours than Betty Dowling, who is in charge of this year's football program, which will be on sale at every home game. Betty is making some changes which should add to the already excellent program produced in the past.

We would like to thank all of you who were generous enough to place an ad or make a donation for this year's athletic programs. At the time of this letter, ad sales have been great and the fall football program is in the works in preparation for our home opener against Crescenta Valley.

The Booster Club will hold its first meeting of the year on September 3rd at 7:00 pm at the Field House. Our second meeting of the year is scheduled for October 1st at the same time and location. Anyone who is interested is welcome to attend and participate in the meetings. It is a great place to get current information on the athletic department, learn what volunteer opportunities are coming in the future, and meet other parents.

I couldn't be prouder to say that in some way, whether it is through our concessions, merchandise sales, ticket sales, Christmas tress sales or any other Booster Club function, we have helped create a great environment for our students, school, parents and community.

Thank you for your support of the Booster Club.

Go Golden Knights!

Chuck Brash
President

COLLEGE COUNSELORS' CORNER

Welcome back, everyone! We hope all of you had an enjoyable summer. We are available for any questions or concerns you may have, so please feel free to come to the Counseling Office or call or e-mail us. Let us share some important information, events, and dates with you.

PARENTS OF ALL STUDENTS—ACADEMIC DEFICIENCIES

Parents, please encourage your son to work to his fullest academic potential. Although St. Francis High School does not require that grades of D be remediated, the University of California, California State University, and many other colleges and universities do not accept Ds. Therefore, we strongly recommend that students remediate any grade(s) of D. Students may make up Ds through online courses (but not through online science classes, which UC/CSU campuses do not approve of). (Please note that St. Francis High School does not allow Fs to be made up online.) Please call or e-mail your son's counselor if you have any questions about his making up a course in which he earned a D.

SENIORS AND THEIR PARENTS—COLLEGE KNOWLEDGE NIGHT

A special counseling night for seniors and parents will be held on Wednesday, September 9, at 7:00 p.m. in the theater. You will receive an announcement in the mail about this event. Upon receipt of the announcement, please let Josie Zepeda, our counseling assistant, know if you will be attending by calling her at extension 517 or e-mailing her at jzepeda@sfhs.net. The College Knowledge Night program will consist of a presentation regarding the college application process followed by a question and answer session. You will receive a packet of information, including an unofficial copy of your/your son's transcript. We request that all seniors and their parents attend this very important event.

SENIORS—REGISTRATION DEADLINES FOR STANDARDIZED TESTS

In order to secure a test site close to home or at a familiar location, we advise you to register for the SAT and ACT as early as possible.

SAT Reasoning and Subject Tests - October 10 test date. Registration deadline: September 9; late registration deadline: September 23. Register online at www.collegeboard.com.

ACT - October 24 test date. Registration deadline: September 18; late registration deadline: October 2. Register online at www.actstudent.org. (If you wish to take the ACT on September 12, but have not registered, you must take it on standby—see your counselor for further instructions.)

ALL STUDENTS (ESPECIALLY SENIORS)—COLLEGE REP VISITS

In the fall, representatives from various colleges and universities visit St. Francis during lunch and break. These visits provide an excellent opportunity for students to learn more about colleges and the programs that they offer. While the information provided is of more immediate use to seniors, all students are invited to attend. Topics such as eligibility, tuition, classes, school size, housing, sports, student life, and the application process are typically addressed. In many cases, the college reps who visit St. Francis read the applications of our students and add valuable insight about them during the admissions process. The schedule of college rep visits is posted on the College Counseling board and window and on the wall next to the Attendance Office. In addition, seniors and their parents can view the schedule through the Naviance Family Connection website. College visits are also announced on KNIT.

SENIORS—WHAT SHOULD YOU BE DOING NOW?

You should be...

- getting into the habit of reading the College Counselors' Corner of Knights & Days each month.
- making a college counseling appointment.
- registering for the SAT, SAT Subject Tests, and the ACT.
- completing your senior questionnaire, resume, and college list (if you have not done so already).
- planning to attend the St. Francis College Fair with your parents.
- deciding which teachers to ask for recommendations. (The college counselors can help you with this!)
- attending on-campus visits by college reps.

- making up classes in which you earned Ds. (Usually, you must complete these courses by graduation).

- studying hard!

ALL STUDENTS AND PARENTS—OUR 33RD ANNUAL COLLEGE FAIR!

You are invited to attend our 33rd Annual College Fair on Wednesday, September 30, at 7:00 p.m., in the Norman Family Courtyard. Approximately 80 colleges and universities are expected to participate. The College Fair offers an excellent opportunity to continue (or begin) the college search process. We hope to see you at the fair!

ALL STUDENTS AND PARENTS—PERFORMING AND VISUAL ARTS COLLEGE FAIR AT UCLA

Are you interested in majoring in music, dance, theater, visual arts, graphic design, creative writing, or another artistic discipline? If so, consider attending the Performing and Visual Arts College Fair at UCLA on Saturday, October 18, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. At the fair, you will have the opportunity to meet with representatives from arts colleges and conservatories as well as representatives from specialized visual and performing arts schools within large universities. You can ask about admission requirements, portfolio preparation, auditions, financial aid, student activities, and residential life. The PVA Fair will be held in the Grand Ballroom of the Ackerman Union of UCLA at 308 Westwood Plaza in Los Angeles. Admission is free.

SOPHOMORES AND JUNIORS AND THEIR PARENTS—PLAN AND PSAT EXAMS

The PLAN and PSAT exams will be administered to all sophomores and juniors, respectively, on Wednesday, October 14. Informative materials about these exams will be distributed to students. Parents, please encourage your sons to review these materials before test day. Also, we urge you to ensure that your sons attend school on test day, as no make-up exams will be given. The PLAN and PSAT are valuable counseling tools that assist us in helping students make important college decisions. Not only are the PLAN and PSAT good practice for the related college-entrance exams (the ACT and SAT, respectively), high scores on the PSAT may qualify juniors for the National Merit Scholarship Program.

JUNIORS—PRACTICE PSAT EXAM

To help you prepare for the October PSAT, St. Francis will be offering a Practice PSAT Exam to you on the morning of Saturday, September 19. This full-length Practice PSAT simulates testing conditions of the actual exam. Prior to the administration of the actual PSAT, you will receive your scores from the practice exam and you, along with your parents, will be invited to attend a free "scoreback" information session conducted by the Princeton Review. There will be a \$10.00 fee for the practice exam. Further information will be mailed to you and your parents by mid-September. (Sophomores will be allowed to participate in the Practice PSAT Exam if space allows.)

SENIORS—PRACTICE SAT EXAM

Whether you took the SAT in the spring or will be taking it for the first time this fall, a simulated practice exam is an effective way of preparing for the actual fall SAT. Therefore, we will be offering a full-length Practice SAT Exam to you on the morning of Saturday, September 26. In early October, you will receive your scores from the practice exam and you, along with your parents, will be invited to attend a free "scoreback" information session conducted by the Princeton Review. There will be a \$10.00 fee for the practice exam. Further information will be mailed to your parents by mid-September. (Juniors will be allowed to participate in the Practice SAT Exam if space allows.)

SENIORS AND THEIR PARENTS—TIP OF THE MONTH!

We expect that you will find the Naviance Family Connection website to be useful in your college preparation and application process. With Family Connection, you can organize your college and career plans; request transcripts, forms, and letters of recommendation from your counselor; communicate with the Counseling Office; view announcements as well as the schedule of college rep visits to St. Francis; complete your senior questionnaire and related documents; do further research on colleges that interest you; and access a list of scholarship opportunities. To visit our Family Connection website, go to <http://connection.naviance/stfrancishigh>. If you have any problems accessing this website, please let your counselor know.

Daniel Pelletier and Anto Sweeney
St. Francis High School College Counselors