



ST. FRANCIS HIGH SCHOOL

KNIGHTS & DAYS

Volume 12 Issue 5

January 2010

www.sfhs.net

Upcoming Calendar Dates and Changes

Thursday, January 7
Line by Line FAFSA Review 7 pm

Saturday, January 9
Open House noon-3 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 14
Booster Club Meeting 7:00 p.m.
Parent Counseling Night 7:30 p.m.

Monday, Jan. 18
NO CLASSES-Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday

Tu.-Th. Jan 19-21
Junior Believe Retreat

Thursday, January 21
State of School Meeting
Report Cards Distributed
7:30-8:30 pm

Saturday, January 23
Alumni Day of Recollection

Tuesday, January 26
Academic Awards/Distinguished
Alumnus Night 7:30 pm

Wednesday, January 27
Friday Schedule
(Department Meetings)

Saturday, Jan. 30
Entrance Exam 8:30 a.m.

Tue-Fri. Feb. 2-5
Kairos

Wednesday, February 3
Mothers Guild Meeting 8:30 a.m./
Bake Sale
New *Knights and Days* uploaded

Thursday, February 4
College Knowledge Night for Jrs/
Parents 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, February 6
New Student Interviews

Dear parents:

I hope that you and your families had a great Christmas Day and that you continue to celebrate this great season of joy.

I want to express my appreciation for your great generosity and kind messages. I know that you also brought happiness to the families at our sister parish in Watts, St. Lawrence of Brindisi, by donating toys for their children. There is nothing more beautiful than seeing the smile of a child on Christmas day as they receive gifts and love from others. Charity is an important Christian virtue that St. Francis of Assisi encouraged and practiced. It is the Lord's love shown by all of us, His followers. Your kindness and giving demonstrate that you really care. Thanks so much.

And we are back at work! And your sons are back in school beginning another quarter of academics, sports and Fine Arts. Please encourage and support them in any way you can. It is going to be very busy for the next few months, and time will go by very fast. May is not too far away when we will see the graduating class getting their diplomas. Please

ask them to work hard and to get ready to enter another phase in their education.

This month we will have our Open House on Saturday, January 9. It is always an exciting day because we will meet our future students. Our faculty, staff and students who will give tours of the school are getting ready for that day. I am looking forward to welcoming everyone to our beautiful campus.

And please, let's not forget Mini Posh on Saturday, February 20 here at St. Francis. It will be a fun evening and we need your prayers and financial support to raise funds for technology enhancement. Your generosity is very much appreciated.

I hope this New Year will bring new blessings and opportunities to improve our lives and to reach out to those who need our help. Please know that you are in my prayers and are remembered at Mass every day.

Blessings

Fr. Tony Martí, OFM Cap.
President

PRINCIPAL INTEREST-a monthly update from the Principal

On behalf of the entire staff, we would like to thank our parents for their incredible generosity at Christmas. Your acknowledgement of our faculty and staff is truly appreciated. We would also like to commend our students for their efforts in the annual Christmas Toy Drive; they made a difference in the lives of a number of families at the Capuchin parish (St. Lawrence of Brindisi) in South Los Angeles!

We began the new year (and extended Christmas break by one day) with our annual Faculty/Staff Retreat. It was a great way to renew our commitment and we appreciate our retreat Master, Fr. Regis Armstrong, OFM, Cap. and Campus Minister, Mr. Joshua Godson, for organizing it for us.

The first semester report cards will be distributed on Thursday, January 21. This is a **mandatory parent meeting** where important information will be explained regarding the current "state of the school" and we will announce our plans for the coming year. We commit to concluding this meeting in one hour and expect that at least one parent from each family will attend.

We will not have any classes on Monday, January 18 (Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday).

Best of luck: Our winter sports teams have participated in several tournaments thus far to prepare for Mission League play this month. The Academic Decathlon



Happy New Year



MOTHERS' MOMENT-a monthly update from the Mothers Guild

Welcome back to school and Happy New Year! We hope you had a restful and joyful vacation with your family and friends.

On behalf of the faculty and staff, we want to thank you for your very generous contributions to the Christmas fund that was shared by the entire staff. Your donations were greatly appreciated by all, especially in these challenging economic times. Thank you so much!

We would like to thank Colleen Welsh and Judy Fujimoto for coordinating the cookie giveaway at the December Bake Sale. This was a special treat for not only the student body, but the faculty and staff, too. Thanks also to our Sports Banquet committee (Debbie Petito and Robin Banks) for arranging the food and decorations at the Fall Sports Awards night. This is a wonderful event recognizing the incredible commitment and sportsmanship of so many fine athletes! Thanks also to the Knightwear committee (Sharon Swart, Kelly Valles, and Emilie Brennan) for giving up three of their afternoons to sell Knightwear on campus at our annual Christmas Sale. Thanks again to our Faculty Lunch committee (Rene Korth, Kim Kaufman, Ginger Brody, and Teri Davis) for coordinating the December "Christmas Around the World" luncheon. The faculty and staff really enjoyed sampling a wonderful assortment of foods – thank you to all who contributed to this tasty feast. Lastly, a big thank you goes to the Hospitality: Chorus committee (Ryan Haynes and Diana Kronfli) for all their efforts at the Men's Chorus Christmas Concert. If you didn't see the concert, you really should make time next year. It was truly an amazing evening, and a perfect way to get into the holiday spirit.

With the start of the New Year, it is time for the annual Open House (January 9) to show off our incredible school to newcomers as well as old friends. Trina Cabrera's committee will need dozens and dozens of cookies for the very large crowd we are expecting. If you can help in any way, please call Trina right away at 323/855-1528. Also, be sure to encourage any young men you know who might be interested in attending St. Francis to be sure to stop by the Open House.

Don't miss the next Dinner Knight Out (DKO) scheduled for Wednesday, February 10 at Burger Continental in Pasadena. This is a great way to step out of the kitchen for an evening and to enjoy the company of other St. Francis families. Dinners are available for both eat-in and take-out. Hope to see you there!

Mini-POSH is just around the corner. Be sure to pick up some great Knightwear to show your spirit for this casual event. Contact Sharon Swart at 626/359-8454 if you need a tee-shirt, sweatshirt or other item for that evening!

Before we know it, the annual Yard Sale will be upon us. As you start your Spring cleaning, don't forget to save those gently used treasures to donate to our April event. It's one of those perfect symbiotic events – you get more space in your home; Mothers' Guild makes a little money to support school events; you (and others) find wonderful bargains that fill your home up again, and the cycle starts all over again! This year we have storage space for large items. Please call Linda Koklas at 213/276-6776 to donate any items or to volunteer to help.

Each month we highlight the great volunteers who make Mothers' Guild run like a well oiled machine. There are also many others behind the scenes such as Teresa Aubert, Recording Secretary; Isabel Velladao, Corresponding Secretary; Alison Davitt, Treasurer; Jeanne Muir and Erlinda Gordon, Parliamentarians; Grace Chavez and Trina Cabrera, Window Displays; Rebecca Dimmock, Helping Hands; Miryam Finkelberg and Patty Szot, Publicity/Historian; and Nicky Jackson and Rebecca Dimmock, Supplies. These women help make Mothers' Guild such a smoothly operated organization. We thank each of them for their continuous efforts!

We will soon begin nominations for next year's Mothers' Guild Board and Committee Chairs. If you would like to get more involved at St. Francis, this is your opportunity to step forward and sign up for a position that interests you. You'll find that it is very fulfilling, and you'll never regret the time you spend in these roles as you make new friends and contribute to the well-being of our school. Please call Jeanne Muir or Erlinda Gordon to let them know of your interest.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, February 3 at 8:30 a.m. in Founder's Hall. Whether it's your first meeting or your 50th ... we would love to see you there. Put it on your calendar now to hear about what's going on at school, reconnect with old friends, and make some brand-new ones.

The Principal's Notes ...continued

Team will be competing in the Southern California Private Schools competition on January 30 and February 6. These young men have worked hard to prepare and we wish them, and their moderator, Mr. Dierking, the best of luck.

Congratulations: To the Fine Arts Department for the beautifully traditional Christmas concert; and to all the fall sports athletes who were named to the all-Mission League teams. The cast and crew of our fall drama, Othello, was honored by the California Educational Theater Association and will compete with other schools for additional recognition.

Although it may seem too soon to be considering next year's course work already, we remind our students that their performance in the third quarter could be an

important factor in qualifying for honors/AP classes next year. Some of these decisions must be reached before final grades are due in June, so it is especially vital to achieve well during this quarter.

At the end of January, our Activities Department will collect class dues in homeroom. The funds from these dues (\$30 per student) help underwrite the activities program on campus, but also reduce the cost of our annual Junior/Senior Prom. Historically, seniors receive a reduced rate for prom bids, and our prom bids are consistently lower than most area high schools. Any remaining fees are used toward a Senior Class gift to the school. We ask your help in having students remit these fees on time.

SPORTS AUTHORITY-a monthly update from the Booster Club

Happy New Year to the entire Saint Francis family! In the spirit of the recent holidays, we want to thank Sean McCarthy, Joe Orlandini and the volunteers that helped administer the Christmas tree, wreath and poinsettia sales event in December. Thanks to the generosity of Ted Norman, 500 poinsettias were donated by Norman's Nursery to Saint Francis, which contributed to its success. Finally, I want to thank everyone who bought trees, wreaths and poinsettias. We sold a record number of each item making the Christmas Tree Sale a tremendous success.

The varsity football team's season ended with an exciting game in the second round of the playoffs. Unfortunately, St. Francis was eliminated with a heartbreaking loss in double overtime! Congratulations to Coach Bonds, his assistant coaches, staff and players for an outstanding season.

In this month's chairperson spotlight I would like to highlight the "Christmas Tree Sale Team" of Sean and Francie McCarthy and Joe and Lisa Orlandini. Sean, Francie, Joe and Lisa have been running the Christmas tree sales for 7 years. They have increased the number of trees sold from 75 trees the very first year to 300 trees this year. They have been able to do this by buying the freshest trees and making pick-up, quick, easy and fast. On December 3rd and 4th Sean McCarthy, with booster club board members, volunteer parents and students, unloaded 300 Christmas trees and over 180 wreaths at Saint Francis in preparation for the sale and delivery on Saturday, December 5. At 6 am on the 5th, the "McCarthy/Orlandini Christmas Tree Leadership Team" was present, ready to lead over forty volunteers, delivering trees to purchasers. I would like to thank Sean, Francie, Joe, Lisa and Toni Zollner for all their hard work in connection with the Booster Club's highly successful Christmas tree sale this year.

With the start of the New Year, Saint Francis athletics turns its attention fully to the basketball and soccer programs. The varsity basketball team will have home games on January 6 (Harvard-Westlake), January 15 (Loyola), January 20 (Crespi), January 23 (Verbum Dei), January 27 (Chaminade), January 29 (Notre Dame) and February 3 (Alemany). For each home basketball game, the booster club will be providing security, under the direction of Dan Perrugini (818.951.3892 or mscooch14@gmail.com), and providing refreshments and food, under the direction of Concessionaire Tim Rahtz (818.248.8688 or trahz@hotmail.com).

The varsity soccer team will be playing at Saint Francis' Friedman Field on January 4 (Notre Dame), January 14 (Alemany), January 26 (Harvard-Westlake), February 6 (Loyola) and February 9 (Crespi). The booster club will be providing refreshments and food at each home soccer game, under the direction of Jim Ondrejko (818.956.8503 or vjko77@charter.net).

Thank you to all the parents who have provided support to Saint Francis athletics during the fall and all the parents who are providing support for the athletic programs during the winter. Parent participation is a hallmark of Saint Francis High School and the assistance of every parent is greatly appreciated.

Our next booster club meetings are on January 14, 2010 and February 11, 2010 at 7 pm in the Field House. Everyone is welcome.

Go Golden Knights!

COUNSELORS' CORNER

SENIORS AND PARENTS OF SENIORS: LINE-BY-LINE FAFSA REVIEW

Please attend the Line-by-Line FAFSA Review on Thursday, January 7, at 7:00 p.m. in the theater. Dan Dabek, Assistant Director of Financial Aid at Occidental College, who led the College Financial Aid 101 presentation last October, will return as our guest speaker. Mr. Dabek will answer your questions about the FAFSA, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. The federal government requires that dependent students and their parents complete the FAFSA when seeking financial aid for higher education.

SENIORS AND PARENTS OF SENIORS: IMPORTANT FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION

- **Check your colleges' financial aid deadlines—some have priority deadlines as early as January 15. Make sure to complete and submit all required financial aid forms by each college's deadline.**
- Obtain PINs **ASAP**—from www.pin.ed.gov—for both the student and one parent. The PINs serve as your electronic signatures on the FAFSA.
- When completing financial aid forms, be sure to complete the forms for the **2010-2011 academic year**.
- It is best to file the FAFSA (which is available at www.fafsa.ed.gov) now, even if you must use estimates initially. (You can resubmit with corrected information after you complete your 2009 income tax returns.)
- If your colleges require the CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE (an additional financial aid form that is available at <https://profileonline.collegeboard.com/prf/index.jsp>), file it as soon as possible.
- Check the Financial Aid sections of the websites of your colleges to see if they have additional, school-specific forms that they require from those seeking financial aid or scholarships.
- **If you are seeking a Cal Grant, submit the FAFSA by March 2.** St. Francis High School submits students' GPAs electronically; therefore, please do not fill out and bring to us the Cal Grant GPA Verification Form.

SENIORS: YOU'VE APPLIED, SO WHAT SHOULD YOU DO NOW?

- **Make sure you have updated Naviance Family Connection for ALL of the colleges you have applied to (or will soon apply to).**
- Check with colleges to confirm that they have received your application.
- **Make sure you have sent SAT and/or ACT scores directly from the testing agencies (www.collegeboard.com and www.actstudent.org, respectively) to the colleges you have applied to. If you have not done this already, you must do so IMMEDIATELY.**
- Check Naviance Family Connection and FastWeb (www.fastweb.com) for scholarship opportunities.
- Please write thank you notes to teachers who wrote letters of recommendation on your behalf.

SENIORS: BEWARE!

Watch out for a very deadly disease known as "SENIORITIS." Symptoms include complete relaxation, coupled with a sharp loss of interest in school, followed by a drastic drop in grades. Remember that high school does not end until graduation. **Every college acceptance is provisional**, and it may be revoked if your grades drop precipitously during senior year. Keep working hard!

JUNIORS: COLLEGE KNOWLEDGE NIGHT IS COMING—DON'T MISS OUT!

The time has come for you to immerse yourself in the college search process. You and your parents will soon receive an invitation to "**College Knowledge Night**." This is a very important meeting, as we will discuss the college search, selection, and application process; testing (the SAT Reasoning Test, SAT Subject Tests, the ACT, and test prep resources); and Naviance Family Connection, a web-based program that assists with the college search and application tracking process. You will receive a packet of information at the event (including an unofficial transcript), and we will answer all of your questions. We look forward to seeing all of you (as well as your parents) on Thursday, February 4, at 7:30 p.m. in the theater. Also, we will soon ask you to complete a junior questionnaire and will meet with you individually this semester to discuss your college plans.

JUNIORS—STANDARDIZED TEST DATES AND DEADLINES

We recommend that you take the SAT Reasoning Test and ACT once this semester. If you are planning to apply to University of California campuses in the fall, we also recommend that you take SAT Subject Tests that align with your junior-year classes (e.g., U.S. history) in May or June. In order to secure a test site close to home or at a familiar location, you should register as soon as possible.

SAT Reasoning and Subject Tests (Register online at www.collegeboard.com)

- Test date: March 13 (*SAT Reasoning Test only*). Registration deadline: February 4. Late registration deadline: February 18.
 - Test date: May 1. Registration deadline: March 25. Late registration deadline: April 8.
 - Test date: June 5. Registration deadline: April 29. Late registration deadline: May 13.
(If you wish to take the SAT on January 23, but have not registered, you must test standby—see your counselor for further instructions.)
- ACT** (Register online at www.actstudent.org)
- Test date: February 6. Late registration deadline: January 15.
 - Test date: April 10. Registration deadline: March 5. Late registration deadline: March 19.
 - Test date: June 12. Registration deadline: May 7. Late registration deadline: May 21.

FRESHMEN AND SOPHOMORES: SHOULD YOU BE THINKING ABOUT COLLEGE?

We know it seems early, but the answer is yes! We have scheduled two "**Building A College Profile**" nights in February—the first will be held on Tuesday, February 9, at 7:00 p.m. in the theater and is targeted to freshmen and their parents. The second event will be held on Tuesday, February 23, at 7:00 p.m. in Founders Hall and is intended for sophomores and their parents. We will be reviewing the factors that colleges take into consideration in making their decisions on admission. We will also be discussing coursework, transcripts, testing, extracurricular activities, essays, recommendations, and the necessary steps you should be taking as freshmen and sophomores. It is not too early to start making preliminary plans. You will receive a reminder in the mail. We look forward to seeing you and your parents at one of these two events!

FRESHMEN: AN IMPORTANT TEST FOR YOU

You will be taking the EXPLORE exam on Wednesday, February 3, during the school day. This test will help you assess your academic progress in the areas of English language, math, reading, and science and give you ideas on how to improve areas of weakness. EXPLORE will also help you prepare for the PLAN exam that you will take as a sophomore and the ACT exam that you will take in your junior year. (The ACT is a college admission test that is fully accepted by all colleges in the U.S. in addition to—or in lieu of—the SAT.) Don't miss out on taking this important assessment!

FRESHMEN, SOPHOMORES, JUNIORS, AND PARENTS: TIP OF THE MONTH!

It is not too early to start thinking about summer. There are many options out there—jobs, community service, high school and college courses, camps, and special programs. You can start exploring the opportunities now. Check out the College Counseling section of the St. Francis homepage (under "Academics") for links to summer programs. Also, come to the Counseling Office to pick up a list of summer opportunities and check out a free website, www.enrichmentalley.com. You can also attend Tips on Trips and Camps' free summer opportunities fair at Marymount High School in Los Angeles (10643 Sunset Boulevard) from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, February 7. If you cannot attend the fair, but want to learn more, check out the company's website at www.TipsonTripsandCamps.com. Students, please keep in mind that you should engage in activities that are of interest to you and will help you grow personally and/or academically. Do not choose a program simply because you think it looks good on a resume—colleges would rather see you pursue something that is meaningful to you!

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