



ST. FRANCIS HIGH SCHOOL

KNIGHTS & DAYS

Volume 12 Issue 3

November 2009

www.sfhs.net

Upcoming Calendar Dates and Changes

Monday, November 9
Veterans Day Observed
(NO SCHOOL)

Thursday, November 12
Parenting Group 7 pm
Booster Club Meeting
(Fieldhouse) 7:00 p.m.

Monday, November 16
Progress Reports Sent
*by email

Thur-Sat, November 19-21
Fall Production

Thur-Fri, Nov 19-20
Set Parent/Teacher
Conferences via Picketime
Monday, November 23
Parent/Teacher Conferences
6-9 p.m.

Tuesday, November 24
Thanksgiving Liturgy
MASS DRESS)
Winter Sports Parents
Meeting 7 p.m.

Wednesday, November 25
Friday X Schedule!

Thurs.-Fri., Nov. 26-27
Thanksgiving Holiday-
NO SCHOOL

Monday, November 30
Christmas Toy Drive Begins
UC/CSU Application Dead-
line

Wednesday, December 2
Mothers Guild Meeting
8:30 am
Newsletter Sent/Bake Sale

Saturday, December 5
Christmas Tree Pick Up



Dear Parents:

During my visits to the Capuchin Franciscan's Retreat Center of San Lorenzo in the Santa Ynez Valley, I always take the time to visit the cemetery where many of our friars are buried. These brothers contributed in a tremendous way to our province and many of them worked at St. Francis High School. As I pray by their graves, I am grateful for their generosity and ministry. I am also aware that each of them possessed different talents and personalities. And

now they share the same holy ground waiting there for their resurrection. I am sure you have a similar experience as you visit the graves of your family members. Remembering those who have preceded us to eternal life is a respectful thing to do and it is also a way to express our appreciation for their lives.

During the month of November, the Catholic Church celebrates two important feasts: All Saints and All Souls. The feast

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PRINCIPAL INTREST-a monthly update from the Principal

During this traditional time of thanks, we would like to extend our gratitude to the Mothers Guild for their hard work with our Articulation Dinner last month. In addition to giving eighth grade teachers a sense of the work we do at St. Francis, they also had an opportunity to experience the wonderful dedication of our volunteers. Thanks too, to the Booster Club for their efforts during our football season. The numerous functions they perform during games (ticket sales, security, concessions, etc.) help communicate a Franciscan sense of hospitality to all visitors to our campus. The administrators and fans from other schools regularly compliment us on this feature of our campus.

Throughout November, our students will be collecting food for St. Lawrence, the Capuchin Franciscan Parish in Watts. Next month, we will have a toy drive to benefit the same parish community for Christmas. The generosity of our school community can help to make the holidays special for these families. Teaching the concept of giving is one way we can enrich the hearts of our own students,

many of whom are so blessed. We ask that you encourage your sons' involvement in these drives.

Our Admissions Team continues to visit local grammar schools and have eighth graders visit us (the week of November 16) as we begin preparations for the class of 2014. If you know of an interested eighth grader, please pass his name along to Mr. Monarrez, our Director of Admissions. We also ask you to remind eighth graders you may know that our Open House will be held on Saturday, January 9, from noon-3 pm.

We are studying the process for parents who make appointments for Parent/Teacher Conferences because we are aware that some teachers were not available to meet each parent who wished to see them in September. We are hopeful of providing an alternative to the current way we accomplish this beginning next fall. We understand that the first conferences tend to be the busiest and want to provide additional ways for parents and teachers to communicate with each other.

Please continue to consult the school website for updated information regarding school activities!

The President's Letter ...continued

of All Saints on November 1 reminds us that those who are in heaven have finally reached the ultimate joy any human being can experience by being in the presence of God and enjoying His gifts to us. The feast of All Souls on November 2 gives us the opportunity and the privilege to pray for our beloved sisters and brothers who have met our compassionate Lord. We are asked to do this during the entire month of November.

At our Masses during November the friars will remember those members of the St. Francis High School family who have died and did so much for the school. We are so grateful for everything they did. If you wish to send us the names of your deceased family members,

relatives and friends, you may do so by sending us the form that has been posted on our web site.

May we keep in our hearts the hope of meeting them again and with them share the heavenly peace that the Lord promised us. May their souls and the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace.

Sincerely in Jesus and Francis,

Fr. Tony Martí, OFM Cap
President

MOTHERS' MOMENT-a monthly update from the Mothers Guild

With the coming of November, it is only right and fitting that our hearts and thoughts turn to gratitude and thanksgiving for all the blessings in our lives. We especially need to realize how our own children are such blessings from God. We at St. Francis are so very fortunate that our sons enjoy an excellent, caring faculty and staff, and a school where so many opportunities exist for learning, spiritual development, personal growth, and the cultivation of lifelong friends. As moms, we are also fortunate to be involved in the many school activities and events through Mothers' Guild. Whether we bake, prepare food, make reminder phone calls, decorate, chaperone, or organize an event, each task helps build our St. Francis community.

We wish to thank the following women who worked so hard on so many different activities this past month: Articulation Dinner (Mary Johnson and Lou Keppel); Father/Son Communion Breakfast (Mary Johnson, Lou Keppel, and Catherine Robinson); Kairos Hospitality (Laura Vargas, Salma Dinaully, and Lynn Carmody); Dance Chaperones (Sakae Manning and Stephanie Bailey), and Homecoming (Ginger Brody, Colleen Welsh, and Judy Fujimoto).

There are also committees that have ongoing monthly duties. Thank you, ladies for your commitment! These committees include Bake Sale (Colleen Welsh and Judy Fujimoto); Faculty Lounge (Angelica McCoy and Marta Rincon); Faculty Lunch (Rene Korth, Ginger Brody, Kim Kaufman, and Teri Davis); Helping Hands (Rebecca Dimmock); Hospitality: Monthly Board Meetings (Anita Parys and Carole Morita-Brewer); Knightwear (Sharon Swart, Kelly Valles, and Emilie Brennan); Publicity/Historian (Miryam Finkelberg and Patty Szot); Supplies (Nicky Jackson and Rebecca Dimmock), Booster Club Liaison (Carolyn Polchow and Debbie Enterante), and Drumline Liaison (Dana Dabsys). Special thanks go to our Window Display committee members (Grace Chavez and Trina Cabrera) who continue to update the MG display window in wonderfully imaginative ways.

Don't miss our two big fundraisers in November! We hope you will join us for our first Dinner Knight Out fundraiser on Thursday, November 5th from 5 to 9 pm at Pepe's Restaurant in Montrose. Also, be sure to order your fresh and delicious Thanksgiving pies by Wednesday, November 11th; pies will be delivered for pick-up on Wednesday, November 25th. Order forms can be found on the website or in the school office. Please do your best to support these important fundraisers. Many thanks to Linda Wood and Cathy Boyack for arranging these events! We are looking for other restaurants for future Dinner Knights Out (especially in the Pasadena/Altadena areas); so if you have a suggestion, please contact Linda Wood or Cathy Boyack.

Plan ahead for December! Knightwear will have its annual Christmas Sale during lunch from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm on Tuesday, December 8 through Thursday, December 10. It's a great opportunity to buy your gifts early and support our school! Also, if your son participated in Football or Cross Country, don't miss the Fall Sports Banquet on Monday, December 14. Be sure to RSVP for the dinner by December 4. Flyers for both these events are on the website!

Like many service organizations, we are nothing without our members. Ladies (and the gentlemen that often support you), we thank you from the bottom of our hearts. You make it possible for us to be more than just "cookies and punch", and we truly are grateful for you and all that you do. For those of you who are not yet involved, please join us, and help us make St. Francis an even better and more vibrant community!

We hope to see you all at our next meeting, December 2nd at 8:30 am in Founders' Hall.

God bless

*Kim Kunitake & Beatrice Harendza,
Co-Presidents*



SPORTS AUTHORITY-a monthly update from the Booster Club

As I am writing this letter, we are edging closer to Halloween and the boys just finished quarter exams. Currently, the Golden Knight Varsity Football Team, under the direction of Head Coach Jim Bonds and his staff, is 5 and 1. The Golden Knights lost a heartbreaker to Notre Dame in a very well played game by Saint Francis. Not to be outdone, both the Junior Varsity Football Team and the Freshman Football Team are 4 and 2. Here's hoping the Saint Francis Varsity Team makes the playoffs!

Our Cross Country Team, under the direction of Coach Pat Donovan, participated again in the Stanford University Invitational Meet, performing well among the teams that participated. Congratulations to Coach Donovan and our runners.

In this month's Chairperson Spotlights, we will start with our Ticketing Committee. The Ticketing Committee is led by Jim Ondrejko (Johnathon '07 and Alex '10), who has been associated with the Booster Club for the past 9 years, and Jay Kerns (Nick '12). As most of you are aware, the attendance at our home football games has grown steadily over the last several years. The environment created at our games has made it a very positive and popular spot to be on Friday nights. With this continued influx of fans and visitors, ticketing has become a busy area on game nights. At any given home game, we will have thousands of people coming through our gates. Jim and Jay arrive on campus in the early afternoon on game days to prepare the gates to greet our fans. Jim, Jay and all the volunteers associated with ticketing have done a great job in helping get fans through the gates efficiently so they can enjoy the game and atmosphere of the evening.

The next Chairperson Spotlight is Jay and Letty Mitra (Jeremy '10) who are chairing the Booster Club Reserve Table program. As early as 12:30 pm on days of home varsity games, volunteers working under the direction of the Mitras, arrive at Saint Francis to set up tables and chairs. Jay and Letty Mitra then turn the tables into "suites" with table cloths, name tags, flowers and programs. At game time, Jay and Letty, with the assistance of adult and student volunteers, serve our Reserve Table Patrons with food from our concession stands. Jay and

Letty also go the extra mile and bring special desserts for the Reserved Tables. Our thanks and appreciation to Jay and Letty for their time, effort, dedication and hard work in making the Reserve Table program successful not only in 2009, but 2008 and 2007 as well!

The Booster Club Council continues to meet monthly and is focusing on short and long term business. We have had 50 new Lifetime Booster Club members join this year and we thank them for their support and involvement. It's not too late to become a lifetime or annual member. Please come see us at the membership sales table at home football games or contact committee co-chairs, Doug DeVore (626-590-8473) or Tim Gavotto (818-402-2862).

Jay Mitra has also been working hard on updating the Booster Club website with the help of Mr. Mihail Papadopoulos. You can find the Booster Club page on the school website by clicking on Athletics and then Booster Club in the drop down. For your convenience, Jay and Mr. Papadopoulos have uploaded our contact roster, membership forms and an upcoming events section. They have also uploaded a flyer for this year's Christmas Tree Sale for your use. The Christmas Tree Sale is one of our largest events of the year. This year's goal is to sell 300 trees along with fresh wreaths, poinsettias and Saint Francis glassware. Our delivery/pick-up date for everything is set for Saturday December 5th, so mark your calendars! **If you have any questions, know a company, person or family member interested in a tree or want to volunteer, please contact our chairperson, Sean McCarthy (818-790-2005), who always does outstanding work on this important event!**

Our next Booster Club meeting is set for November 12th at 7:00 pm in the Field House. All are welcome to attend and participate.

Thank you for your support of the Booster Club.

Go Golden Knights!

*Chuck Brash
President*

COLLEGE COUNSELORS' CORNER

PARENTS OF SENIORS

- This is a very exciting and busy time for your son. By now, he should be busy filling out his college applications, writing essays, and completing standardized testing. If your son has not made an appointment with his college counselor, please have him do so as soon as possible.
- The parent questionnaires, resumes, and student questionnaires that we have received are excellent. However, we are still missing these documents for many seniors. We require completed senior questionnaires and resumes from any senior who is applying to a college that requires counselor input. (We do not require the parent questionnaire in such cases, but we encourage you to complete it, as you frequently provide new insights into your son.) The questionnaires and resume provide information that is very helpful to us when we write letters of recommendation. The documents can be accessed through Naviance Family Connection.
- Please make sure that your son is following the application instructions that were provided to him during our visits to senior English classes at the end of September. (Each senior received detailed instructions for applying to University of California campuses, California State University campuses, and colleges and universities that use the Common Application.) The directions contain steps your son can take to avoid making the types of errors that students often make.
- Please remind your son to be aware of all application deadlines, including deadlines for merit scholarships, financial aid, and supplementary materials for specialized majors (which may precede the colleges' regular or priority deadlines).
- Please check with your son that he understands that it is his responsibility to send official SAT and ACT score reports from the testing agency (www.collegeboard.com and www.actstudent.org, respectively) to the colleges and universities he applies to. During our English class visits, we explained to the students that the Counseling Office does not send score reports to colleges and that students need to submit official score reports to colleges, even if they have indicated their SAT and ACT scores on their applications.

SENIORS: TIPS FOR FILLING OUT APPLICATIONS

The application is truly your self-presentation. It is your opportunity to afford readers a chance to discover who you are and what is important to you. Remember, admissions officers do not know you except for what they read in your completed application! Doing a careful, thoughtful job on your application can make all the difference. Here are some guidelines:

- **Be honest.** An honest portrayal of who you are will come through in the application and will be more impressive than trying to pad the application. It is better to concentrate on a few quality pursuits than to manufacture quantity. Present the things that are important to you.
- **Answer the questions asked.** In your eagerness to write about what is important to you, be sure not to ignore the prompt.
- **Proofread and make copies of everything.**
- **Print and keep a copy of the confirmation (with date and time) of the submission of your application.**
- **Take your completed application** (if you are applying by paper) to the post office and request a certificate of mailing. That way, if the application is lost, you will have a record of the date it was mailed. (Note: Both registered and certified mailings actually delay the handling of your application. There is a difference between "certificate of mailing" and "certified mail.")

SENIORS: IT'S NOVEMBER—WHAT SHOULD YOU DO THIS MONTH?

- **Complete your UC and CSU applications.** You have until 11:59 p.m. on November 30 to submit your UC and CSU applications. Nevertheless, we urge you to file your CSU applications as soon as

possible and to file your UC applications by the third week of November (for the reasons we explained to you during our visit to your English class).

- **Update your account on Naviance Family Connection to inform your college counselor of the colleges that you are applying to. Remember, you must do so at least one month before your first college application due date.**
- **Make sure you are applying to at least one financial foundation school.** **Note:** Though CSU Northridge is impacted this year, St. Francis students who meet minimal CSU eligibility are guaranteed CSUN admission because St. Francis High School is located in CSUN's local attendance area.
- **Submit your Early Action or Early Decision applications—if applicable—by the stated deadlines. (Many EA and ED deadlines fall in November.)**
- **Complete and submit the CSS PROFILE if it is required by a college you are applying to under an early admission program. Go to <https://profileonline.collegeboard.com> to access the CSS PROFILE.**
- **Send your official test score reports directly to colleges from the testing agencies (www.collegeboard.com for the SAT and www.actstudent.org for the ACT).** When sending scores to California State University campuses, you can save money by using code 3594 ("CSU Mentor") for the SAT and the "ACT Scores Manager" (through www.csumentor.edu) for the ACT.
- **Fill out applications and work on essays (if applicable) for private and out-of-state public colleges and universities (in preparation for their regular deadlines).**
- **Attend college rep visits at St. Francis.**
- **Call colleges where you will be applying and see if they interview. If they do, consider making an appointment. You may not have to travel to the school, as many colleges outside of California have alumni interviewers in the area. However, for local private colleges and universities, it is important that you visit them, on record, at least once.**
- **Make sure to deliver to your recommenders the white teacher envelopes (with the necessary recommendation forms and the preaddressed and stamped business-sized envelopes inside) at least one month before your earliest deadline!**
- **If you have not done so already, please submit your signed "Agreement for Records/Recommendation Letters Release" form to the Counseling Office. We will not release transcripts unless this form is completed and signed by both you and a parent. The form is available under "Downloads" of the College Counseling section of the St. Francis Web site.**

SENIORS AND PARENTS OF SENIORS: DATES TO REMEMBER

- November 30: UC/CSU application deadlines.
- December 5: SAT Reasoning and Subject Tests. Late registration deadline is Nov. 13. Register online at www.collegeboard.com. (If you wish to take the SAT Reasoning or SAT Subject Tests on Nov. 7, but have not registered, you must take it on standby—see your counselor for further instructions.)
- December 12: ACT Exam. Registration deadline: Nov. 6. Late registration deadline: Nov. 20. Register online at www.actstudent.org.
- January 7: Line-by-Line FAFSA Review, 7:00 p.m.

ALL PARENTS: TIP OF THE MONTH!

Please be wary of solicitations you receive from companies offering to help you seek financial aid and scholarships for college. Often, these companies charge a princely sum for services that you could receive for free elsewhere. For example, the Financial Aid offices of local colleges and universities—even institutions that your son has not applied to—are willing to answer financial aid questions that you may have. Feel free to contact us with your financial aid and scholarship questions.

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