



# ST. FRANCIS HIGH SCHOOL

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## KNIGHTS & DAYS

Volume 13 Issue 1

September 2010

www.sfhs.net

### *Upcoming Events and Activities*

**Thursday, Sept. 2**  
Booster Club Mtg. 7 pm

**Monday, Sept. 6**  
Labor Day-NO SCHOOL

**Wednesday, Sept. 8**  
College Knowledge Night for Srs/Parents 7 pm

**Sunday, Sept. 12**  
Back to School Day  
Orientation in Gym at noon  
"Classes" begin at 1:00p.m.  
Optional mass @ 3 p.m. in the chapel

**Monday, Sept. 13**  
Fine Arts Assembly  
Class Rings Make up orders taken through 9/14

**Wednesday, Sept. 15**  
Pilgrimage Informational Meeting 7 pm

**Thursday, Sept. 16**  
Parenting Group Meeting 7 pm

**Friday, Sept. 17**  
Sophomore Retreat

**Monday, Sept 20**  
Progress Reports Posted (on Edline)

**Wednesday, Sept 22**  
College Fair 7 pm

**Thurs.-Fri. Sept. 23-24**  
Set conference time via "Pickatime" (see website for details)

**Friday, Sept 24**  
Alumni Tailgater  
Welcome Dance

**Saturday, Sept. 25**  
Alumni Mass and Reunion  
Practice PSAT Exam (Juniors)

**Monday, Sept. 27**  
Alumni Golf Classic  
Friday Schedule  
Parent/Teacher Conferences 2:30-9 pm

**Wednesday, Sept 29**  
Friday Schedule-Academic Departments Meet

**Friday, October 1**  
Freshman Retreat

**Monday, October 4**  
Feast of St. Francis (NO SCHOOL)

**Tu-Wed October 5-6**  
CSU Application Workshop 1:45 pm

**Wednesday, October 6**  
Mothers Guild Mtg 8:30 am  
Parent Connection 9:30 am  
Bake Sale/Newsletter Posted

**Thursday, October 7**  
Student Body Liturgy (MASS DRESS)  
Booster Club Meeting 7 pm  
Quarter exams begin for Seniors

Dear Parents:

I would like to say to our returning parents and students: welcome back! We missed you! And I wish to extend a very warm welcome to our new parents and students and I say to them: you are now part of the St. Francis family and we are grateful for that gift!

The students are back on campus and their enthusiasm can be felt. Like most teenagers some of them don't want to admit that they wanted to come back to school and to the challenges of the academic world. You and I know that they ultimately get used to it and that they realize they need to learn and to grow academically and spiritually. We are very

grateful having them and you back. And we very much appreciate the presence of our faculty and staff to help with your sons' education.

Over the last few weeks, a number of students in the Student Body Council, in the Life Team, in the Yearbook group, and in the Link group have participated in retreats. I am impressed by their generosity and dedication. These young men have been learning about leadership skills and how to apply them to help their bothers here at St. Francis. Doing this takes time, requires work and trust and being willing to learn more about oneself. In our Franciscan tradition, being a leader and a brother also requires listening,

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### **PRINCIPAL INTEREST**-a monthly update from the Principal

We wish to thank our parents for your participation in all the activities involved in the first month of the year. 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 for download on our website, and we will do our best to update changes in our 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, homework assignments, syllabi, and progress reports.) If you have forgotten this information or need some help, please telephone or email our Technology Department. **Also, please be aware that we are now using Edline as our means of communicating Emergency Contacts to families in case of a natural disaster, cancellation of school, etc. Parents must answer the prompts when you reach your**

**Edline account. We will have the ability to send telephone messages, emails, and/or text messages, but need you to input the information!!!!** Parents of new students received their access codes for Edline at the New Parent Meeting on August 26.

Each month (usually the first Wednesday of the month) the Knights and Days newsletter and flyers from school activities 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 link 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

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## The Principal's Notes ...continued

exams. Please note that senior quarter exams begin on October 7, due to the first Kairos retreat this year. Especially due to the brevity of the first 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 12. 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 27, from 2:30-9 p.m. You should recognize that these meetings are not mandatory, but encouraged for students who are in academic difficulty. Parents who wish to make an appointment must log on to "Pickatime" beginning noon on Thursday, September 23 and ending at noon on Friday, September 24. **Please consult the Student Handbook and/or the check the website for details on making appointments.** Progress reports will be posted to Edline on September 20 for 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 4 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, technology, 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/coaching staffs 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 2014 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 are asking a great deal of our students and their 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.

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## **MOTHERS' MOMENT**-a monthly update from the Mothers Guild

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, welcome back. We encourage all of you to join us at our meetings and to get involved in all that St. Francis High School has to offer!

We are anticipating another busy year with many opportunities to be involved. This is an open invitation for all moms and guardians to join in Mothers' Guild activities. 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, hear speakers and find out what is happening in the boys' school lives. Also, keep an eye on the St. Francis website for updates/reminders of all the amazing opportunities for involvement!

Many of our committees are already gearing up, so don't hesitate to call and offer your assistance: Bake Sale (Judy Fujimoto 626/797-1688); Dance Chaperones (Stephanie Bailey 323/697-6986); Faculty Lunch (Ginger Brody 626/447-7914); Homecoming (Tina Gonzalez 323/343-8619); and Knightwear (Irene O'Brien 626/836-8390). 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 are looking for two or three ladies to head up our annual Yard Sale. Please contact either Beatrice ([beatriceh@earthlink.net](mailto:beatriceh@earthlink.net)) or Teresa ([teresaka@sbcglobla.net](mailto:teresaka@sbcglobla.net)) for information if you are interested in chairing this important fundraising event.

We hope you've marked your calendars for Back-to-School Day on Sunday, September 12<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Linda Gomez (626/308-9047), Hospitality Chair if you would like to help out with refreshments or hosting opportunities.

For those of you looking for the latest in Knightwear, Mothers' Guild has lots of great merchandise available for your family to show off its school spirit – t-shirts, sweatshirts, sports bags, bears, coffee mugs and beautiful St. Francis jewelry. Look for Knightwear 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 at local restaurants. Proceeds from these dinners support the MG Hope Fund and SF families in need. Check the SFHS Website for dates and details!

Our next meeting will be held October 6<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m. in Founders' Hall. Immediately following our regular meeting, we are hosting our Parent Connection meeting. (See the attached flyer.) 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, to meet other parents, and have all those questions answered. We look forward to seeing you there and your becoming involved in a productive, fun year of activities in support of our sons and St. Francis.

**Beatrice Harendza and Teresa Aubert,  
Co-Presidents**

## The President's Letter ...continued

humility, accepting others and being willing to be a servant to those in need. Our young men in position of leadership are ready!

Our family goes through a change each year with new parents and students, and this provides diversity and new opportunities. I have already spoken to the parents of our new students and I look forward to getting acquainted and working with them. I am confident that the Class of 2014 will do well and will feel at home.

The first Franciscan virtue to be highlighted this school year is prayer. Listening to God and opening our hearts to Him will allow us to continue developing our spirituality and being more aware of God's immense love for us. I ask you to please encourage your sons to pray, accompany them to church and support their spiritual growth.

You are present in my prayers and at the celebration of my daily Mass in our chapel. Join us whenever you can at 7:00 am. You are always welcome to stop by and visit our Lord.

May the Lord bless you, your sons and your entire family.

Sincerely in Jesus and Francis,

Fr. Tony Martí, OFM Cap

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## **SPORTS AUTHORITY**-a monthly update from the Booster Club

Saturday, August 21 marked another successful Pride Day. Over 150 volunteer parents arrived at Friedman Field with buckets, brooms, rakes and shovels ready to go to work. New freshman parents as well as seasoned veterans worked side by side preparing the bleachers, concessions and areas around the field for the upcoming home opener on Friday, September 10 against Arcadia. Fr. Tony got us kicked off with a prayer and some inspirational words, then grabbed a broom and pitched in. We often hear about the family of St. Francis High School and you could feel that spirit on Pride Day. As our folks scrubbed and cleaned, they became acquainted with other parents and shared some good camaraderie. After enjoying some barbecued hot dogs, we got everything put away and Friedman Field was ready for that first game. Thanks to all of our volunteers.

Now we move on to the new football season. We are getting our ducks in a row to host our first football game. Ron Smith and Brad Recker will have the concessions ready and a team of volunteers prepared to serve some of the finest stadium food around. Burt Garavaglia, our Booster vice president and security chairman is assembling a squad to make sure your visit is a pleasant one. Jay Kern is running the crew manning the admission gates and Kevin Susank will be right there ready to sell you a program. Ed Boyer is back for another year with his gang of 50-50 ticket salesmen. Every game some lucky winner goes home with a cash prize. The Reserved Table patrons will be served well by Dee Seymour and Monica Duffy. Look for some great desserts there. Pick up some Knights merchandise while you're at the game. Genae Compagna and Lisa Palazzolo and their group of ladies have a nice selection of goods for the

new season. Stop by the membership table. Doug De Vore and Tim Gavotto can answer your questions and get you signed up on the spot. We are ready to go.

The summer months are filled with behind the scenes activity. Our activity coordinator, Veronica O'Connor has led a team of ladies recruiting volunteers, soliciting ads for the football program and setting up Pride Day. I'd like to thank them for spending so much of their time for the Booster Club cause. Special thanks go out to Betty Dowling who has done a wonderful job putting the football program together. Getting all the parts organized, making sure we have a fantastic souvenir program is no easy task. By the way, this year's program will feature the class of 1965. Pick one up.

Thanks to everyone for all the hard work so far. I have been around St. Francis for a while. One thing that stands out is the dedication of the volunteers. So much of what is done is done with a true sense of pride.

Go Knights.

**Brian Polchow**  
**President**

# COUNSELOR'S CORNER

*Welcome back, everyone!* We hope you had an enjoyable summer. For 2010-2011, Mrs. Sweeney is the counselor for seniors with last names beginning with letters A through L and for juniors with last names beginning with letters A through H. Mr. Pelletier is the counselor for seniors with last names beginning with letters M through Z and for juniors with last names beginning with letters I through Z. We are available for any questions you may have, so please feel free to make an appointment to meet with us or call or e-mail us.

## PARENTS OF ALL STUDENTS—ACADEMIC DEFICIENCIES

Although St. Francis High School does not require that grades of D be remediated, the University of California (UC), California State University (CSU), and many other colleges and universities do not accept D's. Therefore, we strongly recommend that your son remediate any grade(s) of D. With the permission of the Academic Vice Principal, some D grades may be made up online. (Laboratory science classes cannot be made up online because the UC and CSU prohibit online lab science courses. Also, please be aware that St. Francis does not allow F's to be made up online.) Please call or e-mail us if you have any questions.

## SENIORS AND THEIR PARENTS—COLLEGE KNOWLEDGE NIGHT

A special counseling night for seniors and parents will be held on Wednesday, September 8, 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 RSVP to Josie Zepeda, St. Francis Counseling Assistant, by calling her at extension 517 or e-mailing her at [jzepeda@sfhs.net](mailto: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 useful 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** (Register online at [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)):

- Test date: Oct. 9. Registration deadline: Sept. 10. Late registration deadline: Sept. 24.
- Test date: Nov. 6. Registration deadline: Oct. 8. Late registration deadline: Oct 22.
- Test date: Dec. 4. Registration deadline: Nov. 5. Late registration deadline: Nov. 19.

**ACT** (Register online at [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org))

- Test date: Oct 23. Registration deadline: Sept. 17. Late registration deadline: Oct. 1.
- Test date: Dec. 11. Registration deadline: Nov. 5. Late registration deadline: Nov. 19.

(If you wish to take the ACT on Sept. 11, 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 admission process. The schedule of college rep visits is posted on the College Counseling bulletin 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 D's.
- studying hard!

## ALL STUDENTS AND PARENTS—OUR 34TH ANNUAL COLLEGE FAIR!

You are invited to attend our 34<sup>th</sup> Annual College Fair on Wednesday, September 22, 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 Sunday, October 24, from 1:00 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.

# COUNSELOR'S CORNER

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counselor know.

## **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 13. Informative materials about these exams will be distributed in class prior to test day. Parents, please encourage your son to review these materials. Also, we urge him to 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. The PLAN and PSAT are also good practice for their related college-entrance exams (the ACT and SAT, respectively). In addition, high scores on the PSAT may qualify juniors for the National Merit Scholarship Program.

## **SENIORS—PRACTICE SAT EXAM**

Whether you took the SAT in the spring or will be taking it for the first time this fall, a practice exam is an effective way of preparing for the actual exam. Therefore, we will be offering a full-length Practice SAT Exam to you on the morning of Saturday, September 18. 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 in early September. (Juniors will be allowed to participate in the Practice SAT Exam if space allows.)

## **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 25. 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 AND THEIR PARENTS—TIP OF THE MONTH!**

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 plans; 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.com/stfrancishigh>. If you have any problems accessing this website, please let your

## **A WORD FROM OUR PERSONAL COUNSELOR, ALLISON CLAY**

The Counseling Department will be sponsoring its first parenting group of the year **on Thursday, September 16, 2010, at 7:00 pm in the theater**. The parenting group is open to **all SFHS parents**. The topic of this month's meeting is **Adolescent Male Behavior: Is this Normal, or Should I be Worried?** Our speaker will be Jill Grayson, certified Boys Town consultant. Please email any questions that you would like our speaker address to me at [aclay@sfhs.net](mailto:aclay@sfhs.net). I look forward to seeing you there!

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