



# ST. FRANCIS HIGH SCHOOL

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## KNIGHTS & DAYS

Volume 14 Issue 4

December 2011

www.sfhs.net

### Calendar

- Sunday 12/4**  
MiniPOSH Phone Tree
- Tuesday-Thursday 12/6-12/8**  
Mothers' Guild Knightwear Sale
- Wednesday 12/7**  
Christmas Concert 7 pm in the theater
- Thursday 12/8**  
Student Body Liturgy (MASS DRESS)  
Booster Club Meeting 7 pm in Field House
- Friday 12/9**  
Brown and Gold Day
- Monday 12/12**  
MiniPOSH Drop off Drive Through
- Tuesday 12/13**  
Toy Drive Collection Day
- Wednesday-Friday 12/14-12/16**  
First Semester Exams
- Monday 12/19-Wednesday 1/4**  
Christmas Vacation

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- Tuesday 1/3**  
Faculty/Staff Retreat (NO CLASSES)
- Wednesday 1/4**  
School Resumes - 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester begins  
Mothers' Guild Meeting 7 pm  
Newsletter Posted - Bake Sale
- Saturday 1/7**  
Open House for prospective students Noon-3 pm



### From the Desk of Father Tony

Thanksgiving Day always marks the beginning of the shopping spree for the Christmas season. But more important than the rush to buy gifts is the beginning of Advent and the beautiful readings in our liturgy that guide us to the celebration of Christmas.

God revealed Himself through the words of the prophets until the time the Archangel Gabriel visited Mary, telling her that God had favored her and that she would conceive in her womb and bear a son whose name would be Jesus. God decided to reveal Himself by the Word, the Son of God. The Incarnation, God "made" flesh, is a great mystery of love. God is saying to us that He is not ashamed of becoming one like us. God created us and wanted to dwell among us even if we had not sinned.

So let no person think or say that he or she is not worthy. If God shows His humility by becoming a human being in the person of Christ, we should realize that there is a lot of good in us. We are capable of doing great things - we should put our faith and trust in God and use the talents He has given us. Here at St. Francis High School we see the goodness of your sons and your great generosity. St. Francis is unique because of the family spirit present on our campus and the spiritual gifts we generously share.

On Christmas Day, let's thank God for the gift His Son is to us, and let us give birth to Jesus in the hearts of others by actively living His teachings. May the joy of Christmas fill your hearts and the hearts of your family.

Merry Christmas!

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### Principal Thomas Moran's Message

A reminder to parents that all tuition accounts must be current in order for students to take their semester exams on December 14-16. Any payments made after December 5, should be in cash/cashier check only and must be delivered directly to the school (instead of the credit union).

Gifts will be collected for our annual toy drive to support St. Lawrence of Brindisi Parish, on Tuesday, December 13. We ask that each student bring an unopened, unwrapped toy to the truck that will be in front of the administration building (near the flagpole). Thank you in advance for your generosity!

The first semester exams are a major factor in determining final grades which

become part of a student's permanent transcript. Any failing grades received on the next report card must be made up in an accredited summer program prior to officially re-enrolling a student next fall. **Our counseling department highly recommends that semester grades of "D" should be made up as well, because any grade below "C" is not a college recommending grade.** We also remind parents that any student who receives three semester fails will be asked to leave St. Francis immediately.

Please save the date of **Wednesday, January 18**, for our one-hour mandatory parent meeting, "State of the School." In addition to distributing first semester report cards, we will inform parents about every

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## **The Principal's Message**

*(Continued from page 1)*

aspect of the school operation including plans for next year. We expect one parent from each family to attend.

On Saturday, January 7, we will hold our Annual Open House for prospective new students and their families between Noon-3 p.m. If you are aware of any family who may be interested in sending their son to St. Francis, please encourage them to attend.

We would like to thank our students and their families for their support of our Thanksgiving Food Drive during November. Congratulations to Mr. Eulalia and the cast and crew of Lord of the Flies for last month's wonderful performances. Our winter sports teams, basketball and soccer, begin action this month. We wish the best of luck to them and ask you to support them throughout their seasons. Congratulations to the football team for advancing to the CIF playoffs and to the Mock Trial Team, one of 16 high schools who advanced to the third

round of competition. Also, congratulations to our Robotics team on a successful first competition – well done!

Please continue to consult the school website for upcoming opportunities for students to fulfill their Christian Service Hours. The number of completed service hours will be listed on each student's first semester report card.



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## **Mothers' Guild Moment** by Co-Presidents Teresa Aubert and Lisa Singelyn

It's hard to believe that Thanksgiving is already behind us! The month of December will bring final exams and the hope that this year we enjoy the true meaning of Christmas and the special time it brings with family and friends.

November was another busy month but hopefully we all took the time to give thanks. Mothers' Guild is thankful for all of our wonderful volunteers. We want to recognize the hard work of so many volunteers last month: Our Drama Liaisons (Monica Duffy, Tina Gonzalez and Kelly Young) worked behind the scenes supporting the cast and crew of *Lord of the Flies*, organizing and hosting refreshments for the audiences which enjoyed this fabulous production. The Faculty Lunch committee (Ginger Brody, Tina Thompson, Joanne Zovak, Debra Yekikian and Carmen Ortega) prepared the annual Thanksgiving feast enjoyed by all our faculty and staff. A huge thanks goes to Second VPs Kim Kunitake and Isabel Velladao for the successful Thanksgiving Pie Sale fundraiser. Many thanks, as well, to our Knightwear committee (Patty Szot and Miryam Finkelberg), who have been working hard at many events boosting SF spirit with great merchandise. Also, just in time for the holidays, they'll be selling Knightwear in the SFHS courtyard on December 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> from 11:30 am until 1:00 pm. This is a perfect opportunity to buy holiday gifts and stock up on St. Francis apparel. Lastly, check out the newly updated window display and give thanks to our Window Display chairs, Julie Casciani and Claudia Starzak, for their artistic talents.

You recently received a mailing from Mothers' Guild about our annual Christmas gift to the faculty and staff. This is an opportunity to show your appreciation to each member of the faculty and staff collectively. We hope you will join us in

this holiday tradition of recognition for the outstanding work they all do. All contributions are voluntary and are due by Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup>.

Don't forget to honor your son at our Fall Sports Awards Banquet for football and cross-country athletes, which will be held on Monday, December 12<sup>th</sup>. If you plan to come for dinner, advance reservations are due by December 5<sup>th</sup>. Details and reservation forms are on the website.

The Yard Sale committee has again secured storage space and is continually gathering donations for our Yard Sale in April. Please think of St. Francis as you prepare to give away your "gently used" end-of-year tax-deductible donations! Contact Christina Tinglof at [tinglof@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tinglof@sbcglobal.net) for donation drop-off information.

Looking toward January, Open House is Saturday, January 7<sup>th</sup>. Our Hospitality: School Events committee will need lots of baked goods and assistance that day, so please contact Linda Gomez ([lsrgomez@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lsrgomez@sbcglobal.net)) if you'd like to volunteer.

As we enter into the holiday season, we wish all of you and your families the peace, joy, and blessings of Christmas. May your 2012 be filled with health, happiness, and good fortune.

We look forward to seeing you at our January 4<sup>th</sup> meeting at 7:00 pm in Founders' Hall, followed by an evening edition of the Parent Connection. Come meet other parents and ask any questions you might have about St. Francis. God bless you and have a Merry Christmas. See you next year!

## The Sports Authority by *Booster Club President Burt Garavaglia*

At the time of this writing, the Cross Country team competed in the Mission League tournament finishing in 6<sup>th</sup> place overall against a field of very talented schools and the Varsity Football team is still alive in the playoffs. Congrats to both teams! By the time you read this, Varsity Football will be either preparing for the division finals or looking back at a great season with life-long memories for the athletes.

This is also the time of the year when award shows start honoring their trade's best performers. The Country Music Awards and the American Music Awards have made their presentations and the Golden Globes and Oscars are coming soon. There is another award show that doesn't make the TV networks, but is just as important. I bring you the "Golden Knights Recognition Awards" to honor those who have given their time to make our SFHS sports experience more enjoyable. And the winners are -

"Program of the Year" – Betty Dowling. The pictures, the stats, the colors, the presentation, the advertisers, and who is not impressed with the cover page that invites you to read on? Note – the program is updated for each home game. Thank you Betty for creating a quality program that doubles as a keepsake for the future.

"Positive First Impression" – Jay Kern and his ticket and program sales crew. Who are the first people you see when entering the campus? The smiling faces, pleasant conversation and a thank you for attending the event. That sets the tone for what is to come - and it is all positive. Thank you Jay for making everyone's job that much easier.

"World's Best Snack Bar" – Ron Smith and Brad Recker. There were no other nominees. When visiting fans enter the gates and the first thing they ask is, "Where can I get the carne asada?" You know you're on to something. And the surprise when a visiting team is given meals for their bus ride home - win or lose. Thank you Ron and Brad for the quality food you provide us all and for David Munoz who coordinates the lower snack bar and special events.

"SFHS Ambassador" – Goes to the legion of Security volunteers who manage parking, answer questions, give directions, hang with the kids at the south end and maintain order on the ramp and are general problem solvers. They are true ambassadors of SFHS. And who said you can't wear yellow after Labor Day? The presence of the numerous yellow jackets all around the complex is calming. Thank you Security volunteers for taking charge which allows others to concentrate on their assigned duties.

"Best Dressed" – Ann Taylor and Blanca Hurtado. We do share this function with the Mother's Guild, but Ann and Blanca take it a step further. If you need a hat, where do you go? If your son needs a tie, who has them? Your back needs a stadium chair? Your car - a license plate holder? Your Christmas Tree- a SFHS ornament? Yes, we can dress up anything. Thank you Ann and Blanca for promoting the

SFHS brand and letting us show our pride for SFHS throughout the community.

"Lifetime Achievement" – Doug DeVore and Tim Gavotto. Membership has its privileges and Doug and Tim promote Booster Club "lifetime" memberships as the best deal in town. And it truly is. One membership gets you free admission into any regular season home sporting event – for life. Thank you Doug and Tim for attending SFHS events to promote this benefit.

"Share Among Others" – Ed Boyer. What's good for me is good for you is the motto of Ed's 50/50 Raffle team. How many times do 50/50 sales volunteers go up and down the stairs during a game? They work hard to provide an added element of fun for spectators – as if the game weren't exciting enough. Thank you Ed for keeping fans on the edge of their seats waiting for the announced number.

"Restaurant of the Year" – Dee Seymore. One of the hardest tables in the area to reserve, with a waiting list extending one-year out. But the Reserve Table program is well worth it. SFHS student activity clubs serve as waiters, the Snack Bar is the chef, and Dee is the maître'd that creates the desserts and puts the personal touch to the meal. Thank you Dee for managing the only known high school "stadium club" experience for football games.

"Spirit" – Jil Gonzalez. When the game is over but you are still too excited to go home, the 5<sup>th</sup> Quarter is there for Lifetime Boosters. Serving pizza and soft drinks in the upper courtyard is a great way to top off the evening and discuss that evening's game. Thank you Jil for your friendly conversation and making sure fans go home with the SFHS spirit, win or lose.

"Volunteer of the Year" – Veronica O'Connor. When you need help, who are you going to call – Volunteer Coordinator Veronica and her team of Tina Dionisio, Marissa Coffey, Annette Faenza, Carol Schraer and Ann McCloskey. Volunteers are needed for every Booster sponsored event and Veronica assures that we have the staff in place. Thank you Veronica for the countless hours you and your team devote to SFHS so we can put on the quality events everyone has come to appreciate.

"Holiday Spirit" – Sean McCarthy and Joe Orlandini. Christmas Trees do not have a lot to do with sports, but they do with SFHS spirit. Tree Sales is an annual Booster Club event that Sean and Joe put in tireless hours coordinating each year. If you missed placing an order in 2011, put it on your agenda for 2012. You will not be disappointed. Thank you Sean and Joe for reminding us what it really is all about.

Not to be forgotten, we have other committees that I will report on in future letters. Booster Club meetings are the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of every month at 7:00 pm in the Field House. Come join us in January and share your ideas for the future.

SENIORS:

Now that your UC and CSU applications have been filed, you should concentrate on private and out-of-state public institutions where you plan to apply. **Be sure to watch application deadlines!** (Also, aim to send all of your applications before Christmas.) The majority of colleges will be asking for seventh semester grades, so study hard and avoid senioritis! Remember that improvement counts. Our office will automatically send your seventh semester grades to colleges by February 2012.

SENIORS – DECEMBER TIMELINE

- Send official test scores to **all** colleges you have applied to. **Please do so immediately.** You must do so through The College Board and ACT websites: [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) and [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org), respectively. You can save in sending SATs to CSUs by using CSU Mentor (Code #3594) and by sending ACTs to CSUs by using ACT Scores Manager. (See your counselor for assistance, if necessary.) For UCs, send your test scores to one UC campus that you have applied to. That campus will share your scores with the other UC campuses.
- Report Early Decision or Early Action results to our office.
- Pursue private scholarships and awards. To obtain more information regarding scholarship opportunities, listen to KNIT for announcements, check the Counseling Office's scholarships file, and go onto the SFHS website to access the links in the Scholarships section (click on "College Counseling" under "Academics"). Be aware of scholarship scams! A good rule of thumb is that you should never pay for scholarship applications or information.

SENIORS AND PARENTS OF SENIORS – LINE-BY-LINE FAFSA REVIEW NIGHT

All seniors and their parents are invited to attend the Line-by-Line FAFSA Review Night on Tuesday, January 10, 2012, at 7:00 p.m. in the theater. This is an extremely important meeting where detailed information will be given regarding the financial aid process. Nancy Medina, Financial Aid Counselor at Occidental College, will return to St. Francis as presenter for this event. (Ms. Medina also presented the College Financial Aid 101 event in October.) What can you do now in preparation for the FAFSA (which will not be available until January 1)? Order a PIN (personal identification number) for the student and at least one parent. (The PINs serve as the student's and parent's electronic signatures.) Go to [www.pin.ed.gov](http://www.pin.ed.gov) to obtain your PINs.

SENIORS AND PARENTS OF SENIORS – WHAT IS THE CSS PROFILE?

The CSS Profile is a financial aid form that some colleges require (in addition to the FAFSA) from students seeking financial aid or merit scholarships. Private institutions that do not require the CSS Profile sometimes require applicants to fill out their own institutional financial aid forms (in addition to the FAFSA). It is very important to follow each college's directions for filling out forms and meeting financial aid and merit scholarship deadlines. While UC and CSU campuses have a March 2, 2012, deadline, many private and out-of-state public institutions have much earlier deadlines. (For example, USC has a filing deadline for both the FAFSA and CSS Profile of February 2.) Please check the Financial Aid sections of the websites for each of your colleges to verify deadlines and determine whether additional forms are required.

ALL STUDENTS AND PARENTS – SOME HELPFUL FINANCIAL AID WEBSITES

1. FAFSA: [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov).
2. CSS Profile: <http://profileonline.collegeboard.com>.
3. The Net Price Calculator on each college's website (look in the financial aid section). This tool should give you an estimate of what your financial aid package would look like for that particular college. However, the Net Price Calculator is a new tool and may not be accurate. If the financial aid package it estimates seems unrealistic (or varies significantly from other colleges that are similarly priced), call the Financial Aid Office at the college and ask to speak with a

financial aid counselor.

4. FinAid: [www.finaid.org](http://www.finaid.org). This website offers great information on financial aid: how it works, how to apply, available resources, strategies for maximizing eligibility, a list of questions and answers, terminology, and overall good advice. It is a comprehensive source for student aid information with descriptions and links to other sites, including college websites.
5. See additional financial aid links in the College Counseling section (within "Academics") of the SFHS website.

JUNIORS AND PARENTS OF JUNIORS – COLLEGE KNOWLEDGE NIGHT

Please mark your calendars for College Knowledge Night on Tuesday, February 7, 2012, at 7:00 p.m. This is a very important meeting for juniors and their parents. As juniors, you will soon be getting more involved in the college search and application process. Our goal at St. Francis is to keep you informed and prepared. We want to make sure that each of you proceeds smoothly through the application process and matriculates to a college that is a good fit academically, socially, and spiritually. The more you know about the college application process, the easier it will be for you and your family next year. "Where should I apply?" "How do we pay for college?" "When should I take the SAT or ACT?" "How do I prepare for these tests?" "When do I apply?" "What courses should I take senior year?" "What are the admission requirements?" "How many schools should I apply to?" These are some of the topics that will be covered during the course of the evening. Please check the January 2012 Knights & Days for further details. We look forward to seeing all of you on February 7<sup>th</sup>!

COLLEGE INFORMATION FOR JUNIORS

You can now register for spring 2012 SAT and ACT exams. If you are interested in highly selective four-year institutions (such as the UC campuses), you should also plan to take SAT Subject tests in May or June, particularly for subjects you are taking this year (e.g., Chemistry or U.S. History). To register, go online to [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) for the SAT and SAT Subject Tests and [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org) for the ACT. **Be sure to include the St. Francis High School code: 051311.** In addition, if you are interested in test prep for the SAT or ACT, please come to the College Office. We have a list of referrals that you can research. However, remember that the best way to prepare for the reading sections of these tests is to READ, READ, and READ!

JUNIORS - PSAT RESULTS

Your PSAT score report will be mailed to your home by January. Please remember that the PSAT is a practice exam. We do not recommend test prep courses (if taken at all) until the spring of junior year. Intensive prep courses should be taken during the summer preceding senior year to avoid interfering with junior year classes.

PARENTS OF SOPHOMORES – PLAN RESULTS

Your son's PLAN score report will be distributed to him in his religion class by January. The college counselors will review a sample PLAN score report at the "Building a College Profile" event for sophomores in February (see below).

FRESHMEN, SOPHOMORES AND THEIR PARENTS – SAVE THE DATE!

We will be presenting two separate "Building a College Profile" events in early 2012. The first, scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 12, is for freshmen and their parents. The second event, scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 28, is for sophomores and their parents. The sophomore event will build upon material that was presented at last year's freshman event. Make sure to check the January 2012 Knights & Days for further information.

STUDENTS IN AP CLASSES (AND PARENTS OF AP STUDENTS)

SFHS policy states that it is mandatory for all students enrolled in AP courses to take the corresponding AP exams in May. The College Board has designated the price of each exam to be \$87. For those who qualify for financial assistance by meeting The College Board's criteria, the cost per exam is \$57. Families will be billed for AP exams in early 2012.