



ST. FRANCIS HIGH SCHOOL

KNIGHTS & DAYS

Volume 14 Issue 6

February 2012

www.sfhs.net

Calendar



- Saturday 2/4**
Incoming Freshman Interviews
Academic Decathlon at Alemany High
- Monday 2/6**
Progress Reports Posted
- Tuesday 2/7**
College Knowledge Night for Juniors and Parents 7 pm (theater)
- Thursday 2/9**
Mothers Guild Dinner Knight out
Booster Club Meeting 7 pm (Fieldhouse)
- Thursday-Friday 2/9-2/10**
Set Parent/Teacher Conferences via Pick-a-time
- Friday 2/10**
Spirituality Knight (Founders Hall)
- Monday 2/13**
Parent/Teacher Conferences 6-9 pm (by appointment)
- Wednesday 2/15**
Creation Assembly for Juniors and Seniors
- Thursday 2/16**
Spring Sports Parent Night 7 pm (gym)
- Monday 2/20**
Presidents Day (NO SCHOOL)
- Tuesday 2/21**
KAIROS departs
- Wednesday 2/22**
Student Body Liturgy (MASS DRESS)
- Thursday 2/23**
Explore Exam (Freshmen)
- Saturday 2/25**
Science Fair
- Monday 2/27**
Junior Ring Ceremony 7:30 pm (theater)
- Tuesday 2/28**
Building a College Profile (Sophomores and Parents) 7 pm (theater)
- Wednesday 2/29**
Teen Issues Day (dismissal at 12:15)
-
- Friday 3/2**
Admissions Letters Mailed
Franciscan In-Service (NO CLASSES)
- Saturday 3/3**
Mini-POSH
- Monday-Tuesday 3/5-3/6**
Lenten Prayer Service
- Wednesday 3/7**
Mothers Guild Meeting 7 pm (Founders Hall)
Newsletter Sent/Bake Sale

From the Desk of Father Tony

This quarter St Francis High School is highlighting the virtue of joy. I believe that one of the things that is special about our students is that they are happy young men. When I meet young people who do not radiate joy, I wish I could reach out to them and help them.

Allow me to tell you about a young man I met recently while I was hearing confessions from members of a youth group. A young man came over and sat in front of me so I could listen to him and celebrate the sacrament of reconciliation. The way he walked toward me presented a picture of someone who was down and preoccupied. I thought, why would a young man, fourteen years old, feel that way? Then, he told me about discrimination, about others discouraging him, and how attending school was hard given the school's environment and his own living conditions. It was not a nice picture.

After talking with him for a few minutes I said that I would love to have him at St. Francis so I could encourage him every day. I could say hello and speak with him. He looked at me and smiled. It was then that I added, "I would see you smiling like that. You have a great smile." In my mind, I kept asking myself when the last time this young man was shown respect and encouragement. I asked him to promise me that he will look at himself in the mirror every morning after getting up and tell himself: I am a good young man, God loves me and I will not allow anything to destroy me. He smiled.

When I welcome our students in the mornings or walk among them during breaks, lunch, rehearsals and sports practices, I enjoy seeing them smile. At the same time, I realize that we cannot expect them to show a happy face all the time. We all have moments when we worry or are sad about some sort of event in our lives. But we must try to be positive and look forward

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Principal Thomas Moran's Message

We are extremely grateful to all who helped make our annual January Open House a success. We were able to introduce new families to the qualities that make St. Francis unique - particularly the spirit of family that exists. We are proud of our students for their exceptional work! Thanks also to our Maintenance Department for their hard work in preparing for nearly 1,000 visitors that day. We had a great day!

We are appreciative of our parents' attendance at the "State of the School Night" on January 18. Best of luck to our spring sports teams-competition begins early in March!

Third quarter progress reports will be posted via Edline on Monday, February 6. Parents will have the opportunity to make appointments for Parent/Teacher Conferences using Pick-a-time on Thursday, February 9th beginning at noon, and ending on Friday, February 10th at noon. These conferences will occur on Monday, February 13 from 6-9 p.m.

On Wednesday, February 29, we will be hosting our biennial Teen Issues Day. The focus of the day will be Tolerance. While this may be considered only a half-day, we believe it is an important day for students to hear the speakers who will be presenting. Please do not consider allowing your son to stay home, because he will not be missing instruction. The issues that are being raised are vital to his education as a St. Francis student. Dismissal is at 12:15.

With the second semester underway, we would like to remind parents and students that any failing grades received in the first semester must be made up prior to a student's re-enrollment next fall. The Counseling Department also recommends that grades of "D" be made up, as these are not considered acceptable by four-year colleges. If you have specific questions, please contact your son's counselor or our Academic Vice Principal.

This month, administrators will be working on admissions for the class of 2016.

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2012-2013 Tentative Calendar Outline:

Monday 8/13	Faculty-Dept. Meetings
Tuesday, Wednesday 8/14-8/15	Freshman Orientation
Thursday 8/16	First Day of School (all students)
Thursday 8/23	New Parents Meeting 7:30 p.m.
Monday 9/3	Labor Day (NO SCHOOL)
Sunday 9/9	Back to School Day Noon
Monday 9/24	Parent Teacher Conferences
Friday 10/5	St. Francis Feast Day observed (NO SCHOOL)
Friday-Tuesday 10/12-10/16	First Quarter Exams
Wednesday 10/17	Standardized Testing Day
Thursday 10/18	Second Quarter Begins
Monday 11/12	Veterans Day observed (NO SCHOOL)
Thursday & Friday 11/22-11/23	Thanksgiving (NO SCHOOL)
Monday-Wednesday 12/17-12/19	First Semester Exams
Thursday 12/20-Sunday 1/6	Christmas Break (NO SCHOOL)
Monday 1/7	Second Semester begins
Monday 1/21	Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday (NO SCHOOL)
Wednesday 1/23	State of School Meeting 7:30 p.m.
Monday 2/18	Presidents Day observed (NO SCHOOL)
Wednesday-Friday 2/20-2/22	Third Quarter Exams
Monday 2/25	Fourth Quarter begins
Thursday 3/28-Sunday 4/7	Easter Break (NO SCHOOL)
Tuesday-Thursday 5/21-5/23	Senior Final Exams
Saturday 5/25	Graduation
Monday 5/27	Memorial Day observed (NO SCHOOL)

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

It is hard to believe February has arrived and we are well into the second semester! We hope one of your goals for 2012 is to get involved with one of the many Mothers' Guild activities happening during this last half of the year.

Thank you to everyone who helped with Hospitality: School Events at Open House chaired by Linda Gomez, Monique Francis, and Terri Kawamura. The team put together a beautiful display and the delicious cookies were gobbled up down to the last crumb!

We held our second Parent Connection meeting in January. This meeting's questions focused primarily on sports tryouts and the school calendar. Be sure to check the Mothers' Guild tab on the website soon for notes from both the October and January Parent Connection meetings, prepared by Lian Dolan, Corresponding Secretary.

February promises to be busy for Mothers' Guild, including Kairos, Bake Sale, and Faculty Lunch. Check your calendar and FSP Bulletin for specifics, and call the committee chairs to volunteer your services for any of these events.

Be sure to take a night off from kitchen duty and join other St. Francis families to enjoy our Dinner Knight-Out fundraiser at Luciano's Risorante in Pasadena on Thursday, February 9th. Food served all day, including take out, will be counted towards the total 20% donation. Many thanks to the Santoro family (Luciano '13), who owns Luciano's. Check the flyer posted with this month's newsletter for location and details. Proceeds will support our Mothers' Guild Hope Fund.

Spring cleaning? The Mothers' Guild Yard Sale is rapidly approaching, and we're actively looking for items as well as parent volunteers. We need help on Monday, April 23 through Thursday, April 26 to collect donations at the school drop off lane. Two shifts are available: 7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. We also need volunteers Friday, April 27 throughout the day to set up in the gym.

If you have a truck or large SUV, we can use your help on Friday, April 27 to transport boxes from the storage unit in La Crescenta back to the school. And finally, we need *many* volunteers to work the Yard Sale on Saturday, April 28 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Sunday, April 29 from 8 a.m. to approximately 2 p.m. Three-hour shift minimum; longer if you need more service hours. Please email Christina Tinglof (tinglof@sbcglobal.net) with questions or to sign up.

One last reminder: nominations are open for next year's Mothers' Guild Board. If you are interested, please call Beatrice Harendza or Kelly Young. We are also filling spots for our 2012 - 2013 Committee Chairs. Please call Beatrice or Teresa for information. It is so easy and rewarding to get involved, no matter your schedule. The high school years go by so quickly and Mothers' Guild offers a great way to get or stay connected to your son's activities, his friends, and other parents. Being involved in Mothers' Guild is a decision you will cherish.

Have a wonderful Valentine's Day with all of your loved ones. See you at the next meeting on Wednesday, March 7th at 7 pm in Founders Hall.



From the Desk of Father Tony *(Cont'd from page 1)*

to better times. We are certainly called to encourage our young people.

Joy is experienced when we cultivate spiritual calmness within ourselves. Trusting in God and seeking opportunities that will bring healthy, happy occasions will make our lives more fulfilling and will allow us to present ourselves before others in a way that might be inspiring, helpful or supportive.

As parents, I encourage you to provide opportunities for your sons to be joyful men filled with hope - young men with enthusiasm, dreams, ideals and who smile. Please know that I pray for you and your families, especially your sons, every day.

The Sports Authority *by Booster Club President Burt Garavaglia*

I really enjoy THE OUTLOOK weekly newspaper. The minute I get it, I open its pages and look at all the pictures to see how many people I know. That's great fun for me. "There's Joan & Jim. We haven't seen them since 7th grade." Having a son who has been involved in sports for years, you see photos of many kids and families, the acquaintances that you met along the way. "Remember Johnny, he's 6'5" now and starting center on his basketball team." For me, THE OUTLOOK is like a scrapbook in time brought current.

What also impresses me is the multitude of charities and organizations that are highlighted in each issue. Yes, most pictures showcase the annual fundraising gala, smiling faces and hors d'oeuvres, but the underlying theme is there are a whole lot of people doing good things for many causes. There are pictures of friends that I never knew were affiliated with a particular group or charity. And it makes me think.....

Am I involved enough and am I making a difference?

The correct answer is that any amount of time devoted to a cause does make a difference. We are reminded all the time that organizations could not survive without the help of their volunteers. So too goes your Booster Club.

SFHS has a diverse student body and an equally diverse representation of parents. SFHS parents through their education and training, their occupations, their personal interests, have skills that every organization needs. Parents have ideas and opinions and "outside the box" thinking. During conversations, people tell me they want get involved and share their thoughts. All I have to do is ask.

And now I'm asking!

The Booster Club has vacant positions that desperately need to be filled and programs that we want to develop. We have a fantastic team of volunteers already in place. All we need is

Principal Thomas Moran's Message *(Cont'd from page 1)*

We will interview all of the applicants, evaluate their files, and mail letters of acceptance on March 2. Please note that our Freshman Registration will be held on Saturday, March 17.

Christian Service Hour Opportunities for the month of February can be found on the school website.

your time and expertise to move them along. Open positions today and for the 2012 - 2013 school year include:

Vice President - Transitions to the president's role. The VP is not assigned to any specific committee, but is mentored on the processes and programs they will administer the following year. The Booster Club does not have a VP currently - therefore, no president for next year.

Football Security - You've seen all the yellow jackets at games. Volunteers really enjoy this assignment. The model is already built and the mailing lists compiled. Co-chairs or tri-chairs are recommended to share the duties and still be able to watch the games.

Mother- Son Breakfast (May 2012) - There is a special bond between mother and son, and between son and pancakes, eggs and sausage. This is a fun time for everyone and an easy event to organize. We need a chairperson to pull it all together this year and next.

Web Master / Communications - The Boosters does not have a formal committee established, because we do not have anyone to manage the content necessary to keep it going. We now have resources available through SFHS and need a person(s) to coordinate the Booster information.

We all have interests and passions and genuinely have the desire to help others. And while there are demands on our time from many sources, we can really make a difference for our sons, our athletic program and our SFHS. Share your time with the Boosters. If you have interest in filling one of the highlighted positions, contact a Booster Club member or me. Thank you.

College Counselors' Corner by Daniel Pelletier and Anto Sweeney

SENIORS—KEEP US IN THE LOOP:

Congratulations on completing your college applications! Please inform us of your college acceptances and scholarships by signing the list in the Counseling Office and updating Naviance.

PARENTS OF SENIORS—IMPORTANT STEPS FOR FINANCIAL AID FOR COLLEGE:

The FAFSA should be filed now, even if you have not yet filed your personal income taxes for 2011. For Cal Grant purposes, the **FAFSA is due MARCH 2**, but you should not wait until then to complete it. (You may use estimates until your tax return is completed.) Filing the FAFSA early allows colleges to start processing your financial aid packages. (For colleges that require the CSS Profile—an additional financial aid form—file it as soon as possible. You can determine which colleges require the CSS Profile by accessing the list on its website: <https://profileonline.collegeboard.com>.) Also, many colleges have priority deadlines that fall much earlier than March 2. Regarding Cal Grants, the **Cal Grant GPAs** will be submitted electronically by St. Francis; you do **not** need to file the paper Cal Grant Verification Form. If you have questions about the FAFSA, or need more information, look on the Internet at www.fafsa.ed.gov. You may also call the Financial Aid offices of colleges for assistance.

JUNIORS AND PARENTS OF JUNIORS—AN IMPORTANT REMINDER:

College Knowledge Night for juniors and their parents will be held on Tuesday, February 7, at 7:00 pm in the theater. We will provide important information about the college selection and application process - we hope to see all of you there. Note: It is not necessary to RSVP for this event.

JUNIORS—SAT AND ACT REGISTRATION:

Register now for the SAT and the ACT. The SAT is more of a problem-solving test, while the ACT is curriculum-based. *The SAT and ACT are accepted equally by every four-year institution in the U.S.* If you are applying to the University of California, you should also consider taking SAT Subject Tests. The UC does not require the Subject Tests, but will consider them if submitted. (For some majors, the UC strongly recommends them.) In addition, many of the more selective colleges require two Subject Tests and others, like USC and Stanford, strongly encourage them. When registering for the SAT Reasoning Test, SAT Subject Tests, or ACT, **please remember to enter the St. Francis school code: 051311**. (While the student is solely responsible for arranging test scores to be sent from the testing agencies to the colleges he applies to, it is also important that the St. Francis Counseling Department receive a copy of the score report.) Also, when signing up for the ACT, we recommend that you sign up for the essay, as the UC and many other colleges require this.

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

● Test date: March 10 (*SAT Reasoning Test only*). Registration deadline: February 10. Late registration deadline: February 24.

● Test date: May 5. Registration deadline: April 6. Late registration deadline: April 20.

● Test date: June 2. Registration deadline: May 8. Late registration deadline: May 22.

ACT (Register online at www.actstudent.org)

● Test date: April 14. Registration deadline: March 9. Late registration deadline: March 23.

● Test date: June 9. Registration deadline: May 4. Late registration deadline: May 18.

If you are interested in taking the February 11 ACT, but have not registered, follow ACT's instructions for standby testing: <http://actstudent.org/regist/standbytest.html>. **Please note that St. Francis High School is not a test center for either the actual SAT or ACT.**

JUNIORS AND PARENTS OF JUNIORS—ON-CAMPUS PRACTICE SAT SUBJECT TESTS:

We will be holding on-campus Practice SAT Subject Test Saturday morning, March 3. Cost is \$10 to take one test, \$15 to take two. Scores from the Practice SAT Subject Tests will be distributed to students during a scoreback session on Wednesday, March 7, during G Block (in Founders' Hall). The scoreback session, which is open to students and parents, will feature a representative from a test prep company who will give strategies for maximizing test performance. To sign up for the Practice SAT Subject Tests, please e-mail

counselingevents@sfhs.net by Monday, February 27. Please write, "RSVP for Practice SAT Subject Tests" in the subject heading of the e-mail. In the body of the e-mail, please indicate the student's name and which test(s) he would like to take (maximum of two). Test options include Literature, World History, U.S. History, Biology, Chemistry, and Math 2. (Please note that the Math 2 SAT Subject Test is designed for students who are taking trigonometry/precalculus or a more advanced math course.) Your family will be billed for the cost of the test(s) through a monthly invoice from the St. Francis Business Office. Cancellations must be sent via e-mail to counselingevents@sfhs.net by Wednesday, February 29.

JUNIORS AND PARENTS OF JUNIORS—ON-CAMPUS PRACTICE ACT EXAM:

We will hold an on-campus Practice ACT Saturday morning, March 24. Cost is \$10. Scores from the Practice ACT will be distributed to students during a scoreback session on Wednesday, April 4, during G Block (in Founders' Hall). The scoreback session, which is open to students and parents, will feature a representative from a test prep company who will give strategies for maximizing performance on the actual ACT exam. To sign up for the Practice ACT, send an e-mail to counselingevents@sfhs.net by Tuesday, March 20. Please write "RSVP for Practice ACT" in the subject heading and the write the student's name in the body of the e-mail. Your family will be billed for the cost of the test through a monthly invoice from the St. Francis Business Office. Cancellations must be sent via e-mail to counselingevents@sfhs.net by Thursday, March 22.

JUNIORS AND PARENTS OF JUNIORS—TWO FREE DIAGNOSTIC PRACTICE SAT EXAMS AND AN ON-CAMPUS SAT PREP COURSE:

The Learning Ladder will offer **two free, on-campus diagnostic SAT exams** to all interested St. Francis juniors on Thursday, February 23, from 2:00 to 6:00 pm, and Thursday, March 22, from 2:30 to 6:30 pm. Students are welcome to take either or both tests. In addition, The Learning Ladder will offer an **on-campus SAT prep course** to juniors starting on Monday, March 26, and ending on Monday, April 30. The course will meet on five Mondays from 2:00 to 5:00 pm (with no class on Monday, April 9) and also on Wednesday, March 28, from 1:30 to 4:30 pm. There will be a post-course exam on Thursday, May 3, from 2:00 to 6:00 pm. The course will cost \$485 and includes an additional one-hour, one-on-one SAT tutoring session at The Learning Ladder. It will prepare juniors to take the SAT in May or June. Additional information about the class will be provided at College Knowledge Night. In the meantime, if you have any questions, feel free to call The Learning Ladder at (818) 790-4357 and speak with its director, Lori Juma. **Please also call Ms. Juma to sign up for the free diagnostic SAT exams.**

SOPHOMORES AND PARENTS OF SOPHOMORES—BUILDING A COLLEGE PROFILE, PART 2:

We will present "Building a College Profile for sophomores and their parents" on Tuesday, February 28, at 7:00 pm in the theater. This event will build upon our January 2011 freshmen event. We will review factors that colleges take into consideration in making their admission decisions and what you can do in the academic and extracurricular areas to strengthen your profile. Note: It is not necessary to RSVP for this event.

FRESHMEN—AN IMPORTANT TEST FOR YOU

You will take the EXPLORE exam on Thursday, February 23, during the first two blocks of the school day. This test will help you assess your academic progress in the areas of English language, math, reading, and science. 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 and universities in the U.S. in addition to—or in lieu of—the SAT.) Please come prepared to take the test, having slept well and eaten breakfast. Remember to bring your calculators and two No. 2 pencils with erasers. Don't miss out on taking this important exam!

ALL STUDENTS—TEEN ISSUES DAY

The Counseling Department is proud to present Teen Issues Day 2012 on Wednesday, February 29. The theme for this year's event is tolerance. Sessions will include presentations by Tim Zaal, a Museum of Tolerance speaker who will take students through his journey of overcoming personal prejudices; Dr. Elizabeth Brewer, a lecturer at LMU who will talk about cyberbullying; and Elev8, a performance troupe that uses creativity to promote an inspirational message of self-worth and redemption. Release time for all students will be 12:15 pm.