



# ST. FRANCIS HIGH SCHOOL

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## KNIGHTS & DAYS

Volume 14 Issue 5

January 2012

www.sfhs.net

### Calendar

**Saturday 1/7**

Open House Noon-3 pm

**Tuesday 1/10**

Line by Line FAFSA Review  
7 pm

**Thursday 1/12**

Building a College Profile for  
Freshmen and Parents 7 pm  
Student Body Liturgy  
(MASS DRESS)

Booster Club Meeting 7 pm

**Monday 1/16**

NO SCHOOL -

Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday

**Tuesday 1/17**

Pro Life Presentation Cancelled  
(Regular Schedule)

**Wednesday-Friday 1/18-1/20**

Junior Believe Retreat

**Wednesday 1/18**

State of School Meeting  
Report Cards Distributed  
7:30-8:30 pm

**Thursday 1/19**

Blood Drive  
(re-scheduled from December)

**Saturday 1/21**

Alumni Day of Recollection  
Entrance Exam 8:30 am

**Wednesday 1/25**

Friday Schedule  
(Department Meetings)

**Tuesday 1/31**

Academic Awards/Distinguished  
Alumnus Night 7:30 pm

**Wednesday 2/1**

Mothers Guild Meeting 8:30 am  
Bake Sale  
New *Knights and Days* uploaded

**Saturday 2/5**

New Student Interviews

**Monday 2/6**

Progress Reports Uploaded to  
Edline

### From the Desk of Father Tony

I hope you and your loved ones enjoyed a wonderful Christmas season. As we begin the New Year, I wish you the continued blessings of faith, family and friends.

As you well know, co-curricular activities at St. Francis High School are very important in character development and fostering teamwork. We are a dynamic school and our students are presented with many opportunities to get involved with co-curricular activities outside of the classroom. These experiences in our many clubs, Performing Arts and Athletic Departments undoubtedly shape a student's high school years and play a significant role in his development as a Golden Knight.

This month, I have chosen to write specifically about our Athletics program. If your son is one of our many student-athletes, you have realized that the way in which we oversee our athletic program is unique. Students are required to maintain a satisfactory academic record, display good sportsmanship, be responsible and accountable, and abstain from activities that would limit their potential.

Year-after-year, St. Francis High School has earned the Sportsmanship Award which is largely influenced by the way the student athletes and coaches act on the playing field.

Although competition is very much part of sports and winning is on the mind of each athlete, losing a game is always a reality in sports - how we handle a loss has a great impact on a young man's character. After the completion of our most recent football season, I wrote a letter to each member of the Varsity team commending them for their excellent performance and reminding them that failure is something we must deal with in life. Learning how to deal with failure will ultimately inspire Franciscan virtues of spirituality, humility and compassion. Our Principal, Tom Moran shared legendary coach John Wooden's insights with our graduates last May: "Success is never final; failure is never fatal."

I have said to our athletes a number of times, that if they were to win the CIF playoffs each year but at graduation they have no integrity, we would not have done our job as educators.

*(Continued on page 2)*

### Principal Thomas Moran's Message

On behalf of the entire staff, we would like to thank our parents for their generosity at Christmas. We are grateful for your acknowledgement of our staff members' efforts. We would also like to commend our students for their contributions to the annual Christmas Toy Drive; they made a difference in the lives of a number of families at St. Lawrence of Brindisi Parish in South Los Angeles!

We began the second semester (and extended Christmas break by one day) with our annual Faculty/Staff Retreat on January 2.

The first semester report cards will be distributed on Wednesday, January 18. This is a **mandatory parent meeting** where important

information will be explained regarding the current "state of the school" and we will announce our plans for the coming year. We commit to concluding this meeting in one hour and expect that at least one parent from each family will attend. Academic Awards/Distinguished Alumnus Night will be on January 31, from 7:30-8:30 p.m. Students who qualified for an academic award will receive an invitation in homeroom prior to the event.

School will be closed on Monday, January 16 (Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday).

Best of luck: Our winter sports teams have participated in several tournaments thus far to

*(Continued on page 3)*



## **From the Desk of Father Tony**

An education in the Capuchin Franciscan tradition challenges us to enrich the mind and heart. It requires us to give our young men the strength and understanding to deal with challenging events in their lives all while encouraging good relationships with others.

It is also important that we encourage our athletes and support them in every way we can. I am happy that we have done so for our Cross Country team and Football teams during the Fall Season. We look forward to doing the same for those participating in the winter and spring sports.

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

Welcome back to school and Happy 2012! It's great to see the campus alive with activity again!

On behalf of the faculty and staff, thank you for your incredibly generous contributions to the Christmas fund that was shared by the entire staff. Your donations were greatly appreciated.

We would like to thank Joy Matsumoto, Ginger Brody and Carmen Ortega for coordinating a giveaway at the December Bake Sale. This was a special treat, as an anonymous donor provided Mothers' Guild with a check to cover the funds usually raised by the bake sale.

Thanks also to our Sports Banquet committee (Robin Banks and Tamera Brown) for arranging the food and decorations for an extremely well attended Fall Sports Awards Night. More than 350 parents, staff and cheerleaders enjoyed the banquet recognizing the incredible commitment and sportsmanship of many fine athletes!

Thanks also to the Knightwear committee (Patty Szot and Miryam Finkelberg) for stocking up on many new items to sell at our annual Christmas Sale. It was great to see so many people Christmas shopping with such school spirit.

Thanks again to our Faculty Lunch committee (Ginger Brody, Tina Thompson, Joanne Zovak, Debra Yekikian and Carmen Ortega) and their volunteers for coordinating the December Christmas luncheon. The faculty and staff enjoyed sampling a wonderful assortment of foods – thank you to all who contributed to this tasty feast.

Lastly, a big thank you goes to the Hospitality committee: Chorus committee (Deirdre Cascelli and Colette McCreary) for their efforts at the Men's Chorus Christmas Concert. If you didn't see the concert, you really should make time next year. What an amazing evening and a perfect way to get into the holiday spirit!

With the start of the New Year, it is time for the annual Open House (January 7) to show off our incredible school to newcomers as well as old friends. Linda Gomez's committee (Monique Francis and Terri Kawamura) will need many dozens of cookies for the very large crowd we expect. Please call Linda to donate at 626-308-9047. And, be sure to encourage any young men you know who are interested in attending St. Francis to stop by the Open House.

You, as parents play an important role in your son's character development. Working together, we can support our Golden Knights as they grow through their involvement in co-curricular activities that conform to our school policies. We are grateful for your involvement and your shared commitment.

As we begin the New Year, know that we are grateful you are part of our St. Francis community. I look forward to seeing you on campus, whether that may be in a classroom, gymnasium, theater, or playing field. Be assured of my prayers and those of my Capuchin Franciscan brothers for you and your loved ones.

Don't miss the next Dinner Knight Out (DKO) scheduled for Friday, February 9th at Lucianos Ristorante in Pasadena, owned by a St. Francis family. Step out of the kitchen for an evening and to enjoy the company of other St. Francis families, and they will graciously donate a portion of the proceeds to Mothers' Guild. Hope to see you there!

Our annual Yard Sale is just a few months away and will be here before you know it. We're looking for volunteers the week prior to the sale (April 23- 26) to collect donations at the school drop off lane. We also need volunteers on April 27 to set up items in the gym for the event. And finally, we need many volunteers to work the Yard Sale April 28-29. Many shifts are available to fit your busy schedule. Contact Christina Tinglof at [tinglof@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tinglof@sbcglobal.net) to sign up. The next donation drop off is scheduled for Saturday, January 14, 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. See the school website for more details.

Each month we highlight the great volunteers who make Mothers' Guild run like a well-oiled machine. There are many others behind the scenes such as Lian Dolan, Recording Secretary; Tina Sanfilippo, Corresponding Secretary; Mary Natalizio, Treasurer; Beatrice Harendza and Kelly Young, Parliamentarians; Julie Casciani and Claudia Starzak, Window Displays; Patti Maloof, Helping Hands; Sue O'Hearn and Maria Shwery, Publicity/Historian; Jo Wedekind, Drumline Liaison, Dee Seymour, Booster Liaison and Pat Bird and Dede Brandt, Supplies. These women help make Mothers' Guild a smoothly operated organization. We thank each of them for their continued efforts!

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

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, February 1, at 8:30 a.m. in Founder's Hall. We would love to see you there. Put it on your calendar now to hear about what's going on at school, reconnect with old friends, and make some new ones.

## The Principal's Letter ... (Continued from page 1)

prepare for Mission League play this month. The Academic Decathlon Team will be competing in the Southern California Private Schools competition on January 28 and February 4. These young men have worked hard to prepare and we wish them, and their moderator, Mr. Dierking, the best of luck.

Congratulations: To the Mens' Chorus for the entertaining Christmas concert; and to all the fall sports athletes who were named to the all-Mission League teams.

Although it may seem too soon to be considering next year's course work already, we remind students that their performance in the third quarter could be an important factor in qualifying for honors/AP classes next year. Some of these decisions must be reached before final grades are due in June, so it is especially vital to achieve well during this quarter.



## The Sports Authority by Booster Club President Burt Garavaglia

January is a great month if you are a sports fan. There's the Rose Bowl; the NCAA Bowl Championship Series; the Super Bowl; pro hockey, basketball and golf are in play; and college basketball. If it's sports you want, it's only a remote click away.

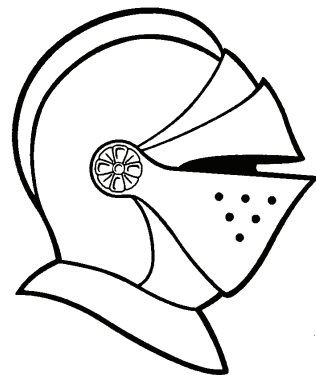
But as important as last weekend's games and the topic of just as many office conversations comes - the NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION. Oh yeah - we've all been there! Some actually take it seriously. Some consider it a tune-up for Lent when the real sacrifices are made. And some have resolutions to help them focus on doing something better or differently.

So I asked the Booster committee chairs what resolution they would adopt or what goal they would pursue to create a better experience for those we serve. Here are a few:

WE, HEREBY, RESOLVE:

- To expand merchandise presence at SFHS sporting events beyond football games.
- To find additional ways to offer reserve table premium services to more groups.
- To purchase a new hot chocolate machine so no order gets cold or goes unfilled.
- To revamp the Booster web page and use it as a communication tool for all sports.
- To create new and fun ways to express SFHS "Spirit" at sporting events.

There are other ways that your Booster Club can serve you better. Often, the best examples come from those who are recipients of the service. So this is an opportunity for you to tell the Booster Club what we can do to better represent SFHS athletics and the spectator experience - ideas, activities or where we should be directing our attention in 2012. Let's all resolve to have a greater impact on SFHS. Write me with your comments at: [burtgar@prodigy.net](mailto:burtgar@prodigy.net)



**GO KNIGHTS!**

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

The Line-by-Line FAFSA Review will take place on Tuesday, January 10, at 7:00 p.m., in the theater. Nancy Medina, Financial Aid Counselor at Occidental College, who led the College Financial Aid 101 presentation last October, will return as our guest speaker. Ms. Medina will give a detailed walkthrough of the FAFSA, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, which the federal government requires dependent students and their parents complete when seeking financial aid for higher education. This event will last until approximately 8:30-9:00 p.m. Please RSVP for this event by Friday, January 6, by sending an e-mail to [counselingevents@sfs.net](mailto:counselingevents@sfs.net). Please write "RSVP for FAFSA Review" in the subject heading and indicate in the body of the message the name of the student and how many family members (including the student, if applicable) plan to attend.

**SENIORS: MIDYEAR REPORTS**

Midyear reports will be mailed or submitted electronically to colleges after fall semester grades have been finalized and transcripts have been reissued to include your seventh semester grades. This process will begin in mid-January and will conclude in early February.

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

You and your parents received information about "*College Knowledge Night*" in the PSAT mailing we sent home in December. This is a very important meeting, as we will answer your questions about the PSAT and discuss the college search, selection, and application process; college admission testing (the SAT Reasoning Test, SAT Subject Tests, the ACT, and test prep resources); and Naviance Family Connection, a web-based program that assists with the college search and application tracking process. You will receive a packet of information at the event (including an unofficial transcript), and we will answer all of your questions. We look forward to seeing all of you (as well as your parents) on Tuesday, February 7, at 7:00 p.m. in the theater. (It is not necessary to RSVP for this event.) We will also meet with you individually this semester to discuss your college plans.

**JUNIORS—SPRING 2012 STANDARDIZED TEST DATES AND REGISTRATION DEADLINES**

We recommend that you take the SAT Reasoning Test and ACT once this semester. If you are planning to apply to University of California campuses in the fall, we also recommend that you take SAT Subject Tests that align with your junior-year classes (e.g., U.S. History) in May or June. In order to secure a test site close to home or at a familiar location, you should register as soon as possible. If you are currently enrolled in Algebra 2, we recommend that you wait until March, May, or June to take the SAT and until April or June to take the ACT.

**SAT Reasoning and Subject Tests** (Register online at [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com))

- Test date: January 28. Late Registration deadline: January 13.
- 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](http://www.actstudent.org))
- Test date: February 11. Registration deadline: January 13. Late registration deadline: January 20.
- 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.

**JUNIORS AND PARENTS OF JUNIORS: AN ON-CAMPUS SAT PREP COURSE**

We will provide a list of various test prep resources at College Knowledge Night on February 7. In addition, St. Francis is partnering again with The Learning Ladder to offer an on-campus SAT prep course in the spring semester. This course will begin in March, meeting after school (starting during G block) usually two days a week, and will prepare juniors for the May or June SAT Reasoning Test. Additional information 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 ask to speak with Lori Juma.

**SOPHOMORES AND PARENT OF SOPHOMORES: IT WILL SOON BE TIME FOR US TO MEET AGAIN**

Mark your calendars for Tuesday, February 28, when we will be holding the second part of "Building a College Profile" at 7:00 p.m. in the theater. This event is designed specifically for sophomores and their parents and will build upon the information provided during the Building a College Profile event we held for you last year. We will also go over a sample PLAN exam score report at this event. (PLAN score reports will be distributed to sophomores in their religion classes this month.) It is not necessary to RSVP for this event.

**FRESHMEN AND PARENTS OF FRESHMEN: SHOULD YOU BE THINKING ABOUT COLLEGE?**

We know it seems early, but the answer is yes! We have scheduled an event for you, "*Building A College Profile (Part 1)*" for **Thursday, January 12, at 7:00 p.m.**, in the theater. We will review the factors that colleges take into consideration in their admissions decisions. We will also discuss coursework, transcripts, testing, extracurricular activities, essays, recommendations, and steps to take as freshmen. It is not too early to start making preliminary plans. We look forward to seeing you on January 12! (It is not necessary to RSVP for this event.)

**FRESHMEN: EXPLORE—AN IMPORTANT TEST FOR YOU**

You will be taking the EXPLORE exam on Thursday, February 23, during the school day. This test will help you assess your academic progress in the areas of English language, math, reading, and science and give you ideas on how to improve areas of weakness. EXPLORE will also help you prepare for the PLAN exam that you will take as a sophomore and the ACT exam that you will take in your junior year. (The ACT is a college admission test that is accepted by all colleges and universities in the U.S. in addition to—or in lieu of—the SAT.) Don't miss out on taking this important assessment!

**ALL STUDENTS: TEEN ISSUES DAY**

Teen Issues Day, which is held every other year, will be on Wednesday, February 29, 2012. No classes will be held that day, and students will be released from school at 12:15 p.m. (The school day will begin at the regular time of 8:00 a.m.) The theme of this year's event is tolerance. Further details will be provided in next month's Knights & Days.

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

I would like to invite all St. Francis parents to attend the Parent Counseling Night on Tuesday, January 24, at 7:00 p.m. in the theater. Our guest speaker, Elizabeth Brewer, Ed.D., Lecturer at Loyola Marymount University, will return to St. Francis to speak about the popular topic of "Parenting in the Age of Social Media." Parents who attended this event last year will still find it valuable, as Dr. Brewer regularly revises her presentation for evolving technologies and social trends. Please RSVP for this event by Friday, January 20, by sending an e-mail to [counselingevents@sfs.net](mailto:counselingevents@sfs.net). Please write "RSVP for Parent Counseling Night" in the subject heading and indicate in the body of the message the name of the student, his grade level, and how many parents/guardians plan to attend. (Please note that this event is open to St. Francis parents and guardians only.) I look forward to seeing you at this event!