



ST. FRANCIS HIGH SCHOOL

KNIGHTS & DAYS

Volume 14 Issue 3

November 2011

www.sfhs.net



Calendar

- Thursday, November 3**
Academic Awards Assemblies
- Friday, November 4**
Deadline for Student Fundraiser
- Thursday-Sunday November 3-6**
"Lord of the Flies" Fall production
- Thursday, November 10**
Booster Club Meeting 7pm in FieldHouse
- Friday, November 11**
Veterans Day Observed (NO SCHOOL)
- Monday, November 14**
Progress Reports posted
Senior Parents-deadline to submit yearbook ads
- Wednesday-Friday, November 16-18**
Junior "Believe" Retreat
- Thursday-Friday, November 17-18**
Set Parent/Teacher conferences via Pick-a-time
- Monday, November 21**
Parent/Teacher Conferences 6-9pm
- Tuesday, November 22**
Thanksgiving Liturgy (MASS DRESS)
Winter Sports Parents Meeting 7pm in gym
- Wednesday, November 23**
Friday X Schedule
Mothers' Guild Pie Sale pick up
- Thursday-Friday, November 24-25**
Thanksgiving Holiday
NO SCHOOL
- Wednesday, November 30**
UC/CSU Application Deadline
Friday Schedule (Academic Dept Meetings)
- Thursday, December 1**
Blood Drive for Children's Hospital
- Saturday, December 3**
Christmas Tree Pick-Up
- Monday-Tuesday, December 5-6**
Advent Reconciliation Service (Religion classes)
- Tuesday-Thursday, December 6-8**
Mothers' Guild Knightwear Sale (courtyard at lunch)
- Wednesday, December 7**
Newsletter posted/Bake Sale
Mothers' Guild Meeting 8:30am in Founders Hall



From the Desk of Father Tony

We recently celebrated our Father-Son Communion Breakfast. It was the largest turnout I have seen since I came to St. Francis more than three years ago with over one hundred and seventy fathers, male guardians and sons in attendance. Being together for Mass and breakfast is always a meaningful experience. It is my hope that all fathers and sons of St. Francis High School participate in this special event.

Often times, our society fails to express the importance and tremendous influence fathers

have, or could have, on their sons. Active participation by fathers in their son's lives, not only by attending sports or other activities, but by sharing ideas, expressing feelings and encouraging spirituality, can do so much to nurture and support our young men as they grow. In addition, this active participation can be a life-changing experience for them as well as fathers and male guardians.

Generally speaking, as men, we tend to be more reserved about showing our emotions and keep

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Principal Thomas Moran's Message

We would like to thank the Mothers' Guild for hosting our Articulation Dinner and Communion Breakfast in October. The Articulation Dinner provides eighth grade teachers a sense of the work we do at St. Francis and they also experience the wonderful dedication of our volunteers. Thanks too, to the Booster Club for their efforts during the football season. The numerous functions they perform (ticket sales, security, concessions, etc.) help communicate a Franciscan sense of hospitality to all visitors to our campus. The administrators and visitors from other schools recognize this unique feature of our school.

If our student body reaches their goal of 100% participation in the See's Candy Drive, Fr. Tony will grant a school holiday on Wednesday, November 23. That decision will be reached as soon as possible following the deadline for students to return their money (Friday, November 4).

St. Lawrence of Brindisi is a parish in South Los Angeles staffed by the Capuchin Franciscans. One of our traditions in November and December is to collect food and toys for their parishioners. The generosity of our school community can help to make the holidays special for these families. Teaching and reinforcing the concept of giving is one way we can enrich the hearts of our own students, many of whom are so blessed. We ask you to encourage your sons' involvement in these drives. Also, please continue to consult the

school website for updated information regarding school activities and Christian Service opportunities.

Our winter sports, basketball and soccer, begin non-league play later this month and we wish them luck and encourage you to support them. Updated schedules are posted on the school website. At our football game on Friday, November 11 (Veterans Day), we intend to honor those St. Francis graduates and staff members associated with the military. Our Admissions Team continues to visit local grammar schools and we will have eighth graders visiting us during the week of November 14 as we begin preparations for the class of 2016. If you know of an interested eighth grader, please pass his name along to Mr. Monarrez, our Director of Admissions. We also ask you to remind eighth graders about our Open House on Saturday, January 7, from noon-3 pm.

Families who are receiving Financial Aid should be aware that we have changed the company we will be using to qualify families for financial aid. Instead of using Private School Aid Service, we will now be using ISM-FAST (Independent School Management Financial Aid for School Tuition). The procedures and deadlines will still be the same. Please see the financial aid/tuition link on our website for additional information.

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Moran's Message *(Continued from page 1)*

We have already had several calls regarding the beginning dates for school for the 2012-2013 school year. Although this seems rather early, we have begun working on the calendar for next year. Here is a tentative outline for next year's calendar:



Monday, August 13	Faculty and Department Meetings
Tuesday-Wednesday, August 14-15	New Student Orientation
Thursday, August 16	First Day of Classes
Monday, September 3	Labor Day (NO SCHOOL)
Friday, October 5	St. Francis Feast Day Observed (NO SCHOOL)
Friday-Tuesday, October 12-16	First Quarter Exams
Monday-Thursday, October 15-18	Kairos
Wednesday, October 17	PSAT, PLAN Exams
Thursday, October 18	Second Quarter Begins
Monday, November 12	Veterans Day Observed (NO SCHOOL)
Thursday-Friday, November 22-23	Thanksgiving Break
Monday-Wednesday, December 17-19	First Semester Exams
Thursday, December 20-Sunday, January 6	Christmas Vacation for students
Friday, January 4	Faculty/Staff Retreat (NO CLASSES)
Monday, January 7	Second Semester Begins

A more complete calendar information will be available in January.

Mothers' Guild Moment *by Co-Presidents Beatrice Harendza and Teresa Aubert*

As we enter November and await the beauty of the Thanksgiving holiday, our thoughts turn to gratitude and thanks for all the wonders and blessings in our lives. We especially realize how our own children are such blessings from God. We are so very fortunate that our sons enjoy an excellent, caring faculty and staff, and a school where so many opportunities exist for learning, spiritual development, personal growth, and the cultivation of lifelong friends. As moms, we are also fortunate to be able to participate in the many school activities and events through Mothers' Guild. Whether we bake, prepare food, decorate, chaperone, or organize an event, each task helps build our St. Francis community.

If you missed it, we had a great turn-out for this year's first Parent Connection. We were fortunate to have several guests available to answer many questions about all sorts of topics. Check the Mothers' Guild web page for a transcript. We will be hosting an evening Parent Connection meeting in January, so plan to come if you have questions about different aspects of the school. The questions always vary so it makes for a great event.

We wish to thank the following women who worked so hard on so many different activities this past month: Articulation Dinner (Denise Bacall and Laura Cisneros); Father/Son Communion Breakfast (Cris Finney and Freida Bazikian); Kairos Hospitality (Lynn Carmody, Diane Nixon and Erin Hamlin); and Homecoming (Nancy Reardon).

There are also committees that have ongoing monthly duties. Thank you, ladies for your commitment! These committees include Bake Sale (Carmen Ortega, Ginger Brody, and Joy Matsumoto); Faculty Lunch (Ginger Brody, Tina Thompson, Joanne Zovak, Debra Yekikian and Carmen Ortega); Helping Hands (Patti Maloof); Hospitality: Monthly Board Meetings

(Debbie Monarrez and Olivia Cardenaz); Knightwear (Patty Szot and Miryam Finkleberg); Supplies (Pat Bird and Dede Brandt), Booster Club Liaison (Dee Seymour), and Drumline Liaison (Jo Wedekind), and Hospitality-Drama (Monica Duffy, Tina Gonzalez and Kelly Young). Special thanks go to our Window Display committee members (Julie Casciani and Claudia Starzak) who continue to update the MG display window in wonderfully imaginative ways.

Don't miss our big fundraiser in November! Order your fresh and delicious Thanksgiving pies by Wednesday, November 10th. Pies will be delivered for pick-up on Wednesday, November 23rd. Order forms can be found on the website or in the school office. Please do your best to support this important fundraiser. Many thanks go to Kim Kunitake and Isabel Velladao for arranging this, as well as our very successful Dinner Knight Out at New Moon.

Plan ahead for December! Knightwear will have its annual Christmas Sale on Dec. 6, 7 & 8 from 11:30am-1:00pm...more details to come. It's a great opportunity to buy your gifts early and support our school! Also, if your son participated in Football or Cross Country, don't miss the Fall Sports Banquet on December 12th. Information for both of these events is on the website.

Like many service organizations, we are nothing without our members. We know how hectic everyone's schedules are, and we are truly grateful for you and all that you do. For those of you who are not yet involved, please join us, and help us make St. Francis an even better and more vibrant community!

We hope to see you all at our next meeting, December 7th at 8:30 am in Founders Hall

Father Tony's Message ...*(Continued from page 1)*

circumstances and events that impact our lives to ourselves. In many ways, young men are taught to be tough and not to show feelings that would imply weakness. Although it is true that we need to face adversity and difficulties by being determined and look for reasonable objectives as well as seek appropriate solutions to our challenges, it is also true that men must seek advice, and must allow themselves to show emotion and present a gentle side. One of the fathers who attended our breakfast told me that he had listened to Richard Rohr, a well known Franciscan, who suggested that it is all right for men to cry. This is not only an expression of emotion, but also a cleansing of our souls. Another father and his son spoke to me before the Mass. We spoke of the custom that still prevails in many cultures where fathers and sons greet each other with a kiss and before retiring for the night. I shared that I kissed my father until he died. Gratefully, this father and son have always done that since the young man was a little child. As I was

talking with them, it was obvious to me that they love each other and that both of them greatly value their relationship.

In my conversations with students, I have often heard how much these young men appreciate the presence of a father or someone they can look up to as a father figure. This presence has a positive impact on them, not only emotionally but in their academic performance and in their entire being.

We encourage all our fathers to reflect on their relationship with their sons and to do whatever they can to be closer to them - always communicate openly and express your support. We pray that you will find ways to enrich your son's personal development, spirituality and character. It is never too late and your son(s) will be truly grateful.

May the Lord give you His peace!



The Sports Authority

By Booster Club President Burt Garavaglia

Myth # 1: My son doesn't play sports - SFHS Athletics is not for me.

Truth be known, athletics is a major part of the high school experience. Just because you don't play a sport doesn't mean you can't appreciate the value sports provide. I'm reminded of this fact every time I go to a SFHS football game and see the stands filled with cheering fans. The student section is always packed and the student "pit" near the scoreboard is where hundreds more gather - it stretches all the way to the top of the ramp. It is a sporting event that brought the kids to our campus, provides a safe place to socialize and, for those students who actually watch the game, they are treated to a very exciting contest.

More students are involved in SFHS athletics than you might think. Of this year's total student population, the number of students participating in Freshmen, Junior Varsity & Varsity Football is 170. There are also an additional 41 athletes participating in Cross Country. Combined, this represents 32% of the total student body that is involved in sports right now. The percentage escalates when our Basketball and Soccer teams that have started practicing in preparation of their seasons are added.

The above percentage represents 2011 Fall Sports only. When considering an all-inclusive analysis of every SFHS sport during the 2010-2011 school year the results are impressive. There were 510 students participating in the nine SFHS sports programs. This represents 76% of our school's enrollment. And that does not include the Drum Line; the team managers & student trainers; KNIT reporters, video editors, photographers & live broadcasters on Mondays and Fridays; SFHS clubs that support Booster Club activity at Football games; cheerleaders from neighboring schools; and the parents of both athletes and non-athletes who take advantage of hundreds of service hour opportunities.

Myth # 2: The Booster Club is all about sports - and only sports.

One could argue this is partly true because our mission is to support all SFHS athletic programs. However, the path we take to support our mission may interest you. Our Snack Bar is known for its fantastic food at a great price. Visiting teams are surprised when offered prepared foods for their bus ride home - win or lose - and at no cost to them. Our yellow jacket Security team is just that, but we call them ambassadors of SFHS as they do much to assist visitors to our campus and the games. There are many examples of community spirit, but a one-day Booster Club event must be seen to believe - Christmas Tree pick-up December 3, 2011.

During this 4-hour morning event, close to 400 trees are loaded onto cars and the spirit of the Christmas season is everywhere. Co-chairs Sean McCarthy '76 and Joe Orlandini '75 assemble a team of volunteers that help friends select a tree, student volunteers carry, load and tie down the trees on vehicles, Capuchin Friars direct traffic, a team with saws and drills trim away branches and create holes for better water absorption, another team coordinates the distribution of wreaths, poinsettias and new this year - SFHS ornaments. It is a morning filled with smiles and holiday good wishes. You will walk away with a strong association with the St. Francis community and you will have purchased a top of line "first cut" tree at a great price. Order a tree(s) and witness this yourself. Flyers and order forms will be distributed soon.

It is about sports, but it is also about living the high school experience as an athlete, supporter or spectator. Our next Booster Club meeting is November 10, 7:00 pm at the Field House. Come share your ideas on ways we can better support our Athletic Department.

College Counselors' Corner by Daniel Pelletier and Anto Sweeney

PARENTS OF SENIORS

- This is a very exciting and busy time for your son. By now, he should be busy filling out his college applications, writing essays, and completing standardized testing. If your son has not made an appointment with his college counselor, please have him do so as soon as possible.
- Some seniors have not completed their senior questionnaires. We require completed senior questionnaires and resumes from any senior who is applying to a college that requires counselor input. (This is the case with ALL colleges and universities that subscribe to the Common Application as well as most private institutions—and some public institutions—that do not.) We do not require the parent questionnaire, but we encourage you to complete it if you can, as you frequently provide helpful insights about your son. The documents can be accessed through Naviance Family Connection.
- Please make sure that your son is following the application instructions that have been provided to him. (Each senior should have received detailed instructions for applying to University of California campuses, California State University campuses, and colleges and universities that use the Common Application. Please have him follow up with his counselor if he does not have these instructions.) These directions contain steps your son can take to avoid making the types of errors that students often make.
- Please remind your son to be aware of all application deadlines, including deadlines for merit scholarships, financial aid, and supplemental materials for specialized majors (which may precede the colleges' regular or priority deadlines).
- Please check with your son about sending test scores to colleges. It is his responsibility to send official SAT and ACT score reports from the testing agency (www.collegeboard.com and www.actstudent.org, respectively) to ALL colleges and universities he applies to. (The exception to this is if he applies to test optional colleges and does not want his standardized test scores to be considered as part of the admissions process for those colleges.) During our visits to economics classes at the end of September, we explained to the students that the Counseling Office does not send score reports to colleges and that students need to submit official score reports to colleges, even if they have indicated their SAT and ACT scores on their applications.
- With regard to the UC, your son needs to send score reports (either or both the SAT and the ACT) to only one of the UC campuses he has applied to. That UC campus will share his scores with other UC campuses.
- With regard to CSU campuses, your son can save money by sending his SAT score report to CSU Mentor. (Click on "advanced search" and then "search by code" within "Send Scores" section of The College Board website. Then enter code "3594" to locate CSU Mentor.) The CSU campuses will access CSU Mentor to obtain your son's SAT scores, but he must send the scores to CSU Mentor by December. For ACT scores, your son should send his score report to one of the CSU campuses that he has applied to. Once that campus receives his ACT scores, he can arrange for the campus to share the scores with other CSU campuses by engaging the "ACT Scores Manager" within the CSU Mentor website (www.csumentor.edu). Please have your son ask his counselor how to use ACT Scores Manager if he needs help with it.
- Please advise your son to see his counselor if he has any other questions about sending test scores.

SENIORS: TIPS FOR FILLING OUT APPLICATIONS

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

- **Be honest.** An honest portrayal of who you are will come through in the application and will be more impressive than trying to pad the application. It is better to concentrate on a few quality pursuits than to manufacture quantity. Present the things that are important to you.
- **Answer the questions asked.** In your eagerness to write about what is important to you, be sure not to ignore the prompt.

- **Proofread and make copies of everything.**
- **Print and keep a copy of the confirmation (with date and time) of the submission of your application.**

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

- Complete your UC and CSU applications. You have until 11:59 p.m. on November 30 to submit your UC and CSU applications. Nevertheless, we urge you to file your CSU applications and UC applications no later than the third week of November.
- Update your account on Naviance Family Connection to inform your college counselor of the colleges that you are applying to. Remember, you must do so at least one month before your first college application due date or by December 1, whichever comes first.
- Make sure you are applying to at least one financial foundation school. **Note:** Though CSU Northridge is impacted this year, St. Francis students who meet minimal CSU eligibility are guaranteed CSUN admission because St. Francis High School is located in CSUN's local attendance area.
- Complete and submit the CSS PROFILE if it is required by a college you are applying to under an early admission program. Go to <https://profileonline.collegeboard.com> to access the CSS PROFILE
- Send your official test score reports directly to colleges from the testing agencies (www.collegeboard.com for the SAT and www.actstudent.org for the ACT). For further details, see the last four bulleted points in the preceding "Parents of Seniors" section.
- Fill out applications and work on essays (if applicable) for private and out-of-state public colleges and universities (in preparation for their regular deadlines).
- Consider interviewing with colleges that conduct interviews. You may not have to travel to the school, as many colleges outside of California have alumni interviewers in the area. However, for local private colleges and universities, it is important that you visit them, on record, at least once. Colleges such as Occidental, Pitzer, Claremont McKenna, and Pomona expect that you will visit (and sometimes interview as well) because of their proximity to our campus.
- Make sure to deliver to your recommenders the required documents at least one month before your earliest deadline or by December 1, whichever comes first.

SENIORS AND PARENTS OF SENIORS: DATES TO REMEMBER

- **November 30: UC/CSU application deadlines!**
- November 5: SAT Reasoning and Subject Tests. Standby testing only; if you have not yet registered, see your counselor for further instructions.
- December 3: SAT Reasoning and Subject Tests. Registration deadline: November 8. Late registration deadline: November 20. Register online at www.collegeboard.com.
- December 10: ACT Exam. Registration deadline: November 4. Late registration deadline: Nov. 18. Register online at www.actstudent.org.
- January 10: Line-by-Line FAFSA Review, 7:00 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT FOR ALL PARENTS:

FROM OUR PERSONAL COUNSELOR, ALLISON CLAY:

I am pleased to announce that St. Francis High School we will be offering a six-week parenting class. This class will cover several topics related to parenting children through their teen years. It will be held once a week at 7:00 p.m. and will begin the second week of November. The class will be limited to 8-10 people and will be offered on first-come, first-served basis. If you are interested in participating, please contact me at (818) 790-0325, ext. 507 or at aclay@sfhs.net. The Counseling Department strives to support our parent community and hopes that this class will make your job as parents easier for you.