



ST. FRANCIS HIGH SCHOOL

KNIGHTS & DAYS

Volume 14 Issue 1

September 2011

www.sfhs.net

Calendar

Wednesday, Sept. 7
Mothers Guild Mtg 7 p.m.
Bake Sale

Thursday, Sept. 8
Club Day

Sunday, Sept. 11
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. 12
Fine Arts Assembly (in the gym)
Class Rings Make up orders taken through 9/13

Tuesday, Sept. 13
College Knowledge Night for Seniors and Parents 7 p.m. @ the Theatre

Wednesday, Sept. 14
Pilgrimage Informational Meeting 7 p.m. @ the Theatre

Thursday, Sept. 15
Student Body Liturgy (MASS DRESS)

Friday, Sept. 16
Freshman Mixer

Saturday, Sept. 17
Practice SAT Exam (Srs.)

Monday, Sept. 19
Progress Reports Posted (on Edline)

Tuesday, Sept. 20
"Growing Pains" Frosh Parent Counseling Event 7 p.m. @ the Theatre

Thurs.-Fri. Sept. 22-23
Set conference time via "Pickatime" (see website for details)

Friday, Sept. 23
Sophomore Retreat

Saturday, Sept. 24
Practice PSAT (Juniors)

Monday, Sept. 26
Parent/Teacher Conferences 3-9 p.m. (by appt.)
Friday Schedule (early release for students!)

Wednesday, Sept. 28
College Fair 7 p.m. (Courtyard)

Friday, Sept 30
Brown and Gold Day
Alumni Tailgater/Hall of Fame Game
Welcome Dance

Saturday, October 1
Alumni Mass and Reunion

Monday, October 3
Alumni Golf Classic @ Brookside
Feast of St. Francis (NO SCHOOL)

Tuesday, October 4
Student Body Liturgy (MASS DRESS)

Tu-Wed October 4-5
CSU Application Workshop 1:45 pm

Wednesday, October 5
Mothers Guild Mtg 8:30 am
Parent Connection 9:30 am
Bake Sale/Newsletter Posted

Thursday, October 6
Booster Club Meeting 7 pm
Quarter exams begin for Seniors

From the Desk of Father Tony

Welcome back – I hope you and your family enjoyed a great summer! It is exciting to see the returning parents and students. And to the new parents and new students, a warm welcome to St. Francis High School – we are so glad you are here!

We are all excited about a new school year and the different activities a new year brings to our students and to our campus. The faculty and staff are ready to give their very best to teach and direct your sons. I promise you it will be another rewarding year.

As we do every summer, our operations and maintenance staff have been busy painting and cleaning the campus in preparation of the new academic year. Among the improvements are the sound abatement of all the classrooms in the 100 building and the painting of the exterior building. The sound abatement will make a great difference during classes. Mr. Kenneth Larsen, an alumnus and parent of a sophomore student donated this much-needed improvement, as well as material, and labor. His company, Church and Larsen, did an outstanding job. We appreciate Mr. Larsen's generosity and support.

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Principal Thomas Moran's Message

We began the school year very smoothly, thanks to the dedicated summer work of our administration, technology, and classified staff members! We appreciate our parents for their participation in all the activities involved in the first month of the year. It is vital 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 calendars 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! 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 to update personal information when accessing 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 25.

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 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

(Continued on page 2)

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

them because of the difficulty (for both teachers and students) of scheduling make-up exams. Please note that senior quarter exams begin on October 6, 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 invite all parents to "Back to School" Day on Sunday, September 11. 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 26, from 3:00-9:00 p.m. 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 22 and ending at noon on Friday, September 23. **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 to take to remedy the situation.

We ask that parents and students who use neighborhood areas surrounding the school for dropping off and picking up students to

observe the traffic and safety laws in that area. Please be aware that we need to be good neighbors with the people who live near the school!

The school will be closed on Monday, October 3 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. 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 2015 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 recognize that we are asking a great deal of our families. 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.

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

Welcome back! We look forward to meeting all newcomers and welcoming familiar faces at our monthly meetings. We encourage you to get involved in all that St. Francis High School has to offer, as we are anticipating another busy year with many opportunities to meet other parents and earn FSP hours.

We meet on campus the first Wednesday of each month, alternating between morning and evening meetings to accommodate a variety of schedules. Please come catch up, learn what's coming up, and find out what is happening in the boys' school lives.

Many of our committees are already gearing up, so don't hesitate to call and offer your assistance: Bake Sale (Joy Matsumoto 626/445-1539); Dance Chaperones (Stephanie Bailey psych4kids@att.net); Faculty Lunch (Ginger Brody 626/447-7914); and Knightwear (Patty Szot 818/790-6125). A complete roster of committee chairs and co-chairs will be published in the school directory and is downloadable on the St. Francis website Mothers' Guild page.

We are looking for one or two ladies to head up Homecoming festivities. Please contact Teresa (teresaka@sbcgloblal.net) for information if you are interested in chairing this important and fun event.

We hope you've marked your calendars for Back-to-School Day on Sunday, September 11th. Please contact Linda Gomez

(626/308-9047), Hospitality Chair, if you would like to help out with refreshments.

For those of you looking for the latest in Knightwear, Mothers' Guild has lots of great NEW merchandise available to show off your school spirit – t-shirts, sweatshirts, sports bags, beautiful St. Francis jewelry and more. Look for Knightwear tables at home football games, Back-to-School Day, and Mothers' Guild meetings.

Be sure to support our three Dinner Knight-Out Fundraisers this year at local restaurants. Proceeds from these dinners support the MG Hope Fund for SFHS families in need. The first Dinner Knight-Out is October 5th and location details will follow.

Our next meeting will be also be held on October 5th at 8:30 a.m. in Founders' Hall. Immediately following our regular meeting, we will be 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 any questions that you would like answered to help you and your son navigate around school the first few months.

Be sure to watch the newly updated St. Francis website for reminders of all of the amazing opportunities for involvement. We look forward to seeing you soon to kick off a productive, fun year of activities in support of our sons and St. Francis.

From the Desk of Father Tony *(Continued from page 1)*

During the summer we replaced the turf on the football field – our very own field of dreams. I am sure you will agree with me that it is beautiful and will provide an ideal playing surface for our athletic teams. I can hardly wait for the Fall Sports seasons to begin - the first home football game is sure to be an exciting one. Our athletes from different teams will practice on our new Friedman Field. I wish each team success in competition and a commitment to teamwork, a true complement to the Franciscan virtue of brotherhood.

As you have heard me say before, here at St. Francis High School there is something for everyone. This year we will celebrate 20 years of KNIT – our student television production. Throughout the year, you will see how much this program has grown since its early days in a small workroom. Our Fall production, *Lord of the Flies*, will be presented in the Degheri Performing Arts Center November 3-6, 2011. I am also very much looking forward to our Spring musical, *Phantom of the Opera*.

I ask you to please encourage your sons and to do well academically. Please monitor their progress.

And last, but most importantly, is the spiritual side of our young Golden Knights' lives. Please encourage a relationship with God and a life of service to others. This is so important as we work with you to guide your sons from boyhood to adulthood.

I have seen many of our returning students during the summer and I am looking forward to personally welcoming the rest of the student body. Know that you, our St. Francis family, are remembered in my daily prayers – here's to a wonderful school year.

May the Lord give you His peace!

Yours in Jesus and Francis,

Fr. Tony Marti, OFM Cap.
President

The Sports Authority *by Booster Club President Burt Garavaglia*

There's nothing more exciting than the beginning of a new school year. But with the excitement comes a little apprehension. How tough will my classes be? What will really happen if I step on the "senior lawn?" How will I get my service hours in?

Looking no further for the answers – it depends; I don't know and read on!

There are many opportunities for service hours and I will not compare the value of one over another. I will only provide you with the opportunities available through the Booster Club. While the Booster Club supports all SFHS athletics, the Football season creates the most demands on our time. Each home Football game requires between 125 – 150 volunteers during the game. Ask any of the volunteers and they will tell you how much they enjoy their assignment. Ask any spectator and they will also tell you how great the SFHS football experience was for them. Just my opinion? No – the Mission League has given SFHS the Sportsmanship Award year after year.

Our first activity of the year was "Pride Day." A total of 109 people met at Friedman Field on Saturday, August 20, to ready the field for the football season. With new turf in place, crews focused on washing down the home and visitor stands, sprucing up the snack bars and cleaning the visiting team locker room. The field is ready, the team will be ready, come enjoy the game.

What else can you do to be a part of the football sports program – ticket and program sales, security, snack bar, 50/50 raffle, merchandise sales, reserved tables or 5th Quarter hospitality. Contact our volunteer coordinator Veronica O'Connor at 626-355-0306 or roconnorhome@aol.com to join the fun.

The Booster Club will continue our traditional agenda again in 2011 – 2012 by supporting all home Football, Soccer and Basketball games with concessions, Christmas Tree sales in December and the Mother/Son Breakfast in May. We will give extra focus to a few very important activities.

Succession Planning – An important function for a business to survive and also for your Booster Club. There are presently three committee positions without chairpersons – Vice President, Security and Program Sales. An additional five chairpersons will be leaving the Boosters after this school year. Now is the time to identify our next leaders so they can receive first hand training on a committee's responsibilities. Contact me if you want to explore the different opportunities.

Booster Web Page - Technology is way ahead of the Booster Club. The Booster Club is identified on the SFHS Home Page but we do not use this tool to inform or communicate with our members. There are many of you that are very comfortable with technology and website management. The Boosters can use your ideas and expertise.

Whether or not you have a son in a sports program, the Booster Club provides you an opportunity to get involved in the SFHS community. Where have you heard this before – "Give it a try, you may like it." We are always available to answer your questions and find the perfect activity for you. Give us a call.

JK Knights!

College Counselors' Corner by Daniel Pelletier and Anto Sweeney

Welcome back, everyone! We hope you had an enjoyable summer and are settling into the new school year.

SENIORS AND THEIR PARENTS—COLLEGE KNOWLEDGE NIGHT

A special counseling night for seniors and parents will be held on Tuesday, September 13, at 7:00 p.m. in the theater. You should have received an announcement in the mail about this event. If you have not yet done so, please RSVP to Josie Zepeda, St. Francis Counseling Assistant, by e-mailing her at 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. At the event, 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 Test and SAT Subject Tests (Register online at www.collegeboard.org):

- Test date: Oct. 1. Registration deadline: Sept. 9. Late registration deadline: Sept. 21.
- Test date: Nov. 5. Registration deadline: Oct. 7. Late registration deadline: Oct 21.
- Test date: Dec. 3. Registration deadline: Nov. 8. Late registration deadline: Nov. 20.

ACT (Register online at www.actstudent.org)

- Test date: Oct 22. Registration deadline: Sept. 16. Late registration deadline: Sept. 30.
- Test date: Dec. 10. Registration deadline: Nov. 4. Late registration deadline: Nov. 18.

(If you wish to take the ACT on Sept. 10, but have not registered, you must take it on standby—see your counselor for further instructions.)

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 17. Your scores will be available to pick up at a scoreback information session at the start of G Block (1:55 p.m.) on Thursday, September 29. The scoreback session, which is free, will be conducted by a representative from a test prep company. The Practice SAT Exam costs \$10.00. You should have recently received an announcement about the practice exam. If you plan to participate, but have not yet sent in your RSVP, please e-mail Josie Zepeda at jzepeda@sfhs.net by Monday, Sept. 12.

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 12. 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.

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 24. This full-length Practice PSAT simulates testing conditions of the actual

exam. Your scores will be available to pick up at a scoreback information session at the start of G Block (1:55 p.m.) on Thursday, September 29. The scoreback session, which is free, will be conducted by a representative from a test prep company. The Practice PSAT Exam costs \$10.00. You should have recently received an announcement about the practice exam. If you plan to participate, but have not yet sent in your RSVP, please e-mail Josie Zepeda at jzepeda@sfhs.net by Monday, Sept. 19. (Sophomores will be allowed to participate in the Practice PSAT Exam if space allows.)

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.

ALL STUDENTS AND PARENTS—OUR 35TH ANNUAL COLLEGE FAIR!

You are invited to attend our 35th Annual College Fair on Wednesday, September 28, at 6:30 p.m., in the Norman Family Courtyard. Approximately 90 colleges and universities are expected to participate. The College Fair offers an excellent opportunity to continue (or begin) the college search process. The first 30 minutes of the fair is open to St. Francis students only. The fair opens to the general public at 7:00 p.m. 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 22, 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. A free optional workshop, "College Choices in the Visual and Performing Arts," precedes the fair (from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m.). For further information, including a list of schools that will participate in the PVA Fair, go to <http://www.nacacnet.org/EventsTraining/CollegeFairs/pva/Pages/11PLA.aspx>.

SENIORS AND THEIR PARENTS—TIP OF THE MONTH!

You will find the Naviance Family Connection website to be useful to you 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/stfranchishigh>. If you have any problems accessing this website, please let your counselor know.