

# ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC SCHOOL

October 30, 2009  
Volume 7, Issue 4

Monsignor Peter P. Buchignani, Pastor  
Mrs. Beth York, Principal  
Mrs. Vicki Boyd, Assistant Principal  
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*Remember to set  
your clocks back  
1 hour on  
Sunday,  
November 1<sup>st</sup>  
for Daylight  
Savings Time!*

## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

### November, 2009

- 2 Winter Uniform Regulation –Grades JrK-5 (see pgs. 56-57 in Handbook)
- 6 First Friday
- 13 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Retreat
- 17 CiCi's Pizza Night
- 19 Beta Club Inductions following 8:15 am Mass
- 20 **SFA SPIRIT JEANS DAY (Fundraiser Reward)**
- 24 All School Mass 8:15am
- 25-27 **NO SCHOOL – Thanksgiving Holiday**
- 30 Classes Resume; Advent Wreath Lighting Ceremony 8:00 am GYM

### December, 2009

- 3 Religious Goods Sale 8:00 am – 4:00 pm MPR
- 4 First Friday; Feast of Saint Nicholas Celebration; 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Grade Dance, sponsored by Knights of Columbus, 7:00pm-10:00pm SFA Church
- 7 Advent Wreath Lighting Ceremony 8:00 am GYM
- 8 **NO SCHOOL – Feast of the Immaculate Conception**
- 9 Christian Witness Awards Grades 1-5 following 8:15 am mass
- 10 Christian Witness Awards Grades 6-8 following 8:15 am mass
- 13 Basketball Registration for Boys & Girls 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> Grades and 4-6 yrs  
1:30 pm – 3:00 pm PLC
- 14 Advent Wreath Lighting Ceremony 8:00am GYM
- 15 CiCi's Pizza Night
- 16 Christmas Programs JrK-5<sup>th</sup> Grades; 8:45am-11:00am
- 15-17 Middle school exams-6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> dismiss at 11:15 am
- 17 Dismissal 11:15 am **ALL STUDENTS**
- 18 – Jan 3 **NO SCHOOL - Christmas Break**

## SFA OPEN HOUSE

For Prospective Students!

Invite your relatives, friends, neighbors, and co-workers to our **OPEN HOUSE** on **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1<sup>st</sup>, 3:00 p.m.** beginning in the School Gym



## A Note from the Desk of Mrs. Beth York, Principal...

The first nine weeks is complete, and parent/teacher conferences are completed. Halloween is upon us and before you will be able to blink twice our hallways will be filled with gobbling turkeys and Thanksgiving feasts!

Monsignor Buchignani visited our school on September 24<sup>th</sup>. He presided over the blessing for our newly renovated chapel where SFA teachers, staff members and administrators were present. The chapel is beautiful, and if you haven't had a chance to see it yet, please drop by and do so.

ITBS testing is complete, and we are currently waiting for score reports from Riverside Publishing to come in. Once all reports have been received, we will forward the individual student report and longitudinal graph for your student(s) on to you.

Please continue to implement daily study routines with your children. Establishing a routine at home is important to the success of your child here at school, and will enable them to do their very best. Clearly identifying afternoon time for study, play/fitness, meals and family time is just one suggestion. Identifying study spaces in your home where homework and study are completed daily is another. Below are additional suggestions for helping your child to develop their fullest potential.

- A good breakfast increases concentration. Offer your youngster healthy choices. Examples: a whole-wheat bagel with peanut butter; orange juices blended with fruit and yogurt; instant oatmeal.
- Music can help your child avoid the morning rush. Play soothing music and ask him or her to be dressed and ready by the time it's over.
- Studying a little every day is the best way to learn new material. For students at the upper grades completing a little ALEKS and Accelerated Reader each day causes much less stress than saving it all to the weekends or to the end of the quarter.
- Talking about the school day lets your child know you care. Ask him or her to share two good things that happened during the day. Prompt them with specific questions, such as "Which multiplication tables did you practice?"
- A set bedtime helps kids fall asleep more quickly. Studies show that students in lower elementary school achieve most efficiently with 9 to 10 hours of sleep per night. And, students in middle school work best with 8 to 9 hours of sleep per night.

### Congratulations to our **Christian Witness Award Recipients** for the 1st Quarter:

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade:** *Michelle Farler, Madeline Mahon, Rachel Smith, Charlie Amrein, Dominick Disalvo, Austen York*

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade:** *Michael Bardos, Grant King, Brad Reber, Tia Clorina, Sara Mellinger, Abby Casaccia*

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade:** *Erin Yoser, Allison Weske, Sarah Turner, Gregory Sun, Lawson Tyrone, Matthew Crowe*

**5<sup>th</sup> Grade:** *Oliva Hall, Catherine May, Jessica Morrison, Austin Wise, Connor Sheeks*

**4<sup>th</sup> Grade:** *Katherine Vassallo, Johnny Lutz, Sarah Waddell, Cara Bascom, Katelyn Dabney*

**3<sup>rd</sup> Grade:** *Jennifer Sosnowski, Vito Magnotti, Sam Rabiner, Olivia Siligato, Matthew Watkins*

**2<sup>nd</sup> Grade:** *Maggie Alexander, Jaden Kubick, Dante Carrasco, Payne Morgan*

**1<sup>st</sup> Grade:** *Maggie Esnard, Noah Stiles, Kate Kiameh, George Ryan Weske*

### Timberwolves Continue to Put Their Best "Paws" Forward!

Here is a quick update to let you know how our new Middle School Discipline Program is working. There has been significant improvement and our teachers and staff agree that the overall behavior in middle school has never been better! In addition, all middle school grades have earned one reward from reaching the positive point goal. The 8<sup>th</sup> grade was the first to reach the second goal of earning 250 positive points and was rewarded with a free out of uniform day with a "sports theme." The 7<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grades students are right on the verge of earning the 250 points and should be achieving their goal soon. Encourage your students to keep up the great work and continue being such terrific examples of good character and Christian behavior.

*Mrs. Alica Brown, Director of Student Affairs*



## Congratulations to our **Honor Roll Recipients** for the 1st Quarter:

### Principal's Honor Roll

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade:** *Jacob Aljundi, Pauline Cabe, Andrew Chandonnet, Gina Cianciolo, Rachael Cummings, Josh Durbin, Henry Evetts, Michelle Farler, Grace Hill, Rachel Hofer, Connor Jones, Madeline Mahon, Rosa Martinez, Madeline Morgan, Rachel Paduck, Erin Peel, Nikki Shah, Nick Sosnowski, Theresa Stoddard, Kyle Van Hoeck, Tara VanCleave, Andrew Wadovick, Kayla Williamson*

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade:** *Mallory Barbier, Michael Bardos, Katie Barkley, Collin Beer, Madison Bond, Meghan Brino, Melanie Chando, Tia Clorina, Ryan Cobb, Nicole Dee, J.D. Dudek, JR Jamora, Raymond Lelis, Jake McClure, Nicholas Michalski, Clare Morris, Will Nash, Bradley Reber, Kirkland Schuler, John Yarbrow*

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade:** *Matthew Barczak, Harley Chapman, Will Dearman, Kate Dudek, Jake Griesmer, Jackson Lewis, Monika Milczek, Dale Pitawanakwat, Lance Sanderson, Margaret Sell, Luigi Siligato, Sarah Turner, Lawson Tyrone, Allison Weske*

**5<sup>th</sup> Grade:** *Nicholas Ashker, Baylor Bearden, Sydney Bloodworth, Megan Brown, Ricky Carrasco, Stella Cea, Nicole Chandonnet, John Barry Clark, Elizabeth Free, Isabella Giddens, Avery Graziosi, Olivia Hall, Lauren Michele Harrell, Andrew Holtwick, Michael Hovanec, Hayden Jones, Yuzuka Karube, Elie Kiameh, Caitlin McCrory, James McGregor, Michael Minatra, Nick Morris, Jessica Morrison, Megan Morrison, Lauren Neuhoff, Erin O'Brien, Caroline O'Looney, Jacob Ripberger, Connor Sheeks, Lucy Shoemaker, Olivia Stewart, Cameron Strafuss, Egan Webster, Sarah Webster, Brianna Williams, Jacob Williamson, Austin Wise*

### First Honor Roll

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade:** *Charlie Amrein, Emily Cross, Dillon Harckum, Meredith Lerma, Adrienne Lewis, Stephanie McCarthy, Abbey McCrory, Katie Morgan, Jessica Morris, Emily Mott, Connor O'Brien, Luke Parker, Gabrielle Salazar, Hunter Scrivener, Rebecca Siciliano, Rachel Smith, Natalie Sowell, Olivia Turner, John Vassallo*

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade:** *Cassandra Carrasco, Ally Darnell, Emily Gillenwater, Matthew Holt, Ben June, Sarah Kutas, Jessica O'Brien, Michael Oliphant, Stephanie Terry*

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade:** *John David Aeschliman, Lindsay Arvin, Kenzie Baird, Sophia Bougeois, Elizabeth Bunch, Maggie Callahan, Leah Cluck, Matthew Crowe, Alexis Dahler, Kristina East, David Fryt, Anna Graziosi, Bryant Grove, Raymond Guasco, Ashley Hammond, Will Hecht, Gina Iovinelli, Dominic Keilty, Amanda Magusiak, Sarah McMahon, Evy Montgomery, Courtney Parker, Fielding Quarles, Caroline Raulston, Emily Reber, Rebecca Saunders, Zoe Speer, Gregory Sun, Will Urban, Patrick Vassallo, Alex Wadovick, Erin Yoser*

**5<sup>th</sup> Grade:** *Bella Barthalow, Jennifer Bond, Bradley Bourgeois, Matthew Burgess, Daniel Caprio, Fischer Clarke, Joie Dianjoell, Kara Drago, Jack Dyles, Anikka Ferro, Shane Gaffney, Raphael Guimera, Jacob Hamann, Matthew Hammond, Sam Incardona, Rachel King, Catherine May, Baker Mitchell, Luke Murray, Rebecca Rabiner, Isaac Simpson, Emily Sosnowski, Mary Shields Sterling, Max Thielemier, Camille Trice, Quinn Turner, Meghan Tuttle, Nicholas Vaught, Carter Viles, Alex Wilson, Zachary Yeager*

### Second Honor Roll

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade:** *Anna Arnold, Hannah Bingham, Josh Cartwright, Hallie Dunham, Mary Hannah Giddens, Jackie Glover, Ricky Graziosi, Matthew Incardona, Chloe Parrish, Chris Schuhlein, Matthew Sena, Jill Stark, Caroline Vaught, Catherine Wylie*

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade:** *Josh Lea, Christian Mantel, Steven Michalski, Samantha Mooneyham, Jonathan Phillips*

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade:** *Tyler Griffis, Nicholas Jones, Jacob Timmins, Grant Walker, Ethan York*

## ALEKS UPDATE

Teachers and students continue to echo the success of the ALEKS program as students say "Oh I remember this: I learned this on ALEKS!" Simply having a base knowledge allows the classroom teacher to build on the skill developing each math concept more thoroughly. The fact that ALEKS also introduces the students to new math vocabulary gives them an advantage when the classroom teacher begins a lesson on a new concept.

**The ALEKS requirement for the second nine weeks of 9 hours (18 for the semester) and 40% pie completion are due by the start of school on Monday, December 7th.**

**Assessments to determine mastery for all students will be given at school the week of December 7th.**

Many students have already met their 80% mastery (which is required by the end of the school year). Congratulations to them and their hard work!

After a student achieves 80% or better mastery on a scheduled assessment, the student has two options:

**A.** Continue working on ALEKS a minimum of 9 hours each grading period - thus receiving a 100% as a test grade (Also moving closer to the goal of 100% mastery and exemption from summer ALEKS hours); OR

**B.** Choose to take an exemption from ALEKS; thereby not receiving a test grade for ALEKS (this will not penalize the student nor give them additional credit).

**TIP \*\*\*\*** Did you know that you can use ALEKS to review for tests? The review option will call up all of the mastered skills and allow you to work on review problems on any objective listed. This will provide you immediate feedback on problems that pertain to your upcoming test. The added bonus - it also counts toward your ALEKS requirements - doubling your payoff!

As always, please let me know if you have any questions or concerns. **Stephanie Jones**

[Stephanie.jones@sfaschool.cdom.org](mailto:Stephanie.jones@sfaschool.cdom.org)



## Timberwolves Helping Others!



SFA students look forward all year to the feast day of their patron, St. Francis. This is a day that is set aside for worship, service and fun activities for the entire school. Along with Field Day Activities, many other great things were happening all over campus:

- ~About 40 pets were blessed at our annual Pet Blessing, including dogs, cats, fish, gerbils, and a snake!
- ~1<sup>st</sup> grade partnered with 7<sup>th</sup> to package over 500 school supplies for the students at Our Lady of Sorrows School
- ~2<sup>nd</sup> partnered with 8<sup>th</sup> grade to make over 100 bird feeders for our feathered friends
- ~JrK and Kindergarten were assisted by 6<sup>th</sup> grade partners to make 80 "Thumbbody loves you" door hangers for the residents of Ave Maria Nursing Home
- ~3<sup>rd</sup> grade made 100 Placemats for the residents of Ave Maria Nursing Home and Adult Day Care.
- ~4<sup>th</sup> grade made almost 100 door hangers to greet the residents of the Ronald McDonald House.
- ~100 sandwiches were delivered to the Missionaries of Charity for needy families
- ~5<sup>th</sup> grade made 500 sandwiches that went to the St. Vincent de Paul Food Mission.
- ~6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> grade made 1500 sandwiches that went to St. Mary's Soup Kitchen.
- ~We collected hundreds of items for the St. Francis Animal Rescue and Refuge Shelter
- ~And 3<sup>rd</sup> grade counted 38,000 tabs for the Ronald McDonald House! (...and actually asked if they could do it again!)

**Thank you to all of the parents who volunteered to make this day a great success!!!!**

## STUDENT NEWS & ACTIVITIES

### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade News...

^The 8<sup>th</sup> grade students held a memorial service to honor **Edgar Allan Poe** on October 30<sup>th</sup> in the chapel. Poe died suddenly and mysteriously 160 years ago this month and fewer than 10 people were in attendance at his hasty funeral. The students will conduct the service, give eulogies, read some of his poems and lead prayers for his soul at 11:05am. The **Victorian Funeral Custom** of giving mourners Funeral Cakes will be observed for lunch that day- parents will bake the cakes and bring them in for the students. The day is an out of uniform day so the students were asked to wear black if possible.

^The 8<sup>th</sup> grade Class will also participate in a **Greek Feast** on **November 20<sup>th</sup>**. Students may order the Greek meal we will have catered for lunch that day (\$10) or they may bring a lunch. All orders for the Greek Feast meal must be submitted and paid for by November 10<sup>th</sup>. All students will dress in modest togas that day to celebrate our reading of The Odyssey. We will have a slightly lengthened lunch period on November 20<sup>th</sup> in the MPR. **Send your lunch order to Mrs. Chando in an envelope with the student name on the outside-check preferred.**



^JrK and Kindergarten students celebrated Halloween with a party and a costume parade around the school!

### HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

**Home & School Meeting: November 10<sup>th</sup>**

Lunch at Noon; Meeting begins at 12:30pm PLC 113  
This month we will feature the following presentations:

- ALEKS for Lower School Students – How to get them started NOW
  - School Play – Something New for this Year
  - Wrap Up on Fundraisers and Operation Gratitude
- Come join us for updates on our school, fundraising projects and much more!***

**Do you shop at Schnucks?** Would you like them to donate money to SFA just because you shop there? **It's easy to do!!!** You simply need to register your Schnucks gas card under SFA's e-scrip number (500022980). This is at no cost to you, and you will still receive your gas credits. Once you've registered, Schnucks will begin sending SFA 2% of your grocery and gas purchases. This is a win-win situation for all!

For more information, contact Dee Dee at [deedee.morreo@sfaschool.cdom.org](mailto:deedee.morreo@sfaschool.cdom.org).

**Thanks for your continued support of our school!**



### RAINBOWS SUPPORT GROUPS

Support groups for children who have experienced a loss due to a divorce or death in their family

Students in Jr.K - 4<sup>th</sup> Grade please contact Debbie Brown at [debbie.brown@sfaschool.cdom.org](mailto:debbie.brown@sfaschool.cdom.org) for more information. Students in 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade, please contact Lauren Cox at [lauren.cox@sfaschool.cdom.org](mailto:lauren.cox@sfaschool.cdom.org).

### SGA NEWS...

Homecoming week at SFA contained the usual zany fun: Generations Day (dressing in 50's 60's 70's and 80's garb), Spirit Day, crazy hats and sunglasses days. But this year, our Student Government voted to also help others during this week of activities. We had "Pajama Day- bring a pair, wear a pair" in which our 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade students wore pajamas to school and also donated a pair to the local Pajama Program. This organization provides warm pajamas and books to needy children in our area by identifying local agencies that care for homeless and vulnerable children. St. Francis students collected over **200** pairs of pajamas and **145 children's story books**. For more information on the pajama program, go to [www.pajamaprogram.org](http://www.pajamaprogram.org).

### Extended Care News...

October was a busy month with Extended Care averaging around 100 students per day. Students must be registered in the Extended Care program to attend. There is a \$50 registration fee per child and you may register as Full Time or Drop In. Please check the website for detailed information.

Extended Care hours are 3:00p.m. to 6:00p.m. Students are given a nutritious snack when they first arrive. Many Extended Care students are currently involved in extra curricular activities that are offered during the after school time. This diversified group of activities ranges from Taekwondo to Cool Crafts, Baton, Hip Hop, Dulins Sports, Bartlett Dance, Flip for Fun, Chess Club, Mad Science and Drawing Made Easy.

For those not attending extra curricular activities, Extended Care has homework rooms for grades 1<sup>st</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> which are supervised by SFA teachers who will assist the students. Students also rotate to computer time, arts & crafts and outside activities.

Please feel free to call the Extended Care office at 381-2595 for more information.