

St. Joseph High School

Newsletter

The Principal's Corner

I wrote in the last issue of *The Knightly News* about our WCEA/WASC Accreditation process. One of the most significant benefits of this process is that it requires us as educators to explore how effectively the mission/motto of the school is imbedded in everything that we do and say here at St. Joseph. In a few days, the season of Advent begins, and we are asked to prepare our hearts and souls for the gift of Jesus Christ that we celebrate at Christmas. There is no better time to reflect upon the reason that St. Joseph High School exists in the first place: to spread the good news of Christ the Lord.

To Image Christ in Mind, Heart, Body, and Soul: we speak loudly and proudly of this mission/motto every day here at SJHS. As I have edited the WCEA/WASC Focus on Learning report over the past few weeks, I have come across those words hundreds of times. At every information meeting that we host to tell new families about our school, I use those words to begin the discussion of what a St. Joseph education seeks to provide for students. The point I try to make each and every time I mention the mission/motto is that helping our students **To Image Christ** is the real reason St. Joseph exists. If we are not about the business of providing a place in which young people can grow in their faith and love for God, we are about nothing at all. It is why the walls of these buildings were raised in 1964, and it is why the school continues to exist 45 years later. Our foremost purpose is not to provide stellar academic training, though I believe we do just that. But if our

young people are not grounded in Christian values, they can never be truly successful. As Fr. Ed so often and so eloquently reminds us, what good is it if our students get into Harvard, if they don't get into heaven? Similarly, we are not here to produce winning athletic teams, though that happens all the time. True champions know that without God's grace and love, they are all ultimately losers. Finally, this school is not here to offer a safe and nurturing environment in which students can enjoy fully their educational experience, though I truly believe we have created that kind of environment at St. Joseph. All safety and peace comes through a belief in and love for Jesus Christ. If you have chosen St. Joseph for your child, I hope and pray that the desire for a Christ-centered education is the reason you did so. If that was not your motivation, the school will certainly fall short of your expectations at some time or another.

As we make all of our preparations for Christmas, let us devote ourselves to the true purpose of Advent: to prepare ourselves for the greatest gift that has ever been given, the gift of God's only son Jesus, from whom all good things come. Let us remember that He is the reason we celebrate this time of the year. Jesus is the reason for this season! Here's wishing all of you a blessed and joyous Christmas in the Peace and Love of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Sincerely,

Joe Myers



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Body.....Knights Sports

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Mind

Think critically: gather, organize, evaluate, integrate and disseminate information from a wide spectrum of sources.

Semester Exams

Semester exams are comprehensive tests covering the curriculum from August 20, 2009 through December 15, 2009, and they comprise 10-20% of the student's semester grade. Therefore, they need to be taken very seriously, and students need to be present for their exams!

Exam Schedule:

Wednesday, December 16: 8:25-9:30 a.m. exam for period 3 classes; 9:45-10:45 exam for period 4 classes.

Thursday, December 17, 8:25-9:30 a.m. exam for period 1 classes; 9:45-10:45 exam for period 5 classes; 11:00-12:00 exam for period 7 classes.

Friday, December 18: 8:25-9:30 a.m. exam for period 2 classes; 9:45-10:45 exam for period 6 classes; 11:00-12:00 make-up exams.

Students in study halls are required to attend their study hall class unless it is Period 6 on Friday, December 18. Since this is the last semester exam period, these students can be excused from study hall if they bring a note from you to their teacher. Students leaving study halls early are to leave campus as we do not want students roaming the campus while others are finishing their testing. The library will be closed on December 18. TAs may also be excused from their TA period with approval from the teacher and a note from you to the teacher.

Note: The semester officially ends on December 18, 2009. Late work will not be accepted after this date. If a student misses a semester exam, it must be made-up by the end of the day on Friday, January 8. Students will be given their report cards on Tuesday, January 12.

Students Experience a Cultural Tradition

El Día de los Muertos, Day of the Dead, is an ancient tradition celebrated in Mexico and by Latin Americans living in the United States. Although this holiday is associated with death, it is not a time of mourning; rather, it is a joyful celebration of the continuation of life. Traditionally, it is celebrated from October 31 to November 2.

It is a time when deceased loved ones are remembered through the building of an altar, or an "ofrenda", which is decorated with photographs, flowers, candles, and other items of personal importance to the honored loved ones.

Students in Spanish II, III and AP Spanish constructed an altar in the library to celebrate *El Día de los Muertos*. They provided framed pictures of loved ones and/or personal items. Money collected in class was used to purchase flowers and additional decorations. Students in Spanish I classes visited the altar after learning about the significance of this holiday throughout the Spanish-speaking world.

The impact of the altar was felt throughout the school, as it was visited by many students during break or after school, and also by a number of teachers with their classes.



Financial Workshop for Seniors' Parents

- How to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
- Thursday, January 14, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. in Room E-4
- Presenter: Financial Aid Outreach Coordinator from the Scholarship Foundation of Santa Barbara
- Why you should attend: The FAFSA is the most important document to file for college financial aid.

College Planning Workshop for Juniors' Parents

- Receive your student's PSAT score reports
- Thursday, January 21, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. in Room E-4
- Learn about testing for college: the SAT, the ACT
- Learn about the steps and the timelines for applying to colleges
- Learn about the types of colleges in California. Introduction to financial aid for college.

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College Scholarship Information for Seniors' Parents—Apply online now for the Scholarship Foundation of Santa Barbara scholarships and interest-free loans at www.sbscholarship.org. Check our SJHS website's scholarship page often for newly added scholarship opportunities

A reminder for Seniors and their Parents—After you have submitted your college applications, be sure to open the colleges' emails to you and follow up *immediately* any requests for transcripts or other information.

Our Spring College Tour for Juniors (Cal, Stanford, UC Santa Cruz, St. Mary's, Santa Clara) still has a few spaces available. Applications are in the guidance lobby.

Congratulations to the following seniors on their offers of admission from these universities:

Geo Dickinson—
Colorado School of Mines

Erica Evans—
Oregon State University

Chloe Johnson—
Bradley University

Jacob Rivera—Northern
Arizona University

Heart

Foster an understanding of a culturally and religiously diverse society through respect, cooperation, and compassion for all people and the world in which they live.

Get On The Bus

Get On The Bus offers free transportation for children and their caregivers to visit their parent in prison. It also provides travel bags for the children, comfort bags for the caregivers, a photo of each child with his or her parent, and meals for the day (breakfast, snacks on the bus, a special lunch at the prison with their parent and dinner on the way home), all at no cost to the child's family.

Recently, the St. Joseph Get On The Bus Club received the 2009 Awesome Kids Honorable Mention Award from the KIDS Network of Santa Barbara County. The honored students are Emily Shaffer, Logan Smith, Ciara Main, Courtney Rodriguez, Jacqui Sanchez, Joanna Ortiz, Crystal Felix, Ellie McPike, Delaney Puhek, Hannah Ontiveros, Sarah Ruiz, and Monica Bacca. This group of students were nominated for their outstanding leadership, care, concern, and action for children of incarcerated fathers at the California Men's Colony. They have organized fundraisers to raise over \$800 for the "adoption" of a bus for the children, coming as far away as San Diego, to visit their dads for Father's Day. These students raised awareness of the issue within the school community and participated in the day itself, meeting with the children and their families.

Congratulations to Mrs. Elizabeth Gregory, Club Moderator, and the students in the Get On The Bus Club!

St. Joseph High School Annual Appeal

Fall is the time of year when St. Joseph High School makes its annual appeal for support from the entire St. Joseph community. This year is especially significant due to the struggling economy and the impact it has had on our families and the school. The focus of the 2009 Annual Appeal, which will be sent out in late November or early December, will be to help fund our Tuition Assistance program so that the school will be able to help as many families as possible meet their tuition needs. Please consider participating in this critical appeal at whatever level is most comfortable for you. Every gift is important and directly benefits the students of St. Joseph High School. Your generous support is greatly needed and appreciated!

Financial Assistance Applications Available

The Tuition Aid Data Services (TADS) application for the 2010-2011 school year can be completed on-line at www.tuitionaid.com. The St. Joseph Financial Aid application form is available now in the Main Office. The deadline for returning the completed application and supporting documentation to TADS is February 5, 2010.

Catholic Education Foundation Grants

If your annual family income is no more than 15% above the Federal School Lunch Program guideline, you may qualify for a Catholic Education Grant. Please look over the chart below. If you qualify, please contact our Financial Aid Office 937-2038 ext. 103.



Household Size	Maximum Annual Income
2	\$22,413
3	\$28,251
4	\$34,085
5	\$39,905
6	\$45,736
7	\$51,578

Catholic Education Foundation Grant applications are due by **Friday, January 22, 2010**.

Acts of Kindness

"As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience." – Colossians 3:12

- ◆ The Christian Service Club is providing Thanksgiving meals to four families in our community.
- ◆ The Key Club is decorating the doors at Marian Residence for the holidays.
- ◆ The Interact Club is participating in the bicycle program for Good Samaritan Shelter kids.

Body

Understand the connection between physical and intellectual wellness and foster an attitude of respect for the body and its health.

It's great to be a Knight!

This fall we've had some incredible team and individual performances by our student-athletes. On the football field, the Knights are still alive in the CIF Playoffs after running the table with a perfect 10-0 record during the regular season. Our girls Cross Country team advanced to the CIF Southern Section Finals with runner Quetta Peinado qualifying to run in the State Finals held Thanksgiving Weekend. Other sports qualifying for the CIF Playoffs included Boys' Water Polo (for the first time in school history), Girls' Golf, Girls' Tennis and Girls' Volleyball. Great job to all of our fall athletes.

KNIGHTS SIGN ON THE DOTTED LINE

Five student-athletes have signed National Letters of Intent this fall. Swimmers Maddie Mastrup (Colorado State), Erica Brannon (Oregon State) softball player Mariah Cochiolo (Cal Poly), golfer Danielle Gillaspay (Pepperdine) and basketball player Analise Riezebos (Chico State) will all be continuing their athletic careers at the next level. Congratulations ladies!

SAVE THE DATE

Coming up - the ever so popular Crab Crack, Saturday January 30, at 6:00 p.m. in the gym. This Booster fundraiser is always a sell-out and is a terrific event providing delicious food, drink, elaborate table decorations and lots of fun; accompanied by music and dancing. Look for more info to follow soon in the mail.

LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS

The booster board is looking for volunteers to help serve at the sports banquets. Please contact Julie Posada at 928-5000. Here are the upcoming banquet dates:

Nov 23, 6:30 – 8:30 * Dec 7, 6:00 – 8:00 * March 1, 6:30 – 8:30 * March 15, 6:30 – 8:30
May 12, 6:30 – 8:30 * May 13, 6:30 – 8:30 * May 18, 6:30 – 8:30

NEXT BOOSTER BOARD MEETINGS: Tuesday, December 15, at 7:00 pm and Tuesday, January 12, at 7:00 pm in Joe's Place. All parents are welcome.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!



The undefeated 2009 Varsity Football team and undisputed LPAL Champions.



Soul

Build a solid system of Catholic beliefs, principles, and values inspired and taught by Christ.

Campus Ministry

Greetings and happy Advent! We are in the season of Advent which is the four weeks of preparation for the Christmas season which, on the Catholic calendar, begins on December 25. During the Advent season, we have our special Mothers' Mass on Tuesday, December 8. This is the day we celebrate the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This special Mother's Mass will be in the gym when we honor the mothers of our seniors, and they are invited to be a part of the celebration. The Mass starts at 11:00 a.m. and we would like you to line up starting in the Heritage lobby by 10:45. Your senior will meet you there, process in with you and sit with you. After Mass, the seniors have the afternoon off to take you to lunch. God bless you and we pray that this will be a blessed holiday season for you and your family.

In God's service,

David Wells
Director of Campus Ministry

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

During the school year, every first and third Wednesday of the month we have exposition and adoration of the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament in our school chapel. Exposition begins at 7:30 a.m. and continues throughout the school day. Mass is celebrated at 12:00 noon and exposition closes with Benediction at 2:00 p.m. Teachers often bring their religion classes to the chapel for a short period of prayer. Parents, grandparents and members of the community are welcome to spend some time in prayer in the chapel and, we hope, include our students in those prayers. In January we will have Exposition and Benediction on Wednesday, January 20. It is a wonderful way to begin the New Year.

Charlene's Closet Toy Drive

November 24 through December 15
Bring in NEW toys, board games, or socks

Help children have a Merry Christmas!

Charlene's Closet is a part of Good Samaritan Services



Advent Penance Service

As John the Baptist called the people of Israel to prepare for the coming of the Messiah by examining their consciences and turning to the Lord for the conversion of their lives, so Christians enter the season of Advent as a time of preparation for the celebration of the Lord's coming at Christmas. In this spirit, the Campus Ministry Program has set aside Wednesday, December 2, for penitential services for each period of the school day.

Students will go to their religion class for attendance then move to the gymnasium for an Advent penance service. The service will include Christian music and readings from the scriptures on the call to conversion of heart. There will be time for personal reflection and individual examination of conscience. Finally there will be opportunity for students, faculty and staff, who wish to celebrate the sacrament of reconciliation, to go to confession. If it is convenient and you would like to join us for one of the periods, we would be happy to have you with us for this spiritual preparation for the celebration of Christmas.

More Info.....

Bookstore Information . . . Spring 2010 Textbook Sale

Mid-Year Textbook Sale - If your student will be changing classes in the spring, they may need a textbook for that class. These books were **NOT** sold at the beginning of the school year. A student may trade textbooks with another student who has already taken the class or they may purchase the book from the school bookstore. The bookstore will be open the week of **January 6–8, 2010**.

Please read carefully:

- ◆ Most textbooks not traded may be turned into the bookstore during finals week for credit (if in good condition) to be used to purchase spring textbooks.
- ◆ Unused credits of \$19 or under will be refunded in cash to students. Checks will be issued for unused credits of \$20 or over.
- ◆ It is not necessary for parents to attend this sale unless they wish to do so.
- ◆ Books from dropped classes purchased for the 2010 spring semester must be returned to the bookstore no later than Tuesday, **January 12** for a full refund. After this date, students must wait until the June textbook buy back. A receipt is required for all returns.

CORRECTION: The winner of the \$250 tuition drawing at Back to School Night was Rosalie Real, mother of Amy Real. Congratulations!

2010-2011 Freshman Placement Test

The Freshman Placement Test will be offered
on
**Saturday, January 30, 2010 from 8:00
to 11:15 a.m.**
or
**Saturday, February 6, 2010 from 8:00
to 11:15 a.m.**

Applications are available in the Admini-
stration Office or from our website at
www.sjhsknights.com, under “Academics.”

We Have A Winner!

Congratulations to St. Joseph High School parent Lydia Marin, the winner of the Support Our School 2009 Car Drawing sponsored by Toyota of Santa Maria, Home Motors, Honda of Santa Maria and Community Volkswagen and BMW! Congratulations also to alumni parent, Dr. Richard Healy, who won \$500 cash in our drawing for those individuals selling at least five car raffle tickets to help St. Joseph High School with this annual fundraiser. We appreciate the efforts of everyone involved including our current parents, alumni, alumni parents and grandparents and our many friends in the community. Your support and generosity helped to make this event a wonderful success! THANK YOU!