



ST. FRANCES ACADEMY

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

WE CAN, WE WILL, WE MUST!!

FEBRUARY 2010

See Page 2
For an important
letter
to our parents
from our President,
Sr. John Francis,
OSP

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SAINT FRANCES ACADEMY

THE THEME FOR
THIS YEAR IS

"Upon this Rock"

Dear Saint Frances Family:

Between my parents' generation, my generation and the generation of the students I teach now, America has come a long way. With that context, I am often asked, "Why should we still celebrate Black History Month?"

Here is why the Church and our school should celebrate this month. A few weeks ago, a very close friend, who happens to be a priest and happens to be African American, was visiting me here at Saint Frances. Just before lunch, I took him into the school's chapel and pointed out that for many years, the Saint Frances Academy Chapel was one of the few places in Maryland that Black Catholics could attend Mass without sitting in the back or in the balcony. It was one of the only places where they could sit close to the Eucharist during the consecration. This priest is approximately my age and we thanked God that neither of us as African-American Catholics had to ever experience such an indignity.

Later, we went to lunch and though I was in a shirt and tie, my friend was wearing a very traditional black suit and roman collar. As we were finishing lunch, I asked him in front of the waitress, "Father, would you like some coffee?" The waitress interrupted and said, "Father? I thought only Catholic priests were called 'Father'." She simply could not believe that a black man could be a Catholic priest.

We are blessed to be part of this historic institution. I love telling people that at Saint Frances, we don't just study Black history – We ARE Black history. During this month, I ask that each of you take the time to learn something new about the history and contribution of Black people to the world. And if you are at a loss where to start, come to your school. Saint Frances is teeming with such history.

In God's Providence,
Deacon Curtis Turner, Ed.D.
Principal

January 27, 2010

Dear Parents,

As we begin to plan for a new school year, I really need your help. The economy has affected you and your family and it has also hit us very hard at St. Frances. We are going to have to make some radical changes in order to survive the current economy.

We need to know as soon as possible if you intend on re-registering your child at St. Frances for next year. We will have three tuition levels of \$5000, \$7000 and \$9000. It costs \$10,000 to educate your child and we have to get closer to the real cost in order to continue. The financial aid plan will be different. All those applying for financial aid will have to apply through the PSAS which is a private school financial aid company that evaluates your income, assets, expenses, etc and then tells us what level of aid you need. This will cost \$21.

All forms and re-registration MUST BE IN BY APRIL 2ND in order to receive financial aid consideration. No financial aid is guaranteed after that date. We have to plan for staffing and the number of students we will accept for next year and this must be done as early as possible.

Next Wednesday at report card conferences, you will receive a letter explaining this further and there will be someone there (Remi Ackerman, our Business Manager), to explain things in detail and to answer questions. You will be able to get the PSAS forms at that time, so it is very important that you attend the report card conference.

Please continue to support us and pray that God will continue to bless us with generous benefactors so we can continue to minister to His Kingdom.

In Providence,

Sister John Francis, OSP

FROM THE TUITION OFFICE

FAMILIES WHO PLAN TO RETURN TO ST. FRANCES NEXT YEAR:

It is now time to re-register. All returning students have to re-register for the 2010-2011 school year. Re-registration packets may be picked up in the Main Office or downloaded online from our website www.sfacademy.org.

Two things to NOTE: AFTER APRIL 2, 2010:

- 1) the re-registration fee becomes \$200.00
- 2) tuition assistance can no longer be guaranteed.

FAMILIES OF SENIORS:

All of the student's financial obligations to St. Frances Academy must be paid if the student is to graduate from St. Frances Academy on June 6, 2010.

REPORT CARD CONFERENCES WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2010 9AM-11:30AM 1PM-3:30PM 5:30PM-7PM GYMNASIUM

Report Cards

(as quoted from the Parent/Student Handbook/Planner page 24)

Report cards are issued each quarter (see School Calendar). The **parent/guardian** must pick up the Report Card at the end of the first, second and third quarters during Parent Teacher Conferences. Report card conferences are scheduled between:

9:00 am-11:30am, 1:00 pm - 3:30pm, 5:30-7:00pm

Final report cards are mailed in June if all financial matters are settled. Parents who are unable to attend the Report Card Conferences may pick up report cards in the main office during regular office hours if all financial obligations are met.

A MESSAGE TO PARENTS ABOUT FPP HOURS

Each year parents are required to give 10 hours of community service to the school or pay \$150 (\$15 per hour).

The Family Partnership Program (FPP) only operates during the school year. If you are a parent of a senior, you must have your hours completed or paid before May 1st. Parents of freshman, sophomores, and juniors have until May 29th to meet this obligation. There will be opportunities posted in the newsletter each month for FPP hours. Once you see something in which you are interested, contact the person in charge of the event and schedule a time to perform the volunteer service. Be sure that your time is recorded in the main office. There is a book for Parent Volunteers on the front counter in the main office where you can record your time.

- ◆ There are opportunities for parents to volunteer during the basketball games. There is concession work, door work and clean up duty after the games. Please see the coach when you arrive for duty and sign in and out on the volunteer duty sheet. If the front office does not receive a sign in sheet from the coach we can not verify your hours and credit you for them.
- ◆ We are always in need of parents to pick up garbage on the outside of the building and dispose of it in the dumpster. 2 parents are needed 5 days a week for no more than 2 hours at a time. Please contact Mrs. Reuter in the front office to arrange your hours.



Attention Parents Needing Volunteer Hours

The SFA Boosters need your help!!

If you are available during any of the follow times:

Feb 1, 3:30-8:00pm	Feb 3, 3:30p-8:00p
Feb 4, 3:00p-9:00p	*Feb 5th (Homecoming) 3p-12midnight
Feb 7, 12:30p-5pm	Feb 9, 4pm-9pm
Feb 12, 3:30p-9p	Feb 14, (Senior Day) 12:30-5pm

Please call: Artavia Taylor – 410-371-1484 or
Pat Sparrow – 443-722-5420

- ◆ 5 Parents needed to help set up the gym and the MPR room on March 5th at 9.am for 3 hours approx. The performing arts department are hosting a high school from New York who will be performing a show of mixed media - including singing, a jazz band, African dancing and a chamber string quartet. We will be providing lunch for those 75 students and teachers and so require some hands on deck with setting up and serving. If you are interested in this for parent hours and want to catch a good show, please email Ms Waterhouse laura.waterhouse@sfacademy.org and make the email title "MARCH 5th" Thank you.

FROM THE ACADEMIC GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT

Upcoming SAT & ACT tests

SAT Reg. Deadline Late deadline
March 13 Feb. 4 feb. 18
May 1 March 25 april 8
June 5 april 29 may 13

Register online at www.collegeboard.com

SFA school code for the SAT:

210-185

SFA Center Number:

21148

ACT Reg. Deadline Late deadline
April 10 March 5 march 19
June 12 May 7 may 21

Register online at www.actstudent.org

SFA school code for the ACT:

210-185

ACT School Center Number:

218000

All Tests listed above will be administered at SFA.

Seniors need to take Both the SAT & the ACT tests.

Juniors should need to take the SAT.

Help your student plan for the future!

*All parents are encouraged to get an account on www.StudentEdge.com. Click new user and enter our school access code: **PKTEMHDQ**, sign up and get started!*

Apply for Financial Aid FREE at College Goal Sunday 2010!

What is College Goal Sunday?

College Goal Sunday is a one-day event that invites college-bound students to a location near them to receive free assistance in completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)—the form required by colleges and universities, and private career schools to qualify for scholarships, grants and loans.

When is College Goal Sunday and where are the sites?

The 2010 annual College Goal Sunday will take place various times and dates at locations across Maryland. See below for a site near you or click onto www.collegegoalsundaymd.org.

Who are the targets for College Goal Sunday?

All college bound students and their parents are invited to receive free help. Our primary goal is to make sure that the first step to financial aid is completed and completed accurately so funds can be made available to those striving for a higher education.

If students are 23 years or younger, they should attend with a parent or guardian. Please bring your parents' completed IRS 1040 tax form, W-2 form or other 2009 income and benefits information. If students are 24 years or older, they may attend alone and bring their own completed IRS 1040 tax return, W-2 form or other 2009 income or benefits information.

Why is College Goal important?

It's a one-day event we hope will continue to help thousands cross the paper barrier to qualify for financial aid. The more who fill out the FAFSA correctly, the more will receive needed funds to attend a higher education institution.

tlewis@loyola.edu	qtj@umd.edu	wendy.maldonado@montgomerycollege.edu
mgay@ccbcmd.edu	Goucher College shassan@goucher.edu	

ACADEMIC CALENDAR

Middle States Goal:

“Meeting Our Mark in Reading, Mathematics, and Technology!”

FEBRUARY 2010

ACADEMIC CALENDAR

MARCH 2010

Financial Aid for Seniors

The **FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) deadline is March 1**, in order to be considered for Maryland State aid. Fill it out online. **Some colleges have a Feb. 1 or 15 deadline.** It is best to fill it out before these dates.

Financial aid is money given by the US Government, the State of Maryland, and the post-secondary institutions themselves for the student to attend college. You may also apply separately for private scholarships, such as from civic organizations, associations, clubs, foundations, churches businesses. There are three types of student aid:

Grants: money that doesn't need to be repaid.

Need-based: given to students who show they have financial need.

Merit-based: given to students who have special talents, skills or good grades.

Work-Study: allows you to earn money for college by working on-campus.

Loans: borrowed money that you will need to pay back, at very low interest rates, after you graduate from college and begin your career.

- ◆ Apply for your PIN. Your first step is to go to www.pin.ed.gov, click on apply for PIN, and fill it out for both your parent and you. We will do that today.
- ◆ Gather documents needed to apply, including your PIN (for both you and your parent), 2009 tax return, W-2 forms, and other records of income. You will need these to fill out the FAFSA.
- ◆ Complete the FAFSA Worksheet this weekend and bring it with you on Thursday.
- ◆ Go to www.fafsa.ed.gov in order to begin the process. Submit the FAFSA online and print out your confirmation number. If you haven't completed your tax return yet, you can estimate your answers. You can go back and make corrections. Don't forget to apply before March 1!!!! Money is on a first come, first serve basis! Do NOT go to www.fafsa.com! You will have to pay!
- ◆ Include a Maryland college on your FAFSA, even if you don't want to go instate.
- ◆ The Government sends you a SAR or a Student Aid Report. If necessary, make changes or corrections on it and resubmit for processing.
- ◆ Financial Aid offices at the colleges you listed on your FAFSA will review your SAR and send you an award letter.
- ◆ Review award packages from your colleges and compare amounts and types of aid.
- ◆ As soon as you know which school you want to attend, call the Financial Aid office of that school. The office will assist and help you with any financial issues.
- ◆ Don't forget - you need to re-apply for financial aid each year you are in college.

Please look in the College 411: The Student Guide to High Education & Financial Aid in Maryland and find these special financial aid opportunities to be used at Maryland colleges and universities. All information concerning Maryland Financial Aid can be found at www.Mdgo4it.org. You must first fill out the FAFSA to be considered for Maryland State Aid.

Howard P. Rawlings Guaranteed Access Grant

Do you have a 2.5 GPA and your family is in financial need? (Ex: Family of 4 has a Total Family Income of \$28,665/year), please pick up an application with Mrs. Wilson.

Foster Care Tuition Waiver

Open to students who have resided in a foster care home in Maryland at the time they graduated from high school or were adopted from an out of home placement after their 13th birthday. Students will be exempt from paying tuition at a Maryland college. To apply, fill out the FAFSA and then contact the financial aid of the institution you will be attending to have the waiver activated.

Senatorial Scholarship

Students must demonstrate financial need. Students need to fill out the FAFSA also contact their State senator for additional application procedures. The Office of Student Financial Assistance provides a list of all State legislators in the College 411: A Student Guide to Higher Education & Financial Aid in Maryland on page 61 or at

http://www.mhec.state.md.us/financialAid/ProgramDescriptions/prog_senatorial.asp.

Delegate Scholarship

Students should contact their State delegates for application procedures. The Office of Student Financial Assistance provides a list of all State legislators in the College 411: A Student Guide to Higher Education & Financial Aid in Maryland on page 61 or http://www.mhec.state.md.us/financialAid/ProgramDescriptions/prog_delegate.asp.

Educational Assistance Grant

Awards are based on need. Students with the lowest Expected Family Contribution are awarded first. Apply by completing the FAFSA no later than March 1.

Workforce Shortage Student Assistance Grant

If you are interested in any of these areas (**child care providers, human services, nursing, physical and occupational therapists, public service, social work or teaching**), please fill out the Workforce Shortage Student Assistance Grant application. Detailed application information can be found at www.Mdgo4it.org. July 1 deadline.

After you graduate, you will be required to work in the employment field for which your award was received at a rate of one-year for each year that you received the scholarship.

Veterans of the Afghanistan & Iraq Conflicts Scholarship Program

Open to sons, daughters and spouses of a veteran, active duty member or reserve member. Award amount is 50% of annual tuition and mandatory fees and room and board. Application available for download at www.mhec.state.md.us.

Edward T. Conroy Memorial Scholarship

Open to sons/daughters of a member of the US Armed Forces who died or suffered a service connected 100% permanent disability as a result of military service. Fill out FAFSA.

St. Frances Academy
Parent Teacher Student Association



Parents & Guardians:

Please show your support by attending report card conferences, supporting the Boosters' concessions, selling pizza kits, and purchasing items at the Spring flea market.

We need each family to support the activities at SFA.

In order for SFA to be successful we need YOU!!!

February 3, 2010 – Report Card Conferences

Pizza Kits will be distributed

March 13, 2010 – Spring SFA Flea Market

April TBA- Spring Dance Cabaret Style

ATHLETIC SCHEDULES

BOYS VARSITY GOLF Head Coach: Dr. Curtis Turner

Preseason workout schedule

Game schedule

FROM THE SCHOOL BASED HEALTH CLINIC

Attention Parents of Seniors

If your student plans to live in a dormitory at school, he/she will need to have Mentra. Mentra is the vaccination to prevent meningitis. Meningitis is unfortunately common among college students living in close proximity and can lead to serious illness and even death. The health suite has an adequate supply of this vaccine from the manufacturer and can provide it to your student. Simply have the student obtain the permission form from the Health Suite.

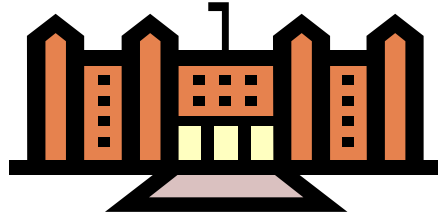
Physicals for colleges are also available for the health suite as well as copies of vaccination records.

Some new students are still missing required vaccinations. If you have been contacted, please turn in your student's record or arrange for him/her to get appropriate immunizations.

All students are screened for height, weight, BMI, vision and blood pressure. Any reading that is out of the normal range will be reported to you. Questions, concerns? Call the Health suite: 410-528-8747.

Mark your calendars...
"College Planning 101"

Mrs. Linda Wilson



PTA Meeting for Junior Parents
Tuesday, March 9, 6 - 7 p.m.
SFA Community Center

Learn All about...

College Planning & the College Admission Process

Bring your Student!

All Junior Parents should attend...

RSVP to Mrs. Wilson

Name: _____

I will attend ____ My student will attend, too_____

Please mail this to Mrs. Wilson, email her at

linda.wilson@sfacademy.org or call her at 410-539-5794
x25 to confirm your attendance.

St. Frances Academy

Homecoming 2010

On To The Next...

Spirit Week:

February 1st – 5th 2010

Mon., Feb 1st ...Level – College Paraphernalia Day

– students must wear tee-shirts, hoodies, sweatshirts, jackets, or caps with a college or university name on it.

Tue., Feb 2nd ...Challenge – Class Competition Day

students are asked to wear their class colors

Freshmen – Purple & Grey **Sophomores** – Turquoise & Black

Juniors – Green & White **Seniors** – Grey or (Blue & Yellow)

~Afternoon Assembly for Contests~

Wed., Feb 3rd NO SCHOOL – REPORT CARD CONFERENCES

Thu., Feb 4th ...Bond - Twin Day

- ♦ students are asked to wear an identical clothing with at least one other person.
Each twin must have the same clothes.



Fri., Feb 5th ...Win - Black & Gold Day

- students should wear something black and/or gold. Be creative and decorate your clothes, hair, or face with “Panthers” or SFA symbols.

~ **Pep Rally** – Team Recognition, Class Contests, & Games ~

*You must wear the appropriate items for each day, or be in uniform.

Spirit points will be awarded all week for **individual** and **class** participation in all events and attendance at the homecoming games on Friday, February 5th.