



ST. FRANCES ACADEMY

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

WE CAN, WE WILL, WE MUST!!

JANUARY 2009

**THE THEME FOR THIS YEAR IS...
A COMMUNITY ON ONE ACCORD**

**ONENESS
NECESSITY
EARNESTLY
ACCORD
CONSISTENT
C
O
R
D**

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Administrative Announcements <i>Parent Volunteer Opportunities</i>	2
Departmental News Academic Guidance Department	3-5
Academic Calendar (5 Months)	6-10
Community Center Calendar	11
Student Activities	12

**“SAINT FRANCES ACADEMY:
A Community on ONE ACCORD”**

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

CONSISTENT

Consistent means to hold to the same principles as someone else; to be in agreement; cohesion. With so much changing all around us, we need to hold to the values and principles we share with others. Proverbs 27:17 says that “iron sharpens iron” which simply means that when we surround ourselves with people of the same mind as ourselves, we progress. This year, let us be mindful to surround ourselves with people who are consistent with our values so that together we can progress and not regress. We want to build each other up and not be torn down. Be blessed.

TO ALL GRANDPARENTS
Grandparent support is available.
Contact Ms. Donna Shannon at
410-539-5794 ext 26 for more
information.

ADMINISTRATIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRINCIPAL DR. TURNER

Dear St. Frances Family:

I trust each of you has enjoyed a peaceful and restful New Year. In the Roman Catholic liturgical calendar, the Church continues to universally celebrate the birth of Christ through January 12 when we commemorate the Baptism of the Lord in the River Jordan. As we return from the Christmas break and begin to prepare our students for mid-term examinations, I ask that you reflect for a moment on the words of Christ before being baptized. Our Lord said, "For it is fitting to fulfill all righteousness." In this case, "to fulfill all righteousness" means to submit to the plan of God for the salvation of the human race.

St. Frances is indeed a special place and is most definitely part of God's plan of salvation. May God continue to provide us and our students the wisdom necessary to fulfill their academic requirements, to do well on their mid-terms and to advance God's plan for our salvation.

In God's Providence,

Deacon Curtis Turner, Ed.D.
Principal

A MESSAGE TO PARENTS

Families can begin performing their volunteer service to obtain their 10 hours needed by the end of the school year. Please check this newsletter monthly and check your email regularly to see what opportunities are available to you. You will find the opportunities for this month below. 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.



PARENT/GUARDIAN VOLUNTEERS WE NEED YOUR HELP FOR THE BOYS/GIRLS BASKETBALL GAMES!

Boys' basketball parents/guardians are needed to assist with the girl's basketball games on Monday & Wednesday. Girls' basketball parents/guardians are needed to assist with boys' games. Please check the schedule on www.sfacademy.org for the schedule.

Please contact Booster Club President: Artavia Taylor- 410-371-1484 or Vice President: Pat Sparrow- 443-722-5420 for more information.

GROUNDS MAINTENANCE AND RECYCLING

2 parents are needed 5 days a week for no more than 2 hours each day to pick up garbage on the outside of the building and dispose of it in the dumpster. 2 parents are also needed to collect the recycling bins around the school and dump them in the recycling receptacle in the back of the school 2 days a week for no more than 2 hours each day. Please contact Mrs. Sabra Reuter at 410-539-5794x 17 or email Sabra.Reuter@sfacademy.org to sign up.

ATHLETIC SCHEDULE

To access the athletic schedules go to <http://www.digitalsports.com/>

- ◆ Choose MARYLAND where you are prompted to CHOOSE A STATE.
- ◆ In the next block choose SCHOOL.
- ◆ In the next block choose ST. FRANCES ACADEMY (the first one)
- ◆ Click GO.
- ◆ Click SCHOOL WIDE CALENDAR and choose the team you are looking for.

DEPARTMENTAL NEWS

FROM THE ACADEMIC GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT

FINANCIAL AID WORKSHOP!

Tues. Jan. 13, 6 p.m.
St. Frances Academy
Community Center – Room 152

Come to our Financial Aid workshop, held exclusively for parents of SFA students, who are in search of money to pay for college.

Our financial aid guest will be Ms. Ginny Zawodny, Director of Financial Aid at the Community College of Baltimore County. Ginny is an excellent speaker, has many years of experience and will guide you through the entire process. You will learn about:

- Filling out the **FAFSA On the Web**
- Grants/Loans/Work Study
- Maryland State aid
- Scholarship opportunities
- A chance to ask general financial aid and college questions

You can get a head start on this process if you have access to the Internet and an email address by registering for your PIN (personal identification number). Apply for a PIN for both yourself and your student at www.pin.ed.gov. You will receive your PIN fairly quickly via your email.

In order to apply for financial aid (FAFSA), you will need your 2008 federal tax return. If you cannot file your taxes before the workshop, still come to the workshop and bring your W-2s. Ms. Zawodny will be happy to answer your questions about completing the FAFSA form.

Please RSVP to Mrs. Wilson that you will be attending this important seminar:
linda.wilson@sfacademy.org or 410-539-5794 x25.

FIRST STEPS IN APPLYING FOR FINANCIAL AID

Mrs. Wilson will be visiting Senior classes after exams to help you understand the financial aid and FAFSA process. Before that time, you and your parent should apply for a PIN. This will serve as your electronic signature for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Go to www.pin.ed.gov. Use your W-2s fill out the FAFSA form and make sure you submit the form online no later than March 1 at www.fafsa.ed.gov.

SAT & ACT Dates 2008-2009

SAT

*March 14
*May 2
*June 6

Registration Deadline

Feb. 10
March 31
May 5

School Code:
210-185.

ACT

**Feb. 7
*April 4
*June 13

Registration Deadline

Jan. 6
Feb. 27
May 8

**Student edge
School access Code:**
pktemhdq

*Test will be administered at SFA.

FROM THE ACADEMIC GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT

SCHOLARSHIPS & OTHER INCREDIBLE OPPORTUNITIES

USA Funds Access to Education Scholarships – \$1500 scholarships awarded to students in need. Applications are being accepted online through February 16, 2009 www.usafunds.org/scholarship.

Best Buy Scholarship- Good grades. Outstanding Community Service or Work Experience. To learn more, visit www.BestBuy.com/scholarships or www.at15.com. Deadline for applications is Feb. 15, 2009.

Body By Milk – Sammy 2009 – Are you a senior who excels in athletics, academic performance, leadership, and community service and are a milk drinker? If so, apply for the Body By Milk scholarship online at <http://sammy.bodybymilk.com/index.php>. Applications will be accepted until March 6, 2009.

The Princeton Prize in Race Relations – for 9-12 graders. If you are a high school student who is involved in an activity that is helping to improve race relations in your school or community, you could win \$1000! Application deadline is January 31, 2009. Go to www.princeton.edu/PrincetonPrize.

Burger King Scholars Program – awards money that can be used for educational expenses, such as tuition fees and books, during the first year of college. Students must be a high school senior, have a 2.75 GPA and demonstrate financial need. Applications are available online until Feb. 10, 2009. www.kfcscholars.org.

The George E. Sonnefeld Foundation – scholarship money is available for a senior who plays golf, has an established handicap and lives in the Greater Baltimore area. Applications must be postmarked by March 15, 2009. Contact Susan DiLonardo at 410-841-5670 if you have any questions or see Mrs. Wilson.

Are you the first in your family to go to college? **The Cynthia E. Morgan Memorial Scholarship** is awarding \$1000 to a Maryland high school student who is a first-generation college student who will attend a Maryland college with a major in a medical-related field. For more information or to apply for the scholarship, go to <http://www.cemfund.com>. Application deadline is Feb. 25, 2009.

Elmira College (NY) offers Valedictorian Scholarships – full tuition and Salutatorian Scholarships – 75% tuition. To apply, go to www.elmira.edu.

Soka University of America (Aliso Viejo, CA) offers free tuition for admitted students whose families make \$60,000 or less annually. Visit www.soka.edu.

Caring For Young Minds, Inc. Black College Tour 2009 – visit 11 prestigious HBCUs in Atlanta, GA April 6 – 11, 2009. Students will also go to Six Flags Over Georgis theme park. Cost is \$600. For more information, email Caringforyoung@aol.com.

Grady-Rayam Prize in Sacred Music Competition – “a vocal competition in the individual performance of arranged Negro spirituals, to provide African-American senior high school students a chance to earn tuition assistance grants for college matriculation.” Open to students in grades 11 – 12 with a chance to earn \$3000. Each entrant will be required to perform two songs on April 18, 2009 at Howard University. Application and fee of \$20 is due by Jan. 30, 2009. www.negrospiritual.org or see Mrs. Wilson for the application.

Science and Art of Discovery – Open to talented high school Juniors who are interested in science, math, technology, or engineering. Students will stay on the campus of St. Francis University to experience college life and earn college credit. Students will experience science in action. Two sessions: June 22 – 26 or July 6 – 10. The total registration cost for this program, including room and board and course materials is \$300. The application deadline is March 20, 2009. Apply online www.francis.edu/soc/ScienceArtDiscovery.

American Legion 2009 Boys State Program – For Junior boys. The program aims to expose the boys to the United States Constitutional Form of Government, emphasizing their active participation as a citizen in the government process to insure continuing freedoms and rights. Students will tour the United States Naval Academy and the Maryland Legislature and be addressed by several top state governmental officials. You may also apply for a \$1000 Samsung Scholarship Grant. To fill out an application, see Mrs. Wilson or call Raymond Callegary, Director, at 410-727-1365.

DEPARTMENTAL NEWS

FROM THE ACADEMIC GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT

Apply for Financial Aid FREE at College Goal Sunday 2009!

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 2009 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.collegegoalsundayusa.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. They should bring their parents' completed IRS 1040 tax form, W-2 form or other 2008 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 2008 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.

<p>Baltimore City February 8th, from 12 PM—4 PM</p> <p>Loyola College in Maryland 4501 North Charles Street Baltimore, MD 21210 Sellinger Hall, Atrium</p>	<p>Prince George's County February 22 from 1 pm (Snow date: March 1st, 1-4p.m.)</p> <p>Prince George's Sports & Learning Complex 8001 Sheriff Road, Landover, MD 20785 Hosted by the University of Maryland Educational Opportunity Center (UM-EOC) Contact: Q.T. Jackson, Jr. Email address: qtj@umd.edu</p>	<p>Montgomery County February 8 from 2 PM—4 PM</p> <p>Montgomery College Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus Student Services Building, First Floor Contact: Wendy Maldonado Email address: wendy.maldonado@montgomerycollege.edu</p>
<p>Baltimore County February 8 from 2 PM— 4 PM</p> <p>Glen Burnie High School 7550 Baltimore Annapolis Blvd Glen Burnie, MD 21060 Contact: labellomo@loyola.edu Email address: labellomo@loyola.edu</p>	<p>Baltimore County February 15 from 2 PM— 4 PM</p> <p>Community College of Baltimore County (CCBC) Dundalk campus Contact: Mark Gay Email address: mgay@ccbcmd.edu</p>	<p>Baltimore County February 8 from 2 PM— 4 PM</p> <p>Goucher College Contact: Sharon Hassan Email address: shassan@goucher.edu</p>

ACADEMIC CALENDAR

Middle States Goal:
“Meeting Our Mark in Reading, Mathematics, and Technology!”

JANUARY 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Happy New Year's Christmas Break No Classes	2 Christmas Break No Classes	3
4 Blue Week	5 Classes Resume	6	7 Grandparents Group 6-7p MPR	8 Team Faculty Mtg	9	10
11 Gold Week	12	13	14	15 Council Faculty Mtg	16 Q2 Ends MLK Jr. Prayer Service, NHS Induction Student Community Service Benchmark	17
18	19 Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service No Classes	20 Professional Day No Classes Newsletter Submissions Due	21 Midterm Exams	22 Midterm Exams	23 Midterm Exams	24 SAT Testing
25 Blue Week	26 Q3 Begins	27 Q2 Grades Due Class Meetings	28	29 Dept Faculty Mtg	30	31

ACADEMIC CALENDAR

FEBRUARY 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Gold Week	2 Spirit Week	3 Spirit Week Spirit Week Assembly 1:15p	4 Q2 Report Card Conf No Classes	5 Spirit Week No Faculty Meeting	6 Homecoming Day Pep Rally	7 ACT Testing
8 Blue Week	9 Mother Lange Prayer Service Sophomore Pinning Q2 Awards Cere- mony 12:30p	10	11	12 General Faculty Mtg	13 Sophomore Event 2009-2010 Admissions Application Available Online	14
15 Gold Week	16 President's Day No Classes	17 Newsletter Submissions Due Provisional Acceptance Letters Mailed, Begin Re- Registration 2009-2010	18	19 Team Faculty Mtg	20	21
22 Blue Week	23	24 Q3 Progress Reports Grades Due	25 Ash Wednes- day Liturgy 9a	26 Council Faculty Mtg	27	28

ACADEMIC CALENDAR

MARCH 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Gold Week Last Day to Submit FASFA for College Financial Aid	2	3 Class Meetings	4 Grandparents Group 6-7p MPR	5 Dept Faculty Mtg	6 Feast of Saint Frances of Rome Freshmen Commitment Ceremony	7 Spring Step Show 7p-10p
8 Blue Week	9	10	11	12 General Fac- ulty Mtg	13	14 SAT Testing
15 Gold Week	16	17 Newsletter Submissions Due	18	19 Team Faculty Mtg	20	21
22 Blue Week	23	24	25 NSBE Jr. leaves for Con- ference	26 Council Faculty Mtg	27 Q3 Ends Sophomore Retreat	28
29 Gold Week NSBE Jr. Re- turns	30 Professional Day No Classes	31 Q3 Grades Due Q4 Begins				

ACADEMIC CALENDAR

APRIL 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Gold Week			1 Career Day Grandparents Group 6-7p MPR	2 Dept Faculty Mtg	3	4 ACT Testing Spring Fling 9p-1a
5 Palm Sun- day Blue Week	6	7 Lenten Prayer Service Q3 Awards Locker Clean Out Noon Dis- missal	8 Q3 Report Card Conf No Classes	9 Holy Thursday Spring Break	10 Good Friday Spring Break	11
12 Easter Sun- day	13 Spring Break	14 Spring Break	15 Spring Break	16 Spring Break	17 Spring Break	18
19 Blue Week	20 Classes Re- sume	21 Newsletter Submissions Due	22	23 General Fac- ulty Mtg	24	25
26 Gold Week	27	28	29	30 Team Faculty Mtg		

ACADEMIC CALENDAR

MAY 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Gold Week					1 Student Activities Event 1:15p	2 SAT Testing
3 Blue Week	4	5	6 Grandparents Group 6-7p MPR	7 Council Faculty Mtg	8	9
10 Gold Week	11 Student Community Service Hours Due Senior Farewell	12	13	14 Dept Faculty Mtg Senior Farewell Rehearsal 8a	15 Deadline for Early Re-Registration Senior Farewell 12:30p	16
17 Blue Week	18 Late Re-Registration Senior Exams Graduation Rehearsal	19 Newsletter Submissions Due Senior Exams Graduation Rehearsal	20 Senior Exams Black Scholars Convocation	21 General Faculty Mtg Last of Classes	22 Junior/Senior Prom No Classes	23
24	25 Memorial Day No Classes	26 Final Exams	27 Final Exams Baccalaureate Mass Rehearsal	28 Final Exams Graduation Rehearsal Senior Luncheon	29 End of 2008-2009 School Year Deadline for Parent Volunteer Hours	30 Baccalaureate Mass Mt. Providence 11a
31 Graduation St. Matthew's 4p						

COMMUNITY CENTER CALENDAR

JANUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Happy New Year!	2	3
4	5	6 BoysVarsity Bball vs. Spalding 7:00 PM Gym	7 Girls Varsity Bball vs. Seton-Keough 6:00 PM Gym	8 Roberta's House Committee Meeting MPR 1:00-2:30 PM/ Boys Varsity Bball vs. Poly 6:00 PM Gym	9 Girls Varsity Bball vs. Towson Catholic 6:00 PM Gym	10
11	12	13	14	15 Kiwanas lunch MPR Dr. B. Curtis Turner 12:00-3:00 PM	16 Boys Varsity Bball vs. McDonogh 7:00 PM Gym	17
18 Boys Varsity Bball vs. St. John's Catholic 3:30 PM Gym	19 Martin Luther King Job Fair SFA Community Center All Day of Service and Self Help	20 Boys Varsity Bball vs. Mount Saint Joe 7:00 PM Gym Inauguration Day: Go, Obama!	21 Roberta's House Bereavement Support Program MPR 6:00 PM / Girls Varsity Bball vs. Spaulding 6:00 PM Gym	22	23	24 Roberta's House Bereavement Support Program MPR 9:00 AM-4:00 PM
25 Boys Varsity Bball vs. Saint Maria Goretti 3:30 PM Gym	26 Roberta's House Bereavement Support Program MPR 6:00 PM/Girls Varsity Bball vs. IND 6:00 PM Gym	27 Roberta's House Bereavement Support Program MPR 6:00 PM	28 Roberta's House Bereavement Support Program MPR 6:00 PM	29	30 Boys Varsity Bball vs. Towson Catholic 8:00 PM Gym	31 Roberta's House Bereavement Support Program MPR 9:00 AM-4:00 PM

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Upcoming Student Activities

Senior Class Trip –Orlando, FL April 23rd – April 27th

Members of the Senior Class are planning a trip to Florida where they will attend **Grad Bash 2009 at Universal Studios**. They will also have fun at the Wet & Wild Park and shop at Prime Outlet Stores. The total price is \$397 which includes transportation, 2 nights hotel stay, tickets to the amusement park and food. **It's not too late to sign up. Payment 4 of \$70 is due January 16th and Payment 5 is due February 20th.** Please see Mrs. Torena Brown for more details or to make payments.

Spirit Week 2009 – February 2nd – 6th

SGA is planning the theme and Spirit Days. More info is to follow.

Homecoming 2009 – Friday, February 6th

All of SFA Family (past and present) will celebrate our annual Homecoming Event. Please come out to support our Pep Rally and the games on Friday night. Parent Volunteers are welcomed.

Sophomore Pinning Ceremony – Monday, February 9th; 12:30pm

Come celebrate with the sophomore class of 2011 as they receive their class pins.

NSBE Jr. – Valentine's Rose Sale – 2/9 – 2/13

Please support the members of NSBE by purchasing roses in our annual Valentines Day Sale. All proceeds help students attend the National Convention in Las Vegas, Nevada.

SFA Annual Spring Step Show – Saturday, March 7th; 7:00pm

It's back again the annual Spring Step Show. If you came last year, you saw the talent of the step teams and the competition was fierce. We're looking forward to another outstanding show. We have a special guest MC, giveaways and more.

Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$15 at the door.

Steps teams can download registration information online.

Entries are due February 6th.

Parent Volunteers are welcomed.

NSBE National Convention – Las Vegas, Nevada March 25th – 29th

NSBE members should see Mrs. Brown for details. Permission slips and registration is due **Friday, January 16th.**