



ST. FRANCES ACADEMY

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

WE CAN, WE WILL, WE MUST!!

JANUARY 2010

**SAINT FRANCES
ACADEMY**

THE THEME FOR
THIS YEAR IS

“Upon this Rock”

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Jesus is the reason for ANOTHER season – New Years!

How remarkable is it that one man could affect the world so much that our entire calendar system is based on his life and ministry?

Once, a man who said that he did not believe in Jesus challenged me. Understand, he was not someone struggling with his faith. Rather, he was obstinate in his disbelief and openly hostile to mine. After listening to his faulty arguments about the non-existence of Christ, I casually asked him for the day’s date. When he responded, I pointed out that his response was based on the life, death and resurrection of a man that supposedly did not exist. No one else in human history can claim influence over the direction of the world like Christ. No monarch, president or billionaire will ever again change the world to the point that our entire calendar system would be based on his or her life.

Only a truly divine being could do such a thing. Even without faith in Him, the life of Jesus has touched anyone who has dated a check, booked an airline or hotel reservation, disclosed his or her own birthday or simply answered the question, “What is today’s date?”

In recent years, some have tried to diminish this undeniable fact. For example, some historians have abandoned the designation “A.D.” or “Anno Domini”, which means “Year of our Lord” in favor of the secular “C.E.” which means “Christian Era.” Or “B.C.” or “Before Christ” is replaced with “B.C.E.” or “Before the Christian Era.” Despite these efforts at secularization, our calendar system is **STILL** based on the life of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. A rose by any other name is still a rose. So, as we celebrate the New Year, think about the fact that this is may be the one day everyone in the world expresses a belief in Christ, whether they like it or not.

Happy New Year – *New Year of our Lord* that is!

In God’s Providence,

Deacon Curtis Turner, Ed.D.
Principal

ADMINISTRATIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS

FROM THE TUITION OFFICE

The first semester is drawing quickly to a close. Half of the school year has taken place. As such, half of this year's tuition should have been paid. To date the difference is estimated at \$157,977.00, a truly sizeable amount. With that sum, many bill could be paid and the heating system fixed. It is important that tuition payments be kept up to date so these items can be adequately addressed.

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.

- ◆ 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.

FROM THE SCHOOL BASED HEALTH CLINIC

Happy New Year from the Health Center

H1N1 shots and nasal spray are still available as well as other immunizations needed by students, staff, and families of SFA.

Students playing spring sports need to schedule sports physicals with either the school based health center or with their own doctor or clinic. If a student does receive a sports physical from an outside doctor or clinic, he/she must bring a copy to the health suite. The health suites provides clearance so that a student may play.

MIDTERM EXAM INFORMATION
(as quoted from the Parent & Student Handbook
& Planner 2009-2010, page 22)

“Exams will be given in most courses toward the end of each semester. An exam is worth 10% of the semester grade. A project or major paper worth 10% of the semester grade could be assigned in lieu of an exam in a given class. Students who arrive late for an exam will not be granted extra time to complete the exam. Students who are disruptive may be dismissed and not permitted to retake the exam. Students who miss an exam for any reason other than a real emergency will not be permitted to make up the exam. If an exam is missed due to illness, the student must present a written note from a doctor to the Principal, who alone will authorize a make-up exam. Students who are absent due to some other emergency must receive authorization from the Principal to make up the exam. Students should not schedule any doctor’s appointments when exams are given. The exam schedule is as follows:

DAY 1

Period A 8:30-9:45am

Period B 10:00-11:15am

Period C 11:30-12:45pm

DAY 2

Period D 8:30-9:45am

Period E 10:00-11:15am

Period F 11:30-12:45pm

DAY 3

Period G 8:30-9:45am

Period H 10:00-11:15am”

FROM THE ACADEMIC GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT

Upcoming SAT & ACT tests

SAT Reg. Deadline Late deadline

Jan. 23 Dec. 15 Jan. 8

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

Feb. 6 Jan. 5 Jan. 15

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!*

St. Frances Academy Homecoming 2010

*Calling All SGA Members, and
Other interested students
to plan this year's homecoming events.*

Meetings:

Wed, Jan 13th Period F in Rm 254

Thu, Jan 14th 8:30am in Library

Class Meetings:

Tuesday, January 26th

Homecoming Week

February 1st - 5th, 2010

Theme, Days, & Events - TBD.

See Mrs. Torena Brown for questions.

ACADEMIC CALENDAR

Middle States Goal:

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

JANUARY 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Happy New Year Christmas Break School Closed	2
3 Gold Week	4 School Reopens	5	6	7	8	9
10 Blue Week	11	12	13 Financial Aid Planning Night MPR	14	15 Q2 Ends Benchmark for Community Service Hours (50% should be completed)	16
17	18 Martin Luther King Day of Service Community Center Job Fair School Closed	19 Midterm Exams	20 Midterm Exams	21 Midterm Exams	22 Professional Day No Classes	23 SAT testing
24 Gold Week	25 Quarter 3 Begins	26 Quarter 2 Grades Due	27	28	29	30
31 Blue Week						

ACADEMIC CALENDAR

FEBRUARY 2010

Fri

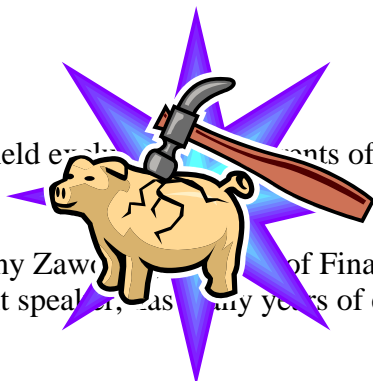
Sat

Blue Week	1	2	3 Quarter 2 Report Card Conferences	4	5 Homecoming	6
	Spirit Week	Spirit Week	Spirit Week	Spirit Week		
7 Gold Week	8	9	10	11	12 Mary Mother Lange Prayer Service and NHS Induction Q2 Awards Ceremony 12:30pm	13
14 Blue Week Happy Valentine's Day	15 President's Day School Closed	16 March Newsletter Submissions Due	17 Ash Wednesday Liturgy 9am	18	19	20
21 Gold Week	22	23 Quarter 3 Progress Reports	24	25	26 Sophomore Retreat	27
28 Blue Week						

Financial Aid Workshop!

Wed. Jan. 13, 6 p.m.

St. Frances Academy
Community Center – Room 152



Come to our Financial Aid workshop, held exclusively for the 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 2009 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.

Financial Aid Procedures for Seniors and their parents

- ◆ The first step in the financial aid application process is to apply for a PIN (Personal Identification Number). Go to www.pin.ed.gov, click on apply for PIN. Both parent and student need to obtain a PIN. This will serve as your electronic signature.
- ◆ Gather documents - 2009 tax return, W-2 forms, and other records of income. You will need these to fill out the FAFSA.
- ◆ Complete the FAFSA Worksheet as a practice (optional).
- ◆ Go to www.fafsa.gov 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 income. You can go back later and make corrections. **Submission deadline – March 1**, although some colleges have a Feb. 1 Financial Aid deadline. Fafsa.com is the wrong website.
- ◆ Include a Maryland college on your FAFSA, even if you don't want to stay instate.
- ◆ FAFSA will send you a Student Aid Report. If necessary, make changes or corrections on it and resubmit for processing.
- ◆ The college financial aid offices will review your Student Aid Report and send you a financial aid 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 or visit the Financial Aid office of that school. The office will assist you in obtaining the funds you need to attend their institution.
- ◆ You will need to re-apply for financial aid each year you attend college.

Opportunities for Students

The American Legion 2010 Boys State Program – held June 20 - 26, 2010 at McDaniel College, exposes Juniors to the US Constitutional form of government. Students will be able to earn 3 credits hours through Clemson University by attending the Boys State Program. McDaniel College will be directing the government classes, and students will explore the differences between the State Constitution of Maryland and the Federal Constitution. During the week, the boys are encouraged to produce their own initiative within their political parties as potential leaders and candidates for future elective public office. The experiences gained at Boys State stays with the student his whole life. For more information, contact Roger Butt, Program Director at 410-752-3104. Mrs. Wilson also has applications.

The Maryland Zoo in Baltimore is holding a Job Fair on Saturday, January 16, 2010 from 10 – 2 pm. The Job Fair will be located on the Mansion House Porch of the Maryland Zoo. The Zoo is recruiting within the following areas: Visitor Services, Security, Custodial, Membership, Events, Education, Animal Division and more! For questions, please contact Ann Watson, Human Resources Manager at 443-552-0889 or visit the website at www.marylandzoo.org. Snow date is 1/30/2010. Bring your resume and coverletter and come professionally dressed and ready for an interview!

ATHLETIC SCHEDULES

BOYS VARSITY GOLF Head Coach: Dr. Curtis Turner

Preseason workout schedule

Game schedule

INDOOR TRACK AND FIELD Head Coach: Antoinette Stowers

Senior Class Trip



Orlando, Florida
Thurs., April 22nd - Mon., April 26th, 2010

It's not too late to sign-up.
Total Cost: \$350.00

Includes roundtrip charter transportation, admission to Wet ' N Wild Water Park, Disney Grad Nite at Magic Kingdom, Islands of Adventure, & two nights in Hotel.

Artists:
Paramore
Keri Hilson
All Time
Low

Remaining Payment Deadlines:


- #3 – Jan 15th - \$60**
- #4 – Jan 29th - \$60**
- #5 – Feb 19th - \$60**
- #6 – Mar 19th - \$60**

Please make all checks/ money orders payable to St. Frances Academy. Give trip payments directly to Mrs. Torena Brown.

All interested seniors should pick up permission slips and trip information from main office or Mrs. Brown.

Last date to sign up is January 29th.

**St. Frances Academy NSBE Jr.
will attend NSBE's First International Convention in Toronto,
Canada.
March 31st – April 4th, 2010**



NATIONAL SOCIETY OF BLACK ENGINEERS
ENGINEERING A GLOBAL IMPACT
The largest black professional convention ever held in CANADA!

March 31st - April 4th, 2010


In March 2010, NSBE - the National Society of Black Engineers will have their 36th Annual Convention in Toronto.

We will welcome 10,000 black engineering students & professionals to the Metro Toronto Convention Centre.

The convention theme "Engineering a Global Impact" will center around speakers & topics meant to empower attendees for global success.

for more info visit convention.nsbe.org

Get ready & get involved! Visit our website to find out how you can register for the conference, get your school involved, become a volunteer, or sponsor an event.



Total Cost: \$430

**Includes charter transportation, registration, meals, and
4 nights at Sheraton Toronto Hotel.**

Interested students need to pick up registration packets from Mrs. Brown. All forms are due by Wed., Jan 20th.

Payment Schedule:

- #1 – Jan 27th - \$100 #4 – March 10th - \$65**
#2 – Feb 10th - \$70 #5 – March 24th - \$65
#3 – Feb 24th - \$65 #6 – March 31st - \$65

NSBE Jr. will have several fundraisers to help with costs. Any funds raised by students will be used to reduce their trip cost.

Please contact Mrs. Toren Brown with any questions at torena.brown@sfacademy.org or 410-539-5794 Ext 14.