



ST. FRANCES ACADEMY

MAY 2008

WE CAN, WE WILL, WE MUST!!

Saint Frances Academy
501 East Chase Street
Baltimore, MD 21202

(410) 539-5794 main office

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**THE THEME FOR
THIS YEAR IS...
PEACEMAKING**

**PEACE
EQUALITY
ACCEPTANCE
COMPASSION
EXCUSE
MEEKNESS
AMITY
KINDNESS
INSPIRE
N
G**

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INSPIRE

To inspire is to stimulate. With all of the violence going on in the world, we need to inspire each other to be peaceful. Peace is more effective when we work together. Let us take the time this month to inspire others to be peaceful in our everyday conduct. It only takes one spark to cause a mighty blaze, let us spark peace during this time of turmoil.

DOES PRAYER CHANGE THINGS?

They say that prayer changes things, but does it REALLY change anything?

Oh yes! It really does!

Does prayer change your present situation or sudden circumstances?

No, not always, but it does change the way you look at those events.

Does prayer change your financial future?

No, not always, but it does change who you look to for meeting your daily needs.

Does prayer change shattered hearts or broken bodies?

No, not always, but it will change your source of strength and comfort.

Does prayer change your wants and desires?

No, not always, but it will change your wants into what God desires!

Does prayer change how you view the world?

No, not always, but it will change whose eyes you see the world through.

Does prayer change your regrets from the past?

No, not always, but it will change your hopes for the future!

Does prayer change the people around you?

No, not always, but it will change you - the problem isn't always in others.

Does prayer change your life in ways you can't explain?

Oh, yes, always! And it will change you from the inside out!

So does prayer REALLY change ANYTHING?

Yes! It REALLY does change EVERYTHING!

-- Author Unknown

IT'S RE-REGISTRATION TIME !

All returning students must complete the re-registration packet and return it with the re-registration fee by
May 15, 2008.

Packets are available on the school website and in the main office.

ADMINISTRATIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS

MUSINGS FROM SR MARCIA

This is my last set of musings for the SFA Newsletter. I want to thank all those parents who have partnered with me as we help your children achieve the success they so richly deserve. Please remember that there is no way I could have done any of this by myself. The core of the administrative team will still be here, and Dr. Turner will be a fantastic addition. The teachers are as dedicated as always to the mission of Saint Frances. All of them look forward to renewing and strengthening these relationships. May God bless you and watch over you always!

Sr. Marcia L. Hall, OSP

ADDITIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

It is critical that you adhere to our procedures for picking up your child at the end of the school day. All students, whether catching buses or rides, should be dismissed from the back parking lot. I have heard several reasons for sending your child to the front or to the side: it's more convenient, it's too crowded in the back, etc. Please understand that our decision to change dismissal to the back of the school three years ago was not a capricious one. It was based on our ability to keep your child safe. As it gets warmer, there are more people out and about who do not necessarily have your child's best interests in mind. Furthermore, with boys and girls lacrosse, tennis and baseball teams in the thick of their seasons right now, we have fewer personnel available to monitor students after school. **Please help us keep your child safe by picking him/her up in the parking lot after school. Thank you!**

OFFICE OF RECRUITMENT AND PARENT VOLUNTEERS

TIME IS RUNNING OUT!!! If you plan to complete your parent volunteer service requirement by June 30, you need to sign up for one of the following activities. **THE MAIN OFFICE WILL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU IF YOU DO NOT MEET YOUR REQUIREMENT BY THE DEADLINE.** There are limited opportunities left. Any family, who does not meet the requirement will need to pay \$150.00 or \$15 per hour not completed in order for your child to return to SFA for the 2008-2009 school year. If you are planning to pay the fee, please do so by June 6, 2008 to avoid any administrative actions.

MAY/JUNE OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARENT VOLUNTEER HOURS

◆ **BACCALAUREATE MASS AND GRADUATION**

Parents are needed to help Mrs. Sanders. Please contact her at esther.sanders@sfacademy.org or 410-539-5794. Baccalaureate Mass is on May 31, 2008 at 11 am at Mt. Providence. Graduation is held on June 1, 2008 at St. Matthew's Church.

◆ **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 the main office at 410-539-5794 or email janaya.stanley@sfacademy.org to sign up.

FROM THE TUITION OFFICE

Parents of Seniors:

All financial obligations must be taken care of if the student is to graduate in June. No students with tuition or other debts will be permitted to participate in the graduation ceremony, nor will they receive a Saint Frances Academy diploma. All payments should be made on or before May 15, 2008. **Payments made after that date must be in cash, money order, or certified check.**

Parents of Non-Seniors:

All tuition should be paid by May 15th. If the tuition is not paid in full, the student will not be scheduled for next fall. If you want to receive tuition assistance next year, you must complete the 2008-09 *Family Financial Statement* with a copy of your 1040 attached and return it to the school office by May 15, 2008. **You must apply for tuition assistance each year**, unless Sister John Francis has already told you what your tuition will be for 2008-09.

ADMINISTRATIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS

FROM THE SCHOOL BASED HEALTH CLINIC

The new vaccine, Gardasil, which protects young girls and women against some types of cervical cancer is now available in the Health Suite.

Remember graduating seniors, if you are going to live in a college dorm next year, you must have a vaccination against meningitis. It is also available in the health suite.

FROM THE BOOKSTORE

There are only 5 weeks left in this school year. The book bill is a mandatory fee and must be paid the same as tuition. For those who still have a book bill balance, the book fee needs to be paid in full before the end of the school year. Your child will not be allowed to return to Saint Frances for the 2008-2009 school year until the balance is paid in full.

TEXTBOOK RETURN POLICY:

On May 22, 2008, students will be required to clean out their lockers. At that time, they will be allowed to return any textbooks they received from the bookstore for a book credit for the next school year. As it states in the student/parent handbook on pg 28: "STUDENTS ARE NOT REQUIRED TO TURN IN ANY TEXTBOOK OR ANY ITEM THAT THEY HAVE PURCHASED FROM THE SCHOOL." If you choose to return textbooks, only textbooks that belong to the student, those we are using for the next year, and those that are returned in good condition will receive the credit. The student's name must be in the textbook so that the student's name can be matched with the book number on file.

The credit will be no more than half of what was paid for the book. For example, if \$60 was paid for the book, the credit will be \$30. Only students who have a \$0.00 balance on their book account will receive a credit.

THERAPEUTIC COUNSELING DEPARTMENT

Grandparents and Family Members Raising Teens Support Group

The next Grandparents Support Group meeting is scheduled for:

Wednesday, May 7, 2008 from 6:00 to 7:00 PM,
in the Community Center Conference Room.

Our theme this year is Resiliency. We will be discussing ways to help our teens overcome adversity and make positive choices for themselves.

The guides to building resiliency are:

1. Showing empathy
2. Changing negative thoughts and beliefs
3. Using discipline as a teaching process
4. Problem solving
5. Showing love and appreciation
6. Having a healthy view of mistakes
7. Building competence and affirming strengths

Individual and family counseling is also available by appointment.

Please feel free to contact Ms Kenya Brown, Director, Counseling Department or Ms. Donna Shannon, counselor, at 410 539-5794 ext. 26, if you would like to schedule an individual appointment or if you would like more information about the grandparents' support group.

GANG AWARENESS

Do you want to know about the gangs that are beginning to proliferate throughout Baltimore and the rest of the nation? Could you identify gang signals, clothing and other symbols? Are you concerned that your own child is attracted to gang life and you don't know what to do about it?

Then come to an informational session on gangs and gang life on Tuesday May 13 at 7 pm in the Multipurpose Room of the SFA Community Center.

HOW TO IDENTIFY GANG BEHAVIOR

Summer is nearly here. With the arrival of laidback days and less structured activity there will most likely be an upswing in gang recruitment. Det. Davis and Sgt. Smith, former gang investigators and currently Eastern District police officers, offer the following tips for concerned parents:

Look for changes in behavior. Such changes may include, but are not limited to:

- ▷ A radical disconnect from core family members (mother, father, grandmother, aunt or other guardian) - the gang becomes much more important.
- ▷ A refusal or unwillingness to share confidences.
- ▷ Disrespect towards family members and other authority figures.
- ▷ A whole new group of friends.
- ▷ A desire to wear certain colors all the time.
- ▷ Belongings (bedroom walls, notebooks, backpacks) decorated with gang paraphernalia.
- ▷ Conversations and writing in code.

What can parents do?

- § Monitor notebooks, backpacks, friends, telephone conversations and computer usage. Gangs do recruit on My Space, and My Space pages have been used to prosecute gang members. You can call *My Space Security* if you have concerns about what you are seeing.
- § Make sure your child is engaged in some type of organized activity this summer: camp, sports, etc. Remember that old saying: "Idle hands are the devil's workshop."
- § Make sure you can account for your child's whereabouts **at all times.**
- § Most importantly, talk to your child. You could be concerned about nothing at all.

But if your intuition tells you that something is wrong, and your conversation with your child does not dispel your misgivings, feel free to call the **Citywide Gang Unit at 410.625.3890** or the **Intelligence Unit at 410.396.2640**. If you call the second number and get no response, call back and ask to speak to a supervisor.

All of us, regardless of age, want to belong to something. If your child doesn't find something positive to hold her/his attention, s/he may be ripe for gang recruitment.

ACADEMIC CALENDAR

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

MAY 2008

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

				1 Council Faculty Meeting 8:00-9:15	2	3 SAT Testing
4 Blue Week	5 Religion Grades Reduced for Community Service Projects not completed on time.	6	7	8 Department Faculty Meeting 8:00-9:15	9	10
11 Gold Week	12	13 GANG Informational Session 7pm MPR	14	15 General Faculty Meeting 8:00-9:15 Community March Against Drugs 1:30pm	16 Senior Farewell	17
18 Blue Week Prayer for St. Frances Academy 3 pm	19 Senior Exams	20 Senior Exams	21 Senior Exams	22 Fourth Quarter Ends Last Day of Classes Team Faculty Meeting 8:00-9:15	23 Senior Prom No Classes	24
25 Gold Week	26 Memorial Day	27 Final Exams	28 Final Exams Baccalaureate Mass Rehearsal 10a-12p	29 Final Exams Grad Practice/ Senior Luncheon 10a-12p	30	31 Baccalaureate Mass 11 am

ACADEMIC CALENDAR

JUNE 2008

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

1 Graduation 4 pm St. Matthew's Church	2	3 Final Grades Due	4	5	6	7 SAT Testing
8	9 Notification to families of students not able to return to SFA for the 2008-2009 school year.	10	11	12	13	14 ACT Testing
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30 Freshmen Summer Institute Begins 8a-12p					

GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT

Great Summer Opportunities for Students!

Students, do you have an interest in learning how to fly a plane? The Organization of Black Airline pilots is holding two week-long camps in July in Atlanta, all expenses paid. See Mrs. Wilson for an application. Deadline is June 2.

The mayor and the City of Baltimore is seeking young people to serve as Youth Commissioners. This would be a voluntary position that would enable you to make a positive difference in the lives of city youth. You would work together on a team with other teens, providing advice, recommendations, and information for the Mayor and City Council in development of policies, programs and services to support youth and family. If you are interested in government, law and the service professions, this volunteer experience would be a great opportunity for you. See Mrs. Wilson if you are interested.

Space Telescope Science Institute's (STScI) Youth For Astronomy & Engineering Program opens its doors to young women who are interested in science, math, engineering and technology careers on Saturday, May 17, 2008 (middle school students) and on Saturday, May 31, 2008 (high school students) to participate in our Annual Women Science Forum. This year, we invite girls to take part in hands-on activities related to space, astronomy, computer science, and engineering — real-life scientific research underway at STScI. Continental breakfast and lunch is included.

Registration is now open for the following events:

Women's Science Forum - Middle Schools Girls- Saturday, May 17, 2008

Women's Science Forum - High Schools Girls - Saturday, May 31, 2008

Time: 9 a.m.—3 p.m.

Where: Space Telescope Science Institute

Location: 3700 San Martin Drive

Baltimore, MD 21218

Tel: 410-338-4397

Fax: 410-338-2519

To register for the WSF Event, please visit our website at:

<http://www.stsci.edu/institute/conference/youthae>

or you can download the attached application and mail it to our office.

Johns Hopkins Junior Volunteer Program – earn your community service hours this summer at JHU volunteering your time in the hospital. You will become exposed to the medical professions and hospital environment and be able to choose from a list of jobs to volunteer your time. If you are considering at all a career in a medical profession, call Phyllis at 410-550-0627 for an application.

GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT

All students - Get ready for college!



Summer College Planning Checklist

This checklist will assist you in preparing for college and your future. Check off the items below as you complete them this summer, and you will be prepared for your senior year!

___ **I have registered to take challenging academic courses in the senior year.**

If you are going to a four-year college, consider taking a 4th math and/or science course next year. Colleges are looking for students who push themselves academically.

___ **I have researched and explored careers in which I am interested.** I have also researched majors at www.mystudentedge.com.

___ **I have created a professional-looking resume at** www.mystudentedge.com. You will need a professional resume to submit to colleges and apply for jobs & internships.

___ **I am searching for a summer internship or employment opportunity that relates to my future.** This may be a paid internship or opportunity that will help you explore careers and majors you are interested in. Use this experience to build your resume. Research these opportunities at www.mystudentedge.com.

___ **I have researched colleges and have generated a list of colleges in which I am interested at** www.mystudentedge.com. Do you meet the SAT/GPA requirements?

___ **I am visiting the colleges that interest me.** Tour the campus and go for an interview. You need to feel comfortable on campus before you make a commitment.

___ **I am practicing on a regular basis for the SAT or ACT test.** Practice online at www.mystudentedge.com. See back of this paper for logon details. You may also benefit from a prep course. A free prep course is available at Mt. Royal Recreation Center, 120 W. Mosher St., on Mon. and Wed. nights from 6 – 8 pm. Call 410-396-0848 to register.

___ **I am researching scholarships to find free money to pay for my education.**

Begin your search at www.mystudentedge.com or visit our website at <http://www.sfacademy.org/programs/guidance/collegeopportunity.php>.

___ **I have registered with the NCAA Clearinhouse.** If you are a student-athlete who plans to play a sport in college, register at www.ncaaclearinghouse.net.

COMMUNITY CENTER CALENDAR

MAY 2008

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

	Reverend Truesdale's Church meets on Sunday mornings in the Lee Multipurpose Room			1	2 SFA Board of Advisors Meeting 9:00-4:00 MPR	3 COTEK MPR & Kit 8:00 AM-3:00 PM Rev. Pulley
4	5 After School Program MPR : The Zoo visits	6	7 Grandparents Meeting with Ms. Donna Shannon Conf Rm 6:00 to 7:00 PM	8	9	10
11	12	13 GANG Information Meeting 7 pm MPR	14	15	16	17
18 Brentwood Elders' BINGO 1:00-6:00 PM Marshall Shorter and Capn Gil	19 Malcolm X's 83rd Birthday	20	21	22	23	24
25	26 Memorial Day	27	28	29	30	31

ATHLETIC SCHEDULES

**ST. FRANCES
ACADEMY**



PANTHERS

BASEBALL 2008

May 1, 2008 4:00 pm vs. Beth Tfiloh (away)
May 6-9, 2008 TBA `MIAA 'C' Playoffs

BOYS VARSITY LACROSSE SCHEDULE

MAY	2	FRI	@BETH TFILOH	4PM
	6	TUE	@LUTHERAN	4PM
	9	FRI	@GIBBONS	4PM
	13	TUE	MIAA QUARTERFINALS @HIGHER SEED	TBA
	16	FRI	MIAA SEMIFINALS @HIGHER SEED	TBA
	19	MON	MIAA FINALS @TOWSON U.	TBA

TENNIS TEAM

Thursday May 1

Poly @ Banks
St. Frances @ Patterson
Southwestern @ City
Digital Harbor @ Walbrook (DH)
Dubois @ Western
Edmondson @ Mervo (CP)

CP– Clifton Park
LP– Latrobe Park
DH– Druid Hill Park

OUTDOOR TRACK & FIELD SCHEDULE 2008

MAY	10	SAT	@PRIVATE SCHOOL INVT. MCDONOGH
	14	WED	@MIAA/IAAM PRELIMINARIES
	15	THU	RAINDATE
	17	SAT	@MIAA/IAAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

JOIN SFA & THE JOHNSTON SQUARE COMMUNITY

The Outside Walk Against Renegade Drugs (T.O.W.A.R.D.)



This is a march against drug dealing and other crimes plaguing our neighborhood. The St. Frances Academy students, faculty, and staff, city leaders and the people of the Johnston Square community will unite to take a stand against the rising drug and criminal activity in the neighborhood. The walk will start at SFA, 501 E. Chase St., and go through the Johnston Square neighborhood on **Thursday, May 15th at **1:30 pm**, and end at 2:30 pm at the back of SFA, 501 E. Eager St.**

Come Join Us To Take Back the Neighborhood!

**For more information contact the Director of the SFA Community
Center Ralph Moore at 410-539-5794 x30 or
Anthony Agosti at 410-539-5794 x28**