

LA SALLE Parent Newsletter

FOR PARENTS AND FRIENDS OF LA SALLE HIGH SCHOOL • YAKIMA • WASHINGTON

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2006

Principal Ideas

In attending the Academic Awards Assembly this past May, I was approached by a variety of people welcoming me to La Salle. I was particularly struck by the number of grandparents who attended the event and so readily attend the many important life events of their grandchildren. I was already quite aware of the generous and extensive participation of the parents in the school but am now even gladder to see the support of multiple generations and of extended family that help form the community that is La Salle. It's a pleasure and honor to be a new member of this community.

We at La Salle augment the values of family with the five core values important to a Lasallian education: *Faith in the Presence of God, Respect for All Persons, Inclusive Community, Quality Education and Concern for the Poor and Social Justice*. The enclosed *Parent/Student Handbook* highlights those values as providing a context for the expected school wide learning results from our accreditation study. As you read the handbook keep in mind the partnership for education that requires us as a school and as parents to assist our students in becoming more responsible for their education and their integrating of the values that will provide a human and Christian foundation to their decisions in life.

The *Parent/Student Handbook* describes the policies and practices we believe provide for a school environment conducive to fostering the whole growth of a young person. We are aware that some of the policies and practices may present a challenge to students and even parents, but would hope that you would contact us in order to understand how you may continue to work with us in the expectations.

This *Parent/Student Newsletter* will be

published and sent to you along with the Progress Reports/Grades at week 6, 9, 12, and 18 (the semester). I hope that this communication piece will foster participation in the school. As part of the "Principal Ideas" letter, I would like to highlight some of the more important concerns of which to take note.

Ready for school?

By 8:00 am on Wednesday, August 23 the following needs to be in our hands:

- All students/parents must turn in the signed "Partnership Statement" page that is inserted in the *Parent/Student Handbook*.
- Students that earned an "F" grade in one or two semesters last year, must have the transcript from summer courses making up those "F" grades on file in our office.

Students will not be allowed to begin classes on August 23rd unless both of these documents are on file with us at La Salle. If you have any questions or concerns, do call.

Summer Mailing Packet

We have been able to send to you earlier than usual, the needed information for beginning the school year. Our packet includes this newsletter, your student's class schedule, and the 2006-2007 *Parent/Student Handbook*. The Orientation Day is a good day to turn in the Partnership Statement," but dropping them by school with Ms. Cuevas in the main office before then is certainly acceptable. I ask that you spend some time reading the *Handbook* and familiarizing yourself with its contents; we have worked extensively on it earlier this summer. If there is any area that you have a question about, please do not hesitate to contact us for clarification. Students will be given a calendar to use at school so I advise the parents to keep this *Parent/Student Handbook* and Calendar for

PLEASE
RETURN THE
HANDBOOK
"PARTNERSHIP
STATEMENT"
BY AUGUST 22



home use and to let your student keep their own calendar for daily school use. The calendar will be regularly updated and published in the *ParentNewsletter*.

Back-to-School Night

We expect that you join us for our Back-to-School Night on September 7th. We begin at 7:00 PM in Lightning Hall with a general meeting. Parents will then follow their student's class schedule and have the opportunity to briefly visit and hear from each teacher. I look forward to seeing you on this evening.

Celebrating our Catholic, Lasallian Heritage

Two events in September are scheduled that will help us join together with our Yakima Catholic schools. On September 7 we celebrate our Holy Spirit Mass along with St. Joseph-Marquette and St. Paul's. The Mass is at Holy Family Church and your students are to meet there that day at 8:00 am (do not come to La Salle). After the Mass our students will stay at Holy Family for the morning, finishing at 11:30 AM. We will have time for class and school community building and will conclude our morning with the Academic Honors Assembly, awarding 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students with certificates of achievement for honors level GPA's from last semester. Recognizing in the activities of that day the Presence of God, Inclusive Community, Respect, Social Justice, and Quality Education, we celebrate some of the values that typify a Lasallian school.

The following week, Friday, Sept. 15 from 5-6:30 pm outside Marquette Stadium (56th and Chestnut) we join with St. Joseph-Marquette and St. Paul's in a pre-football game picnic. Some food will be provided by St. Joseph-Marquette and some will be pot-luck. Further information on this event and what food to bring will be distributed at our Back-to-School night and is available at school.

Website

You might have noticed that our school website needs a lot of work. It will take awhile to update it. Please be patient as this communication tool undergoes a gradual renaissance.

Volunteer Opportunities

We are also in the process of identifying the needs we have at school for volunteers so that the Parents Association and booster groups can organize opportunities for you to participate in the life of the school community. Studies show that the students of parents involved in school in positive ways are more likely to achieve their potential.

A Final Note About "Our" Students

Throughout this letter, I have purposely referred to your child as your "student" or our "student." Young people wrestle with forming an identity. Our hope is that as they continue to wrestle, they integrate the identity of "student" and "learner" such that they grown responsibly as students, valuing education. In the unique ways we accompany them in developing responsibilities: parents primarily through the home and teachers through the school. The needs in their life call us to support them with structures and lessons, with books and activities, and with relationships and prayer.

Live Jesus in Our Hearts,



Br. James Joost, FSC

Principal

PLEASE READ
ALL PARTS OF
THE SUMMER
MAILING



LA SALLE HIGH SCHOOL

3000 LIGHTNING WAY

UNION GAP, WA 98903

TELEPHONE (509) 225-2900 • FACSIMILE (509) 225-2950

WWW.LASALLEYAKIMA.COM

THE LA SALLE HIGH SCHOOL PARENTNEWSLETTER IS PUBLISHED EACH SIX WEEKS (BROJAMES@LASALLEYAKIMA.ORG)

Our Lasallian Legacy

Dear La Salle Parents,

This past week I have been thinking about a recent visit to Yakima by Father Stephen V. Sundborg, S.J., president of Seattle University. Father came to Yakima, not only to celebrate the accomplishments and successes of Seattle University with its alumni, but to be the keynote speaker at a community celebration for the 100 year anniversary of our YMCA and to speak to the Downtown Rotary Club. Father's message was all about leadership. He was inspiring, challenging and wonderfully articulate.

As I reflect on his message, I am reminded of the remarkable leadership of John Baptist de La Salle and his band of Brothers in 17th century France. Their innovative effort to educate the young has developed into a marvelous heritage celebrated by 100,000 educators in 1200 schools, located in 93 countries. Today, this heritage touches the hearts of over 1 million students worldwide, a heritage ...*a gift*...that you have given to your child by your decision to send him/her to La Salle.

While we thank the Christian Brothers for this gift of a Lasallian education for our families, it is important to recognize that we have this gift because of a legacy of courageous leadership in our own community. In the early 1990's then Bishop Francis George laid out the vision for what would become La Salle High School...a vision of a Catholic school, celebrating Catholic traditions and Catholic values. It was to be a school accessible to all families where students are not only academically challenged and prepared for college, but also can develop their faith in a positive, safe environment. In addition to his gift of vision, Bishop George then gave our community the gift of connection...to the De La Salle Christian Brothers.

The Bishop's vision and the Brothers' heritage helped ignite Yakima's leadership...a leadership rich in Catholic education and spirit. Their passion to provide this wonderful Catholic educational heritage to others has resulted in La Salle High School. Their legacy of leadership in time, talents and treasure, has brought Bishop George's vision to reality in the form of a beautiful forty acre campus, with a first class college preparatory curriculum in a safe, faith-based environment. Their initiative has helped develop partnerships with premier Catholic universities such as Seattle University, the University of Portland, Gonzaga University, as well as St. Mary's College and Heritage University. They are our champions!

As I look to our next year with hope, faith and excitement for new beginnings, I am reminded of why we do what we do...it is all about leadership. In my ten years of involvement with La Salle, I am still constantly inspired by the potential of our youth.

La Salle is creating leaders for the future, leaders with vision who *enter to learn and leave to serve*.

God bless you and all our families.

Sincerely,

Tim McGree

Tim McGree
President



**ENTER TO
LEARN
AND
LEAVE TO
SERVE**

A Curriculum for College Planning

Though not as easy as learning the A, B, C's, the language of college planning with its PLAN, ACT, PSAT, SAT, AP, and FAFSA can be learned. To assist parents and students with navigating the waters of college planning, a number of sessions are offered during the year, timed accordingly to college tests, grade reports, and deadlines. Do consult the school calendar as the year unfolds to be aware of these dates. Each of the Parent Workshops that are scheduled for particular grade levels will include a college agenda in it. Each of the Student Workshops are open to all students; it's never too early to start learning the ropes.

COME TO COLLEGE INFORMATION NIGHTS

Parent Workshops are all at 7pm in Lightning Hall

- Sept. 18: Seniors: Overview of all the "to-do's" of applying to college
- Sept. 28: Sophomores and Juniors: Academic Success and setting the path for college options
- Oct. 9: Freshmen: Academic Success and setting the path for college options
- Dec. 5: Juniors: How to interpret the results of the PSAT and plan for the SAT
- Dec. 7: Sophomores: How to interpret the results of the PLAN and prepare for the PSAT
- Jan. 3: Seniors: How to fill out the financial aid forms for college
- Feb. 20: Freshman: Looking Ahead and planning a course of studies and involvement

Student Workshops are all during lunch in Room 303

- Sept. 21 and 26: *College Search:* How to search for the right college
- Oct. 16 and 25: *College Application:* How to fill out college applications
- Oct. 18: Seniors visit colleges and all other students take standardized tests
- Jan. 9 and 11: *College Scholarships:* What is available and how to find them
- Mar. 22 and 28: *College Visit:* What to look for when making a visit to a college campus

Handbook Highlights: Probation and Ineligibility:

A need for clarity in the policies governing eligibility in co-curricular activities, has necessitated a rewriting of the Parent/Student Handbook section (p. 7): *Probation* essential carries with it a restriction on student participation in activities and an enrollment in our *Homework Class* *Ineligibility* carries with it a total restriction on student participation in activities. Students on ineligibility walking into a new semester will be on ineligibility until at least the week 6 Progress Report.

Because of the transition of policy from grades received from last semester and this new policy, students who begin this current semester on Probation because of last semester's grades, will be able to be lifted from Probation at the three week period if their week three Progress Report allows it. This will be the final time that we will allow students to move off of Probation at the week three Progress Report. When we begin the second semester in January, any students that may be on ineligibility at that time will remain as such until at least the week six Progress Reports.

NOTE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS ON PAGE 7 OF THE HANDBOOK

Standardized Testing

Registration is open for the Fall SAT and ACT. If your student would like to take these standardized tests and has not registered yet, please do so as soon as possible. We encourage you to register online for the SAT at www.collegeboard.com and for the ACT at www.act.org. If you prefer to register by paper, registration forms are available in the College Center (Sr. Ann Marie in Rm. 303).

SAT	Test Date	Register by
	October 14, 2006	September 12, 2006
	November 4, 2006	September 29, 2006
	December 2, 2006	November 1, 2006
ACT	Test Date	Register by
	September 16, 2006	August 18, 2006
	October 28, 2006	September 22, 2006
	December 9, 2006	November 3, 2006

Notes on Transportation... ..and Parking.

School Bus: We will offer transportation to our Lower Valley students with the regular stops in Sunnyside and Toppenish. The enclosed forms are to be returned by Orientation (Tues., Aug. 22).

City Bus: As you might have heard in the news, the City of Union Gap had been planning to start bus service, with a route passing through the La Salle campus in the morning and afternoon. Unfortunately, the Union Gap City Council voted down the funding that would allow the bus to come our way. The good news is that an initiative is on the November ballot to refund the program. Encourage your friends and neighbors to support the initiative as it will help many of our local families with transportation.

Car Pool: Coming to Parents Nights at school and other school events is a great way to network and set up car pooling if that is a need for your student.

In order to assist our students in growing into responsible drivers and in anticipation of eventual constraints with parking as the school grows, we are putting into place this year a standard practice in many schools: requiring all students who drive to school to register for a parking permit. The permit is free of charge (but if it is lost, a new one will cost \$10). Students can pick up a registration form (or multiple forms if they drive multiple cars) at the Orientation on Aug. 22 and will then receive a permit by the following week. Cars without permits displayed during the school day beginning Fri., Sept. 1 will be subject to towing at the owners expense. We are also designating Visitor parking slots. There is no parking in the circle in front of the school as that is a pick-up/drop-off and emergency vehicle zone. Cars are not to be left sitting there without a driver in them.

PARKING PERMITS AVAILABLE FROM MR. KENT

Locks and Lockers

One of the summer projects was to remove all the built in locks from the lockers that had them. Students will be required to purchase a school issued lock (the \$6 price is added to the book bill) which they will use for all their years at La Salle. They will get to keep the lock when they leave La Salle.

Athletics Additions

Physicals: During this past Spring La Salle provided an opportunity for students to complete their physicals to play athletics. If you do not have a current physical (they are good for two years) you will need to see your family doctor or go to the Medi-Center and pay a \$30 fee. Forms are available in the school office

Cheer: Interested in Cheerleading? Call Ms. Kathleen Paganelli at 952-2390.

SCHOOL LOCKS MUST BE PURCHASED

from the Dean of Students:

Good order in the school fosters a conducive environment for learning. School rules and policies are reviewed annually to assist in adjusting rules and policies to fit the needs of learning and smooth operation of the school. The following major developments have been made in the areas of discipline and student responsibility.

- Parking passes are required for all vehicles. You will need to register for a parking pass with Mr. Kent during your class orientation on the 22nd of August. The registration form will need to be completed and turned into the office no later than Friday, August 25th.
- Cellular phones may be used prior to the start of school and after dismissal from school for the day. Any personal items of technology (examples: photo phones, I-Pods, cameras, video cameras, and personal audio devices) seen, heard, or turned on during the day will be confiscated and will be surrendered only to their parents who will need to pick up the items from Mr. Kent. As has been and continues to be the policy, if a parent needs to contact a student during the school day, call the office.
- Major dress code changes are as follows: No jean/denim pants, skirts or shorts. Shirts/blouse must be a style that is collared and button up (dress or polo) and tucks in. T-shirts are no longer acceptable. Others can be found in the Parent/Student handbook.

We would be happy help any student or parent understand the reasons for these necessary changes. Please contact Mr. Kent at 225-2909.

**“TOP HALF”
DRESS-UP
DAY FOR
SCHOOL
PICTURES,
AUGUST 22**

August 14

Fall Sport Parent/Player Meeting
6:30 PM Lightning Hall

August 17

Book Sales in Lightning Hall (1:00-4:00 PM)
9th Grade Parent Night
7:00-8:00 PM Lightning Hall
9th Grade Lock-In
7:00 PM-7:00 AM begin in Lightning Hall

August 18th

Book Sales in Lightning Hall (9:00 AM-Noon)
9th Grade Lock-In (cont.)

August 22

All Grades Orientation and Book Sales (Handbook Form Due)
Grade 9: 9:00 AM Room 105
Grade 10: 10:00 AM Room 105
Grade 11: 11:00 AM Room 105
Grade 12: Noon Room 105

August 23 Liturgy Schedule

Classes begin at 8:00 AM

August 24 Regular Schedule (All 7 periods)

September 4 Labor Day School Holiday

September 6 Regular Schedule

September 7 SPECIAL DAY (8:00-11:30 AM)

Lasallian Values Day (Meet at Holy Family Church on 56th and Tieton)

Catholic Schools Mass followed by
Class Activities and
Academic Awards Assembly

Parent Back-to-School Night

7:00 PM Lightning Hall

September 15

Progress Reports sent home with students

FOOTBALL vs. Highland

All Catholic School Picnic before the game.

September 18

Senior Parent Night & College Info

7:00 PM Lightning Hall

September 22 School Holiday

Faculty In-Service (School)

September 25 School Holiday

Faculty In-Service (Diocese)

September 26

Oct/Nov Newsletter articles due to Br. James

September 28

Sophomore and Junior Parent Night

7:00 PM

October 6

Progress Reports mailed home

October 9

Freshman Parents Academic Success Night

7:00 PM Lightning Hall

October 13

Freshmen Retreat

BBQ before Homecoming for Prospective Students

3:30-8:00 PM

Freshman Lock-In

Thurs.-Fri., August 17-18

The “Freshmen Lock-In” is a very special event that will help Frosh get to know their new classmates and begin building the unified class we hope they will become. It is also a time to continue learning about the values and expectations we hold at La Salle.

The event begins at 7 PM on Thursday, August 17 and ends at 7 AM the next morning. They will need to bring a sleeping bag (girls and boys will be sleeping in two separate buildings). Breakfast will be provided.

Any questions? Contact the Freshman Moderator, Br. Dat (225.2911) or brodat@lasalleyakima.org

Orientation Day—

Tues., Aug. 22

Orientation this year will provide an opportunity to receive all the important information for beginning school as well as complete some basic practical “chores” for school prep, such as:

- Turning required forms
- Taking ID pictures
- Taking school pictures
- Getting a locker and lock
- Getting a parking permit
- Buying books
- Addressing needs with your schedule

Since we are taking school photos, wear a DRESS-UP DAY attire (for your top half for the picture).

Benefit Concert

Starring John Michael Talbot
Thurs., September 14th, 2006 at 7:30pm
Seasons Performance Hall
Tickets: \$50 (proceeds benefit St. Paul’s Cathedral School, Yakima)
Call Shawnta Bush at 901-2076