

LA SALLE Parent Newsletter

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

NOVEMBER 2006/JANUARY 2007

Principal Ideas

KEEP YOUR
EYE ON THE
WEBSITE
CALENDER
FOR
UP-TO-DATE
INFORMATION

Our recent athletic successes have been much more than ordinary accomplishments at State. At EWU in Cheney, as the girls volleyball team rallied in game five of their final State game, one of our parents rallied the De Sales girls team, who were waiting for their game, into a La Salle cheering section. Meanwhile, at Marquette Stadium, Coach McMillan initiating a pre-game request of the De Sales coach: "After the game, let's get both our teams on the field together for a prayer." They did. Meanwhile, the girl's soccer team celebrated not only their victories but the accomplishment of State recognition for achieving the highest GPA for any girls soccer team in the State of any school of every size. Their team average of 3.74 was even higher than their 3.68 from last year. Individual effort, teamwork, prayer, academic achievement, dedicated and competent adults at school, supportive parents—all working together at La Salle, the State team.

As our first semester winds into its second half, please take note of some efforts we continue to make together for the young people who, in the words of St. La Salle, are "entrusted to our care."

School photos that were taken in August and September have not arrived yet. The company, *Lifetouch*, has been alerted numerous times in the past month by the school and by individual parents. Evidently, they misplaced some of the order forms and miscoded our pictures, thus showing them as finished. They are currently printing the pictures and we will distribute them as soon as they arrive. We are very proud of some of our Sophomore class leaders who brought the problem to our attention and have checked into it almost daily.

The school calendar has additions almost daily. Please consult the website calendar for the most updated additions and changes. A major effort we are making this year is to consolidate multiple events onto a fewer number of days so that parents, students, and school personnel are not as stretched for time unnecessarily. As such, please note, especially that we consolidated onto one night (January 3) the parent evenings that explain the tests (PLAN, PSAT) and the financial aid (FAFSA) for college preparation. Though Freshmen parents do not have a test to learn about, they are welcome to see what is going on in one of the other sessions, particularly the financial aid workshop. We will have a note on the website as the time for the meetings approaches.

Medical immunization records in our student files have been reviewed. The State of Washington has changed their form for the recordkeeping of immunization records. We have been getting some help from a registered school nurse in transferring data to the new forms and analyzing them to see what is missing. A lot is missing and the new forms need to be signed by parents and doctors. We will be sending these forms to you with instructions for their completion. These properly completed forms are critical to our students staying in school (certain immunizations are required for being in a school), their applying to colleges (personally at age 30, I was held back from acceptance to a graduate degree at a university until I took the final booster shot



of a series I didn't complete when I was 4), and of course, stemming the tide of potential disease outbreaks. We will send these new forms home after the Thanksgiving break and would like them back before Christmas. If you have a licensed medical background that might be of assistance to us in this process, please do call me.

Wreaths to Raffles: Congratulations to Grace Hayes and her team of parents who helped make the wreath sale an organizational success. And thanks to parents and students who sold over \$20,000 in wreaths (much more than last year). This was a mandatory fundraiser and parents who did not sell the 12 minimum wreaths will be billed for the difference. The Spring fundraiser is the St. Patrick's raffle. Those tickets (\$240 minimum required to be sold) will be sent home before Christmas.

As Thanksgiving is upon us and the Advent Season begins, we continue to pray for peace and unity in our families and in our world.

Live Jesus in Our Hearts,



La Salle's Annual Audit

The Combined Financial Statement and Independent Auditor's Report for the 2005-2006 Fiscal Year was just completed by LeMaster and Daniels.

A presentation was made to the Board of Trustees on November 3, reporting that our financial position has improved over prior years and the finance department was given a glowing report for our systems and records.

Congratulations to Robin Soptich and the Finance staff on a job well done.

Financial Aid Assistance

For 2007-2008 Financial Assistance click on the "Tuition and Development" link and then "Finance Office." This year they are to be mailed directly to Private School Aid Services (PSAS) with the \$20 fee. Do not send them to us. December 15 is the deadline for priority consideration and we would be happy to help answer questions if you run into problems (call Mrs. Soptich). Submitting the forms not only helps individual parents, it helps the school receive funding.

St. Patrick's Day Raffle Tickets Are Coming Soon

Raffle tickets will be coming home with your student in December, before the Christmas break. Last year the raffle tickets netted more than \$26,000 for La Salle student programs.



This year the raffle ticket prizes will be \$7,000 for first prize, \$2,000 for second prize, and \$1,000 for third prize. The tickets will sell for \$2.00 each. Each family will receive 120 tickets to sell.

The raffle ticket sales are the Spring fundraising contribution we require of parents to assist with student program needs. So be sure to ask your student during Christmas break about those tickets. The holidays usually provide many opportunities to sell to family and friends.

**REMEMBER
THE
DECEMBER 15
PSAS
FINANCIAL AID
DEADLINE**



THE LIGHTNING

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 EVERY SIX WEEKS

MS. ANNIE HARALA (AHARALA@LASALLEYAKIMA.ORG) AND BR. JAMES JOOST, FSC (BROJAMES@LASALLEYAKIMA.ORG)

Our Lasallian Education

Dear La Salle Parents,

Oh...what a beautiful *Indian Summer* we've just enjoyed. Other than a couple of cool days in late October, it seemed like our "cookie-cutter" 70-degree days would last forever. In mid-October, my brother called from Nebraska to say that it was 30 degrees and getting ready to snow. That same day our soccer girls played Naches in beautiful autumn sunshine. What a blessing to live in the Yakima Valley!



And, as long as I'm counting blessings, what a tremendous blessing to have a choice in where to send our children to school...especially the choice of a Lasallian high school with an incredibly rich **320-year** heritage. It is from the strength of their traditions and history that La Salle is developing our own school culture.

Catholic schools are gifts to a community...gifts that are making a powerful impact. Recently (2005), the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops issued a statement titled "Renewing Our Commitment to Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools in the Third Millennium." It's an excellent paper that recognizes the "*treasure*" of Catholic education. It is a call to action to the entire Catholic community, led by Church leadership, to look to our future. As we parents sacrifice to put our children through Catholic schools, it reminds us of the return that investment gives us. Nationally...

- Catholic schools have a lower dropout rate (3.4 percent) than both public (14.4 percent) and other private schools (11.9 percent).
- Ninety-nine percent of Catholic high school students graduate, and ninety-seven percent go on to some form of post-secondary education.
- Catholic school students continue to score well on standardized tests (such as the National Assessment of Educational Progress), often surpassing standards established by federal and/or state agencies.
- A Harvard University study issued in 2000 reported that Catholic school students performed better than other students in the three areas of:
 - Voluntary community service,
 - Learning and using civic skills, and
 - Respect for opinions different from their own.

Can you imagine anything more precious to give your children than an education that offers them the foundation for success in whatever they do in life?

As we approach the 2006 holiday season, a season of recognizing blessings and giving thanks, La Salle High School wants to express *our* gratitude to the community that has invested in the miracle of La Salle. To do this, the school will host the "*Silver Reception*" on December 7th. The reception will honor donors who have given gifts of one thousand dollars or more in a given year to benefit La Salle High School.

Throughout this coming Christmas season, may Christ continue to bestow His blessings on our Lasallian families, friends, and supporters.

A special thanks to our alumni who were able to attend their homecoming football game.

Our next alumni gathering will take place on Sunday, December 17th from 4:30 to 7:00 in Lightning Hall.

We hope to see you there!

Sincerely,

Tim McGree

Tim McGree
President



**CATHOLIC
EDUCATION
IS
PRICELESS**

Academics

Sister Ann Marie :
sam@lasalleyakima.org



Sophomore, Junior and Senior Parents

will meet on Wednesday, January 3rd at 7:00 pm. The evening will begin with a general gathering in Lightning Hall. Parents will then move to break out sessions by grade level.

- Senior parents will focus on the FAFSA and financial aid information.
- Junior parents will consider the PSAT/NMSQT. They will learn how the PSAT prepares students for the SAT, generates college search information and is used in determining some scholarship opportunities.
- Sophomore parents will learn how the PLAN helps students recognize their academic strengths and areas for improvement, helps them find careers that match their interests and gives them an early connection with colleges of interest.

SENIOR PARENTS:

BE AWARE OF THE PENDING DEADLINES THAT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES HAVE FOR APPLICATIONS.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT SISTER ANN MARIE 225-2915 SAM@LASALLEYAKIMA.ORG



Second Semester Schedules

Students will receive their second semester schedules before the end of the first semester in January. We are working to create a better balance among classes for the second semester. Year-long classes may be at a different class period. Semester class assignments are based on course selections made during registration for this year.

La Salle Web Links

Check the school website for links to online resources. Go to Home>Academics>Online Resources. There are links to college and career resources as well as online libraries.

Univ. of Washington and Washington State University

have both announced their commitment to making higher education possible for students who come from families of limited income. Students who qualify for admission and who come from a family of four whose maximum income is \$46,000 a year will be eligible to receive full tuition.

Progress reports are good indicators of how your students are doing in their classes. The recent progress report was mailed home November 17 and the next will be mailed December 15. Usually we would send it home with the students, but because of the holidays, they will be mailed. Students whose grade point is below 2.0 or who have one or more failing grade are on academic ineligibility. They will be enrolled in the seventh period Homework Class. They will remain in this class until the semester grade report shows eligibility.

Classes Resume after Christmas on Tues., Jan. 2, 2007

A note from the Dean...

Mr. Todd Kent — Tkent@lasalleyakima.org

- Students and parents are asked to refer to the published La Salle High School website calendar when planning vacations and other non-emergency absences from school. In the event a student is taken out of school for reasons other than illness, the parents and the student must assume full responsibility for this action and for the academic consequences. La Salle reserves the right to define an absence as "excused" or "unexcused" regardless of parental written or oral approval.
- Please remind your students to secure their personal items in their locker with the lock provided by the school.
- If students would like to bring a guest onto campus, they need to clear the visit through the office at least 3 days prior to the visit. We are a closed campus from 7:30-3:30 each day and no guests will be admitted unless they go through the above mentioned steps.
- Developing our core values is an ongoing process. Please encourage your students to go outside of their current group of friends and strive to build a more inclusive community. We value the formation of a united community where diversity is respected, where no one is left out, and everyone is accepted so that each person can grow. As such, we expect students to learn how to form relationships with others with sensitivity, compassion and tolerance.
- Dress code reminder: Sweaters may be worn and should not be revealing at the neckline or anywhere else that would be considered inappropriate for a school setting.

College Counseling

Scholarships

Parents, remind your seniors they should be searching for scholarships and financial aid. Check the scholarship information in Room 303. The board changes almost daily as new information comes in.

FAFSA is the Federal Financial Assistance Application Service to use when applying for college financial aid. It isn't too early to apply for the PIN number you will need to complete the FAFSA. To obtain this number, go to www.pin.ed.gov. The PIN allows you to sign electronically and to correct FAFSA information online. Parents who provide information



also need to sign electronically; they will need their own PIN number to do this.

Remember... If you have to pay for scholarship information – don't! You should never need to pay to apply for scholarships or for scholarship information.

Online Searches

Online searches can help you find scholarships for which you qualify by meeting specific requirements that only you can identify (e.g., parent works for a particular company). See www.fastweb.com, My Organizer at www.collgeboard.com or follow up with the My Road account you received with PSAT results.

Student Life

Campus Ministry and the Associated Student Body (ASB) have joined their leadership skills together this year to build a stronger relationship between the student body and our Lasallian values
Student Life Contacts: Mr. Kanelopoulos (tedk@lasalleyakima.org) or Ms. Cuevas (rcuevas@lasalleyakima.org)

Seattle Urban Immersion a Success!

In late October, 11 La Salle students gathered together to form a small faith community and together explore the conditions of urban poverty in Seattle. Students were challenged to address misperceptions of the poor and homeless. The group lived and prepared their own meals at the Saint James Cathedral shelter.

The primary service commitment was to First Place, a school for homeless youth, ages 6-13. Additionally, students spent an evening working with Teen Feed, an advocacy agency for homeless teenagers; Northwest Harvest, a city food bank; and Saint James Family Kitchen, a ministry which provides homeless and/or needy adults a warm meal.



At the past Parent Association meeting, Carlee Gibbons (11) and Jessica Serrano (9) gave a wonderful presentation on their experience and answered questions from the parents.



BLACKFEET IMMERSION: OKI-NI-SOO-KA-WA (December 2-9)

Students will travel by train to Browning, Montana and live and work with this newly founded Lasallian school currently serving 5th to 8th grade students. Daily service includes tutoring, helping improve the schools building and grounds, and mentoring. Opportunity to serve the needs of people in the larger Reservation community may also be available. The Blackfeet Indian Nation's culture and spiritual heritage will be studied. Special attention will be given to understanding the many geographical, political and cultural challenges faced by the Tribe and the residents of this impoverished rural community.

Senior Retreat: Journey

The Senior Retreat entitled *Journey* will take place from December be held at Camp Ghormley. Students will depart LHS the morning of Wed., Dec. 13th at 8:10am and will return to campus at by 3pm on Fri., Jan 15th. The \$65 retreat fee and permission forms are due to Mr. K. by Friday, December 1st. Financial aid is available.

Senior Yearbook Pictures

Deadline for **senior portraits** for the yearbook is Fri., Dec. 1st. Pictures will be in color, 2¼ inch head size (chin to top of forehead). Pictures are to be turned in to Sister Ann Marie in Room 303.

Christmas Giving Trees

This year, each class will be sponsoring a needy family in the Yakima area. All families are encouraged to take part in this giving opportunity. Please take an ornament from a tree in Roy Hall and donate to this great cause.



Homecoming Thank You!

Thank you to all students and parents who were involved in making Homecoming a huge success. I would like to thank the senior class and their families for all of their hard work and dedication. Without you this event wouldn't have been such a success. Special thanks to all of our La Salle students for being so involved and for your great behavior during

Spirit Week, the Rally, football game, and the Homecoming Dance.

♥ *Ms. Cuevas*

Family Needed Due to unfortunate circumstances, a new host family is needed for one of our international students. Please contact Xavier Madrigal if you can help out.

Parent Corner

Today I was looking out my living room window and watched as my yard began to fill with leaves for the third time this week. The Autumn season is moving very rapidly. The last regular season football, soccer, and volleyball contests have passed and the post season games have begun for our student athletes. Where has the time gone this year? It seems like last week our Parents Association Board met for the first time this school year.

Well time is moving forward and so are the activities of our Parents Association. We have elected a new La Salle Parents Association Board Member; Jim Widhalm has agreed to serve the remainder of a vacant position. Jim is a parent of Aubrie, a sophomore. After a very successful Christmas Wreath sale (a big thanks to Grace Hayes and her team) we are working toward a fantastic St. Patrick's Gala on March 17, 2007. We hope when you are contacted for help you respond with your usual enthusiasm. The Parents Association is here for you. We have several presentations planned with the La Salle Immersion presentation in November; December will be a presentation on our Follies and what needs to be done to prepare for that event; February will be a presentation on Islam. We continue to look for topics that are important to you. Please share your thoughts and ideas.

Susan Kunkler, Sr. Ann Marie and Mrs. Ball are leading our Arts and Academic boosters. There is much going on with our Band and upcoming Christmas Program. Mrs. Ball is also planning our Spring Follies and is looking for people to take the 'lead role' in making this Follies another fun filled event. Please contact Mrs. Ball if you are interested. Susan and her Baristas have done a wonderful job in selling our Liquid Lightning at the school, home football games and holiday boutiques. Give Susan a call if you can help. La Salle is also selling Liquid Lightning by the pound. If you are trying to find a gift that will give back, give the gift of Liquid Lightning. Who needs another tie or fruit cake? Order Liquid Lightning from the order forms available in the office or on the website and help our Arts and Academic programs.

Greg Kilseimer is busy with the necessary work at our school and is always looking for parent help with some of the grounds work. Greg is also very busy leading our Athletic Booster program. He continues to look for help with the always necessary gate/entry people and concessions. Greg is also looking for people to help with the setup, takedown, and cleanup of our home basketball games. Please contact him if you can help. The Athletics Booster is planning a large Yard Sale this spring so get ready to empty your closets and garages to help keep our kids on the court and field. If you have any other ideas please contact Greg or come to the La Salle Athletics Booster meeting the third Monday of each month.

As you can see there has been much accomplished and there is so much more to do, please come and support us by being involved. All of our success is due to you, the La Salle Parents Association. Thank you.

Chuck Stillwaggon

Parent Volunteering Opportunities

The planning and organization of volunteer opportunities are ongoing and best communicated through the website and directly calling the Chairs.

President: **Chuck Stillwaggon 697-9660** or stillwaggon@elltel.net
 Academics/Arts Boosters: **Susan Kunkler 972-4153** or kunkler5@nwinform.net
 Sports Boosters: **Greg Kilseimer 388-6273**

BE SURE
TO BUY
LIQUID
LIGHTNING
AS GIFTS
FOR YOUR
FAMILY AND
FRIENDS!

Take Note

...

**November
27th is a
late start
schedule.**

November 17
Wreath Delivery Day

November 20
Athletic Boosters — 7pm

November 22
Special Schedule (dismiss 12:15)
Thanksgiving Prayer Service

November 23-26
Thanksgiving Break

November 27
Classes Resume with a Late Start Schedule

November 29
Blackfeet Immersion Parent Mtg — 7pm

December 2-9
Blackfeet Immersion

December 4
Arts/Academics Boosters Mtg—6pm
Parent Association Mtg— 7pm

December 8
Liturgy Schedule
Feast of the Immaculate Conception

December 11
Christmas Concert 7pm — Lightning Hall

December 13-15
Senior Retreat

December 15
Financial Aid Applications Due

December 13
Junior Unity Ceremony 6:30-8:30

December 17
Alumni Social 4:30-7:00

December 18
Athletic Boosters— 7pm

December 16-January 1
Christmas Vacation

January 2
Classes resume

January 3
Senior Parent FAFSA Workshop—7pm
Junior Parent PSAT Workshop—7pm
Soph. Parent PLAN Workshop—7pm

January 8
Arts/Academic Boosters Mtg. —6pm
Parents Association Mtg.—7pm

January 15
Athletic Boosters Mtg. 7pm

January 16
Period 5,6,7, Exams 8:00-1:15

January 17
Period 3,4 Exams— 8:00-11:15

January 18
Period 1,2 Exams — 8:00-11:15

January 19
No School

January 20
Tolo —8-11pm

January 26
Rally Schedule

Semester One Exams

First semester exams are scheduled for:

Jan 16: Periods 5,6,7
5th — 8:00– 9:30
6th — 9:15-11:45
Lunch — 11:20 11:40
7th — 11:45-1:15

Jan 17: Periods 3,4
3rd — 8:00-9:30
4th — 9:15-11:45

Jan 18: Periods 1,2
1st — 8:00-9:30
2nd — 9:45-11:15

Refer to the website for more information.

Junior Unity Ceremony

Juniors and their families are invited to take part in a Mass and pot-luck to celebrate the unity of their class on Dec. 13th from 6:30-8:30 in Lightning Hall. Students are encouraged to bring a special item to have blessed. Please contact Todd Kent, 225-2909, with any questions.

Arts At La Salle

The Second Annual "Christmas with the Arts"

is set for Monday, Dec. 11th at 7 pm in Lightning Hall. The program will feature the band, choir, drama and art departments as well as original poetry by LS students. Refreshments will be provided by Arts & Academics Boosters.

The Follies 2007 are coming!

Adult volunteers are needed to help with all aspects of the show. Whether you play an instrument, sing or dance, we could use your talents. Act coaches, wardrobe, makeup, set crews, technical crews; all are in need of volunteers.

Contact Mrs. Ball ASAP at mball@lasalleyakima.org for more information.

Instrument Donations Needed:

Do you have an old trumpet or saxophone lying around? Maybe a flute or clarinet that's taking up valuable closet space? The LS music program could use your instrument donations to supplement our growing music program.