

# LA SALLE Parent Newsletter

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

DECEMBER 2011-2012

## Principal Ideas



As my responsibilities have changed here at La Salle, so too has the make-up of my stack of books to read. A book I am currently reading *A Simple Justice: The Challenge of Small Schools*, is a collection of writings from proponents of Chicago area school reform. The contributors are advocates for small schools and are likely inspired by the student success achieved at the many Chicago-area Catholic schools whose size is dwarfed by their public school counter parts.

As I read the book, I was reminded of a comment Darcy Morford of the class of 2009 made to the *Yakima Herald Republic* in an article about her academic and extra-curricular accomplishments at La Salle. She said: "I've had such a positive experience in Catholic school, not only do you know everyone, you know everyone's middle name." As Darcy was preparing for graduation, her reflections back on her Catholic school experiences served to remind me of one of the greatest attributes of La Salle. We are small. We often think first of strong academic programs and active faith communities as defining tenets of the Catholic school experience, but do not always consider the small size of our student bodies that make much of this possible.

Admittedly, being small can serve as a challenge, like siblings who spend most waking moments together, this closeness at times can be difficult for our students. But, this smallness is also one of our greatest blessings. It allows our graduates to leave our community academically well-prepared through close one on one contact with teachers and with life-long friendships through close relationships fostered on our campus.

In this era of *big box stores, super sized fast food, and big corporate mergers*, it is no secret that Americans have a special affinity for this bigness. Even as we and our partner Catholic elementary schools are compared to schools throughout the Valley, our smallness is often considered by the casual observer as more of a vice than the tremendous virtue I believe it is. One of the contributors in my book, Deborah Meier, stated this illusion best when she said: "*We have created a mythology that fuels bigness. Big schools have bigger and better teams, huge dances, large parking lots, anonymity becomes a virtue, not a vice. In a big school you can create your own sub-school. You can ignore the larger ethos for your own kind.*"

As I was visiting the seniors during their recent retreat at Camp Ghormley, I was reminded of how at La Salle, ignoring each other is not an option. Retreats are a time where our smallness is embraced and students are

encouraged to grow in their relationships and learn from each other. This is a time where their closeness allows them to confidently share the challenges and blessings they face as they make important decisions about their lives beyond La Salle. Likewise, the small faith communities formed on service immersions are benefited tremendously from how familiar our students are with each other. As they serve and learn about the poor and marginalized, in often emotionally difficult settings, they do so with a sense of mutual support. This, I believe, is the gift of smallness, where students educate one another as they share that which is most important to them: faith, family, academic pursuits, and a sense of their personal vocation. As all of the juniors gathered for their Junior Unity Ceremony this week, they prayed that they would be able to pull from one another strength, courage and resolve as they forge ahead toward their future goals. I am sure that in their smallness they were confident that they could rely on each other as they set out to achieve their goals.

At this time in our history, we are indeed working and praying for success with our efforts to increase our enrollment, but the vision most of us share for La Salle continues to embrace this smallness. We hope an increase in our student body will allow us to serve more young people and expand our program offerings. Yet, we plan to always remain small and embrace it as a gift and not a vice.

As we near the end of our first semester I wish to extend my thanks to everyone who has contributed to the well being of our students. Together as parents, teachers, staff, coaches and benefactors we have made a difference. We have not always done this perfectly, but since we have the blessing of spending so many of our waking hours together, like family, we are quickly forgiven and forgive and move on with life. May the new life in Christ we celebrate this Advent bring you and your families great joy!

Live Jesus in our Hearts,



Ted Kanelopoulos  
Principal

**DEVELOPING  
STUDENTS IN  
FAITH,  
INTEGRITY  
SCHOLARSHIP  
AND SERVICE**

## HEROES

At our Heroic Vow ceremony the day before Thanksgiving, I told the story of the tight rope walker who drives his audience into a frenzy by suggesting he would do it blindfolded, then without his balance pole and finally, pushing a wheelbarrow with someone in it! The crowd roared their approval until he asked for a volunteer to ride in the wheelbarrow...and they were silent. In De La Salle's meditations (*Meditations for the Time of Retreat 75.3*), he urges us to walk with him along God's path. The Heroic Vow is an example of two Brothers who did this by vowing to "live on bread alone" before allowing their educational work to fail. They all got in the wheelbarrow together.



Our young school is rich with modern day heroes who have the courage to get in the wheelbarrow. Although many are named, some will remain unnamed. But all, in the face of significant adversity, stepped up. These people continue to give of their time, talent and treasure to provide a positive spiritual and academic environment for our young people.

In an article for *America* magazine by Tim Dolan, Archbishop of New York, he admonishes Catholics that, "*It is time to recover our nerve and promote our schools for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The current hospice mentality must give way to a renewed confidence.*" In our valley, determined and courageous leadership, those who have the guts to climb in the wheelbarrow, will take us to an ever richer future for Catholic education.

Wishing you God's blessings during this Advent season!

## Our Lasallian Heritage: De Salle—An Educational Pioneer

John Baptist de La Salle was neither a loud and vocal revolutionary, nor a reformer with an abstract program of his own devising. He was an unassuming, quiet French upper-class gentleman, a cultivated priest who found God moving him to care in concrete ways for the education and salvation of the ones whom Jesus had called "the least of these." Gradually, he became, somewhat to his own surprise, an educational pioneer. The following are some examples of his innovations in the world of education.

### Practical curriculum

The curriculum addressed the practical needs and realistic options of the poor. The average student in a charity school could not stay more than two or three years, since by age 14 many of them would have to be at work. Students were grouped by ability, and teachers made sure that a student had mastered one level before moving to the next.

### French not Latin

De La Salle saw that the charity school students needed facility in reading and writing the everyday language of business, commerce, and catechesis, not a language that they would little use.

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LA SALLE HIGH SCHOOL

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(TEDK@LASALLEYAKIMA.ORG)

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### Simultaneous instruction

In De La Salle's age, teacher customarily would privately engage one student at a time in a classroom of dozens of students. Instead, the Brothers' new method was to divide a large class into small groups according to their level of learning and to involve whole groups in the lesson. The goal was to engage every student every day in as many ways as possible.

### Teacher Training

De La Salle not only established pedagogical training for the Brothers, but he also created centers for the training of lay teachers who would serve in rural parish schools.

### Personal observation

De La Salle and the Brothers studied each child's capability, character, and needs and passed their notes on to the next teacher when the student moved on. This sort of psychological observation is now habitual.

### Bending Social Barriers

In their charity schools, the Brothers charged nothing, accepted no gifts, and allowed no distinctions between those who could afford to pay and those who could not. As more children of families who were better off came into the schools, boys from bourgeois families studied, played, and prayed with poor boys.

### Civility and manners

De La Salle wanted his pupils to learn how to act in the larger world. As the Brothers taught the boys reading and religion and math, so they taught them social and civil virtues, virtues very much De La Salle's own—politeness, fairness, self-control, graciousness, prudence, and self-discipline.



### **Inclement Weather: Late Start or Snow Day Announcements**

*Official late Starts will be reported to Town Square Media stations, will be posted on our website and attendance line by 6:30am. In the event of a Snow Day, information will be posted by 8am. .*

## Admissions

Mrs. Gloria Campos-White  
 gwhite@lasalleyakima.org  
 (509) 225-2928

### You can Help!

Please help us in our admissions efforts. As parents you play an important role in encouraging families to consider La Salle.

### Student Shadows

We recommend that potential students spend the day "shadowing" one of our students. It is a great way for them to get a feel for the La Salle experience. Suggest to a prospective student that they contact the admissions office to schedule a visit.

### Family Tours

Tours are scheduled the first Sunday of every month or anytime by appointment.

### Future Lightning Night

At our home games at West Valley HS versus **Naches Valley on January 27th** we will be hosting a Future Lightning Night for all youth and parents interested in learning more about La Salle High School. Check our website for a schedule of the evening's events!

**Do you have younger children not in Catholic schools? Why not consider one of our partner schools:**



Saint Joseph-Marquette (PK-8)  
 Principal: Gregg Pleger  
 509-575-5557



Saint Paul Cathedral School (PK-8)  
 Principal: Judy Davis  
 509-575-5604

## College Counseling

Mrs. Teresa Barry  
tbarry@lasalleyakima.org  
(509) 225-2939

EXPLORE and PLAN test results are in, so we'll be reviewing results with the 9th and 10th graders in weeks to come. The results of the PSAT test have been shipped, so we should be able to review those with the juniors quite soon, as well.

Seniors should be well underway with college applications by now and might want to spend part of the Christmas break exploring scholarship opportunities. A packet of possibilities is available in Room 303.

Parents of seniors may want to check out <http://www.fafsa.org> sometime before the end of the year, to familiarize themselves with the site. The FAFSA application for Fall 2012 should be available beginning January 1, so be ready to complete this online form as early as possible to snag up college funds before they're all gone! Remember, the FAFSA is how students are awarded federal grants and other awards that do not need to be repaid (in addition to lining up student loans, if necessary). It is a vital first step in getting financial aid awards directly from colleges, as well. While the seniors might be able to complete portions of this important application, it is recommended that parents take the lead on the FAFSA, which asks questions about income, assets, and other parent topics.

As always, please contact me if there is anything I can do to help with college, career, or other counseling needs.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to newly elected National Honor Society Officers for 2011-2012: President Felisa Gonzalez, Vice President Aaron Stewart, and Secretary Stephanie Perez!

## Academics

Br. Dan Morgan, FSC  
brodan@lasalleyakima.org  
(509) 225-2932

### FINAL EXAMS SCHEDULE

#### Wednesday, Dec. 14

8:00 Warning Bell

**8:05-9:35 1st Period exam**

9:35-9:50 Break

**9:55-11:25 2nd Period exam**

11:25-11:55 Lunch (for students with 7<sup>th</sup> period exam)

**12:00-1:30 7<sup>th</sup> Period exam**

#### Thursday, Dec. 15

8:00 Warning Bell

**8:05-9:35 3<sup>rd</sup> Period exam**

9:35-9:50 Break

**9:55-11:25 4<sup>th</sup> Period exam**

#### Friday, Dec. 16

8:00 Warning Bell

**8:05-9:35 5<sup>th</sup> Period exam**

9:35-9:50 Break

**9:55-11:25 6<sup>th</sup> Period exam**

## Dean of Students

Mr. Felix Hernandez  
fhernandez@lasalleyakima.org  
(509) 225-2909

Some dress code reminders:

- Plain khaki colored UGG boots that are worn on a daily basis are *not* dress shoes and cannot be worn on professional dress days.
- Hooded and non-hooded sweatshirts must be La Salle or college wear. Its cold out and students will be asked to take off their sweatshirts if they are not La Salle or are from a college.

THE [COLLEGE BOARD WEBSITE](#) HAS MANY HELPFUL TOOLS FOR COLLEGE SEARCH AND PREP

# Student Life

Campus Ministry and the Associated Student Body (ASB) continue to join together their leadership skills this year to build a stronger relationship between the student body and our Lasallian values.

*Student Life Contacts:*

*Mr. Kevin Jam (kjam@lasalleyakima.org) or 225-2969  
or Ms. Megan Weiss (mweiss@lasalleyakima.org) or 225-2915*

## Campus Ministry

We are well underway with our Annual **Giving Tree**. The Giving Tree is a partnership through Catholic Family and Child Services that in-need provides families with needed gifts for Christmas. Each class purchases and wraps an item that is designated by a color and shape on our school Christmas Tree and brings it to school. We will then deliver the gifts personally to Catholic Family Services. The items make a huge difference in the lives of many families, some of whom wouldn't have much of a Christmas without them.

The **Heroic Vow Ceremony** went very well; congratulations to Ms. Marianne Ball, our Lasallian Educator of the Year, and to Mr. and Mrs. Mike Gamache, who were recognized by the students in this year's ceremony for their heroic commitment to Lasallian education in our valley. Please pray for the seniors, who have all made a formal commitment to live out our Lasallian values throughout the rest of this year and as they leave us in the spring.

The annual **Senior Retreat** was recently held at Ghormley Meadow Christian Camp, November 28<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>. We had beautiful weather and a wonderful experience overall. The retreatants were well-served by an excellent retreat staff that featured Ms. Megan Weiss, Mr. Tom Magrini, Mr. Tim Briffett, and Ms. Mandy Erskine. The retreat featured several fun activities and a lot of time for fellowship and reflection. A huge thank you to all who participated, and to Senior Parents for sending your children on this important opportunity.

December 5<sup>th</sup> features our **Junior Unity Ceremony**; the Junior Class will have the opportunity to come together for some fellowship and to celebrate what is fast becoming their time of leadership as a class at La Salle. Thank you to Father Brooks Beaulaurier for helping joining us for the ceremony and offering a special priestly blessing.

The Blackfeet Immersion group has been meeting regularly and is excited for their trip in January. They will continue to meet, fundraise, and focus on their upcoming trip to Montana. Please see the school Calendar for the parent meeting, which will be held on Wednesday, January 11<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. in Room 301 on Campus.

Finally, the end of the semester features two major liturgies! We will be celebrating the **Feast of the Immaculate Conception** on Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, and the commemoration of **Our Lady of Guadalupe** on December 12<sup>th</sup>. Both liturgies will be held in Lighting Hall at 11:15 a.m.

Merry Christmas from Campus Ministry!



## ASB

ASB has been very busy this month! To celebrate Thanksgiving as a school, students from both ASB and Student Life Leadership Course put on a very successful Thanksgiving Day Relay that included trivia, a pie eating contest and pin the tail on the turkey. ASB and SLL also planned a pudding eating contest for their freshmen Wet Feet partners - congratulations to Kennedy McCarthy, Jasmine Ochoa, and David Thompson for winning! Finally, the freshmen council and ASB have been working very hard on this year's winter formal, Snowflake Soiree. It will be on Saturday, December 3 from 8-11PM. Come and dance the night away with your fellow classmates!! Thank you to all students, staff and faculty that participated in our events this month! We are looking forward to next semester with new activities for all!

Merry Christmas from ASB!

# Apples for Access

Ms. Molly McGree

"Apples for Access" Marketing Coordinator  
 mmcgree@lasalleyakima.org  
 (509) 834-9947

"Apples for Access" is a new fundraising program that has recently been developed at La Salle. We call it "Apples for Access" because the money that is made from the program is used directly for student tuition scholarships, giving more students the opportunity to access the wonderful Lasallian education. My job with the program is to be the marketing representative, meaning I convince schools and non-profit organizations to take on this fundraiser. Any organization willing to participate will make a huge profit for their school, and La Salle gets a small part of that action. We believe this fundraiser is the best out there because the product being sold is healthy, representing the school well, and the profits are going back to Catholic education, rather than big corporations.

Now, I want to give you a little update of how this program has been going so far. There are three schools in Oregon that are taking part in our program so far this year, La Salle High School in Milwaukie, Health and Science School in Beaverton, and Rosemont Ridge School in West Linn. Last year, 700 boxes had been sold to date. This year we are at 2,000 boxes to date. The huge leap in sales shows the potential this program has to raise money for the school. We are working hard to keep these numbers increasing as the year goes on and the program grows.

We have contacted and presented to a number of perspective schools and organizations throughout the Northwest. St. Paul's Cathedral School, here in Yakima, has confirmed to start this program as their big fall fundraiser, starting next year. St. Joseph's, also in Yakima, is very interested and will also hopefully become a participant in the very near future. Outside of Yakima, we have contacted the Walla Walla Catholic Schools, Tri-Cities Prep, St. Patrick's in Pasco, and O'Dea High School in Seattle. Each one of these schools has shown great curiosity and we are looking to get them started very soon as well. Not only have we contacted schools, but we have reached out to the local YMCA. They are looking into using this apple fundraiser as part of their program to help

About a month ago, there was a Brother on campus named Brother Edward Phelan. He is from New York and is a part of the Lasallian Volunteers Program. When told about "Apples for Access", he was ecstatic. We gave him a few boxes of our Jazz apples and he has been promoting the program and our apples over on the East Coast ever since. We are really trying to get the word out about the program and get people interested in this great cause. With great people like Brother Ed in the world, our program is going to spread like wildfire.



Lastly, I would like to tell you about an exciting opportunity that I am going to be a part of in April. The National Catholic Education Association has a big conference April 11-13, and I am signed up to be an exhibitor. Rumors have it that all the fundraisers being promoted at this conference consist of cookies, candy, and popcorn. We will be the first ones to bring in a healthy, yet delicious, choice for a fundraiser! This conference will be a great way to get the word out nationwide about our program.

In just the few months that I have been a part of this program, I have seen huge success and progress take place. I am very confident that this program will lead us to great places and unlimited opportunities in raising money for our school. I thank you for letting me be a part of this wonderful community and family.

God Bless,

Molly McGree

**Please contact Molly if you have an organization in mind that might have an interest in adopting our fundraiser!**

## Donations Needed for “Stuff”

**BAND EQUIPMENT (Contact Mrs. Ball at [mball@lasalleyakima.org](mailto:mball@lasalleyakima.org) or 225-2921):** Got a spare tuba in your attic? The band and orchestra are always in need of instruments. Call Mrs. Ball if you have access to any.

### MAINTENANCE EQUIPMENT

- Working lawn care equipment
- Small truck or gator

### CLASSROOM/OFFICE FURNITURE

- Short book shelves

### We Get Credit

**Office Depot** gives us 5% of sales made to customers giving them our School ID # at the cash register. When you buy at Office Depot:

**Give them the number 70108132, or Ask them to assign credit for the sale to *La Salle High School.***

## SET YOUR SEARCH ENGINE

[WWW.GOODSEARCH.COM](http://WWW.GOODSEARCH.COM)

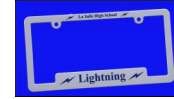
**Internet Search— money is a click away:** Every time you do a search on “www.goodsearch.com” La Salle receives a penny.

1. Go to [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com)
2. In the box that says “enter your charity” type “La Salle” and choose our school.
3. Go up to the search box and search away.

Also, if you shop at the stores the site designates in the box to the right headed “Who do you GoodShop for?” a portion of that purchase will go to La Salle. Set [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) as your homepage.

### Arts/Academics Fundraisers

La Salle license plate frames for \$5. Available in the Administration building.



**TWO EASY WAYS TO SUPPORT STUDENTS' EDUCATION**



## Sign up for [www.eScrip.com](http://www.eScrip.com)

Members to a group registered on [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com) can know that a portion of the money spent on purchases made with retail and credit cards noted by members goes to La Salle. Here’s how you can register as a “La Salle” member so that we receive funds to help our students.

- “Make a Difference in Four Easy Steps” and click “1) Sign Up– It’s Free”
- In the box, type “La Salle High School Of Yakima” (if you get a list of “La Salle” schools, make sure you then click ours)
- It will have a box with “You Have Supported... La Salle High School Of Yakima.” at the bottom click “NEXT” under “or proceed to the next step.”
- Fill in the boxes with your personal information. Click “NEXT.”

For the following screens asking for different types of card membership, choose the card(s) you have and type in the corresponding number. If you do not have a card just click “NEXT” to get to the next screen for:

- Grocery card memberships
- Credit card memberships
- Macy’s card membership
- The next screen verifies all your choices so you can check to see if all the information is correct. If so, at the bottom click “CONFIRM.”
- The next screen confirms the data and invites you to create a personal password on eScrip to manage your account and access online opportunities.

# Athletics

Mr. Jack McMillan  
 jmcmillan@lasalleyakima.org  
 (509) 225-2929

## Volleyball - 6th in State!

Congratulations to the girls volleyball team for their sixth place finish at State! They were the only SCAC team to trophy this year. Way to go girls you made us proud!



**Congratulations Soccer** on your outstanding year. Undefeated in league, 92 straight SCAC league wins and an appearance in the State quarterfinals. All your hard work and team play made us proud!

Visit: [www.lasalleyakima.com/home/athletics](http://www.lasalleyakima.com/home/athletics) for up to date information on La Salle athletics.

## Winter Sports Transportation:

Thanks to Trina and Delbert Wheeler for their generous donation of a new school bus to La Salle.

With our new bus, all teams will be able to travel together to away games in a safe and warm school



bus. This bus will be used for school retreats, field trips and service trips as well! We will be using a newer temporary school bus until our permanent bus arrives in time for Spring sports.

THANK YOU  
 TRINA AND  
 DELBERT  
 WHEELER!

## Sports Boosters Lightning Gear

The Sports Boosters have the new Booster Long Sleeve Shirt, Stadium Chair, New Hoodie Sweat Shirts, and a Beautiful La Salle Stadium Blanket for all our fans to purchase. They are available at Kimmels Sports, and a limited few will be available at the School Office. As always, all proceeds go directly to support La Salle Sports Program. Bolt!



## Christmas Break Basketball Camp

The annual boys and girls basketball camps will take place on **December 21-22** at Queens Gym. Grades 1-5 will be from 9am to noon and grades 6-8 from 1 to 4pm. Registration forms can be found on our website at: [lasalleyakima.org](http://lasalleyakima.org)

## Parent Volunteering Opportunities

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

President: **DJ Henn** at: [dj.henn@acrucis.com](mailto:dj.henn@acrucis.com)

Academics/Arts Boosters: **Darcie Heinlein** at [DHeinlein@yakimadiocese.org](mailto:DHeinlein@yakimadiocese.org)

Athletic Boosters: **Mike Hoon** at (509) 930-6844 or [mike.hoon@emeraldcare.org](mailto:mike.hoon@emeraldcare.org)

Parent Mentor Program: **Jim Widhalm** at (509) 952-8891 or [jim.widhalm@pexco.com](mailto:jim.widhalm@pexco.com)

Volunteer Opportunity Coordinator: **Kathleen Smith** at (509) 952-8063



# Calendar Highlights



**December 5**

Junior Unity Ceremony 6pm  
Parent Executive Board Meeting 6pm

**December 6**

Late Start—Faculty Meeting

**December 7**

Art and Academics Boosters Meeting 6:30

**December 8**

Immaculate Conception Liturgy 11:15

**December 12**

Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebration 11:15  
Christmas with the Arts 7pm

**December 14**

Final Examinations 1, 2 and 7  
Sports Boosters Meeting 3:30pm

**December 15**

Final Examinations 3 and 4

**December 16**

Final Examinations 5 and 6

**December 21-22**

La Salle Basketball Camp

**January 3**

School Resumes

## Bus Drivers Needed

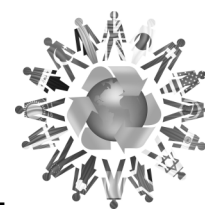
We are in need of volunteer bus drivers to help us with our transportation needs. If you have a CDL(S) license or are interested in obtaining one, please contact the school (225-2900) for more information.



**We Need Pictures**  
If you have that perfect picture from a La Salle athletic event or activity. Please send it our way! Email them to: [gwhite@lasalleyakima.org](mailto:gwhite@lasalleyakima.org).

## Be a Host Family

La Salle would very much like to continue welcoming international exchange students to our community. We currently work with CIEE ([www.ciee.org/hostfamily/](http://www.ciee.org/hostfamily/)) and are establishing a new relationship with Cultural Homestay International ([www.chinet.org](http://www.chinet.org)). CHI works exclusively with private schools through the Federal F-1 Student Visa Program. CHI families will receive a \$600 a month stipend to help with hosting costs. Please contact Mrs. White if you have an interest in exploring this option. 225-2928 or [gwhite@lasalleyakima.org](mailto:gwhite@lasalleyakima.org). Volunteer hours are completed by hosting a student for the year.



### Put Yourself in the Loop

On the website calendar, click on "Subscribe" to have the calendar send you e-mail notifications of upcoming events or whenever there is an addition or change on the calendar.