



PARENT NEWSLETTER

(408) 296-3013

www.saintlawrence.org

September 2010

Message from the Principal

Welcome to the New School Year!

Dear Parents,

The opening of the new school year always seems to carry a certain excitement with it. The faculty and staff have been busy planning for an outstanding 2010-11 year. To work well throughout the year as a team, home and school will need to have good avenues of communication. Our communication should be a two-way street—information moving back and forth smoothly.

Please read all communications from the school thoroughly as soon as you receive them. If there are forms to be filled out, complete them and return them to the school by the stated deadline. Please help us avoid wasting staff time to track down necessary forms that have not been returned on time. Getting everything turned in on time helps us to use our resources efficiently and sets a good example for your student.

Call if you need clarification. We try to provide information that is clear and understandable, but the truth is, something may not make sense to you. If something is unclear in the newsletter or an e-mail, please call the school for clarification. We want you to have all the information you need to be informed and involved.

Check our daily e-mail bulletin. It will provide you with the same information that we provide your student—deadlines, club meetings, sporting events, etc. Please keep us updated if your e-mail address changes so that you are not missing out on important information.

Refer to the school calendar. It is an excellent resource for you. Special schedules, minimum days, holidays, and other significant events are listed for you on the calendar. This monthly newsletter will give you greater detail about these events.

Please let us know how we can assist you in supporting your son or daughter's education. We look forward to working with you this school year.

God Bless,

Christie H. Filios



JOIN US FOR OUR FIRST SCHOOL MASS ON SEPTEMBER 1

All parents are invited to join with the Academy and Elementary Schools for our first school mass on Wed., Sept. 1. Mass will begin at 8:30 a.m. in the church. Please join us for this liturgical service.

SCHOOL CLOSED FOR LABOR DAY

The Academy will be closed on Mon., Sept. 6 in honor of Labor Day. The building will be locked and there will be no school staff available that day.

Fri., Sept. 3 will be a minimum day. School will be dismissed at 12:15 to accommodate a faculty in-service session in the afternoon.



SCHOOL OFFICE HOURS

During the school year, the Main Office is officially open from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily. If students have a need (phone call, band aid, a question, etc.), the Main Office is the starting point for them.

Puzzled about your part in raising \$\$\$\$\$ to support your child's school?

■ AAC and fund raisers: how they differ from each other

People sometimes ask how the Annual Advancement Campaign (AAC) is different from the campus fundraising events and fund drives. Especially at the beginning of the school year, when so much is happening, the distinction can be confusing. Let's look at how they are different...

Annual Advancement Campaign

The AAC aspires to sustain St. Lawrence Education Center as an ongoing educational resource. The Annual Advancement Campaign is related to the Christian concept of stewardship. Proceeds may be applied to such uses as an endowment, scholarships, or an operating budget that minimizes the need for tuition increases and makes a St. Lawrence education accessible to more families.

For 2010-11, the overall goal for the AAC is \$100,000. Working together, we will maintain our programs, strengthen them, and honor both our past and our future. For families of students at St. Lawrence Academy, we suggest a pledge or donation of \$300 or more per student.

Fundraising Events and Fund Drives

Fundraising events, such as Comedy Club and the Annual Auction and Dinner, focus less on educational mission and more specifically on the campuses and the students who are currently enrolled. Proceeds are generally designated for a project, such as purchasing needed equipment. Fund drives, such as the magazine drive, scrip purchase, and the

Parent Club poinsettia and See's candy sales, also benefit currently enrolled students. In some instances, the proceeds have been earmarked for a specific item or project. For example, last year, half of all Parent Club fundraising proceeds were added to a fund to purchase a van. The Men's Club designated part of its fund raising to allow the American Sign Language teacher to attend a conference.

Each family at the Academy is asked to assume responsibility for raising \$150 during the school year.

SAVE THE DATES!

**Comedy Club - October 16, 2010
(6:45 to 10:00 p.m.)**

Featuring three very funny comedians on the St. Lawrence stage.

Opening Act: David VanAvermaete, who has won many comedy competitions throughout the Bay Area

Opening Act: Comedian Dr. Scott Smith from Carmel, California

Headliner Act: Brian Scolaro, who has appeared on Conan O'Brien, Comedy Central, and various TV sitcoms

**Casino Night at St. Lawrence! -
February 12, 2011**

Annual Auction & Dinner

Details to be revealed soon....

Dates to
Save

Welcome BBQ

Men's Club

Parent Club

PARENT CLUBS

Parent Club to host Welcome BBQ on September 11

■ You are invited to share the fun

The Parent Club annual Welcome Barbecue is a joyous and delicious way to catch up on each other's summer news, meet new friends, and enjoy a wonderful afternoon of sun and fun.

The barbecue will be held on Sat., Sept. 11 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The Parent Club will be sending out more information about this event.

Attention all dads, granddads, and male mentors~

■ Men's Club convenes for new year

The Men's Club is foremost a social group for the men of Saint Lawrence Academy, but it is also a support group for the school. Each month the Men's Club meets for socializing, special topics of discussion, and planning for the major Men's Club social events—the father-daughter dance, the SLA Bowl-a-thon, and the father-son event. Please join the Men's Club in the pavilion on Sept. 14 at 6:30 p.m.

Parent? Guardian? You are already a member of the club!

All parents and guardians of SLA students are members of the Parent Club, a service organization dedicated to supporting the Academy's mission and contributing to its success. We promote social interaction among parents, teachers, and parish members, coordinate fundraising events, and provide programs of particular interest to parents. We also enhance the communication process among Academy administration, faculty, parents, and students, focusing on positive attitudes and goals. It's a place to be creative and productive while meeting people of similar interests and volunteering within your child's community of support.

The first Parent Club meeting of the year takes place on Sept. 7 at 7 p.m. in the Little

Theater. You will meet and get better acquainted with other members of the Saint Lawrence community and get a preview of our plans for the coming year.

Parent Club Board for 2010-11

Congratulations and welcome to the 2010-11 Parent Club Board.

President: Karen Meyer

Vice-President: Anna Phan

Secretary: Margot Carli

Treasurer: Regina Rondez

Toilet Paper Drive

Campus Restoration Day

Seniors

Zacchaeus Freshmen

Start collecting that toilet paper!

■ Benefit for Sacred Heart Community Services

The first school community outreach project for the year is our fourth annual toilet paper drive. The past years' drives have been a resounding success and a lot of fun.

SLA collects toilet paper for Sacred Heart Community Service, which distributes it along with groceries to needy families. Most of us don't give a second thought to the expense of toilet paper, but to extremely low income people, it can be significant. Our goal is to collect at least four rolls per student. Last year, Saint Lawrence surpassed the goal.

Students earn competition points for their class. At the end of the year, the class with the most competition points earns a special "class day." They give back to our community and generate some fun and competitive class spirit as well.

Toilet paper donations will be accepted beginning on Sept. 20 and ending on Oct. 1. Donations may be dropped off in the Main Office.



Freshmen in Zacchaeus Program to go on retreat

Our freshman Zacchaeus students will enjoy a class retreat on Fri., Sept. 10. More information and a permission slip will be sent home with the students.

September 25: Campus Restoration Day

■ Help beautify the campus and start fulfilling your volunteer commitment

Want to meet other parents? Want to get in some time working on a project with your son or daughter? Want to get your parent volunteer hours out of the way? Like doing a little manual labor? Join us for our first Campus Restoration Day of the year. On Saturday, Sept. 25, we will be hosting a campus workday.

There will be opportunities to paint, garden, join in general clean-up, etc. While beautifying our campus, you will be also working towards completing your ten hours of parent volunteer service. You may work as many or as few hours as you wish.

Your student can join you and earn hours towards his or her community service as well. More information will be forwarded to you closer to the date of the event.

Senior Breakaway Day to take place at Central Park

The senior class will join together on Thur., Sept. 23 for its Senior Breakaway Day. Please be aware that the school will not provide transportation for this event; the students in the senior class will meet at Central Park on that day.

Permission slips and information will be sent home with students prior to the 23rd.

Trivia Night

Celtic Pride Day

Celebrity Sandwich Day

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Trivial knowledge put to the test

■ First Trivia Night of the Year to Take Place September 17

Trivia teams will form in the parish hall on Fri., Sep. 17 as students and their guests gather to compete in the first Trivia Night of 2010-11. The event is open to any SLA student.

For a fee of \$3.00, participants play five rounds of brain-busting trivia. The topic of the two rounds is general knowledge. Another round is a matching round, including such topics as placing a state in its proper place on the map, matching up a quotation to the person who said it, matching a TV show to the cast's "hang out," and solving a word puzzle. Another round

typically consists of "picture pages," in which teams attempt to name the person, place, or thing in the picture. Still another round is a category-specific round in which all the questions pertain to a single topic, such as sports, movies, literature, or Christmas.

At the end of the night the scores are tallied, and the team with the most points wins a prize.

September 24 is Celtic Pride Day...

The last Friday of every month is Celtic Pride Day. On Celtic Pride Days, students are allowed special modified dress.

As long as students are wearing Saint Lawrence-issued shirts, they may wear free dress pants and any closed-toe-and-back shoes they want. Students may wear shirts sponsored by any sport, club, or class or an activity such as homecoming or Cardboard Box City. .

...and it's also Celebrity Sandwich Day!

If you watch the Food Channel, you know that chefs have become celebrities. When students come to school on Sep. 24, they will have an opportunity to purchase the signature sandwich of one our very own local celebrities. Four teachers will be selected to make and sell their specialty sandwich in the Pavilion at lunchtime. Sandwiches cost a mere \$3, and the teacher who sells the most sandwiches earns a prize.

Saint Lawrence Academy launches new school management system

Saint Lawrence Academy, like many other schools in the Diocese of San Jose, is switching to SchoolOne as its school management system for attendance-taking, grade posting, communication services and more. What sets SchoolOne apart is that it combines the many different types of school communication and makes them easier for us all to access.

Although the learning curve for the system is somewhat steep, the school believes the benefits will far outweigh the challenges. Under SchoolOne, parents will readily be able to see if their child has a missing assignment, see if he or she has less than a C- grade in a course, check what volunteer opportunities are currently available, and monitor their volunteer hour status. There is an alert system that will let parents know when grades have been updated, when new information has been

added to the site, and when there is material that needs a response.

As you have already been notified, teachers and staff members will take a few weeks to master the system before the student and parent portals will be opened. When SchoolOne is available for student and parent use, we will send you a letter with log-on information for families.



High School Information Nights Begin This Month

Eighth graders will soon be deciding where to attend high school and submitting their applications. High School Information Nights, hosted by area Catholic elementary schools, begin this month. Saint Lawrence Academy, along with other high schools in the diocese, will be there to explain the unique attributes and benefits we offer.

Please invite the eighth graders you know and their parents to come to see one of these events, introduce themselves to us, and hear about our school. This year's High School Information Nights begin at 7:00 pm and end at 9:00 and are held at the following locations.

Sept. 14	Most Holy Trinity School
Sept. 16	St. Lucy School
Sept. 20	St. Catherine School
Sept. 23	St. Clare School
Sept. 28	Holy Spirit School
Sept. 30	St. John Vianney School
Oct. 5	Queen of Apostles School
Oct. 7	St. Simon School

Student directories distributed on August 23

Student directories were distributed to students in first period class on Mon., Aug. 23. If your student did not bring home your copy of the student directory, you may request one from our Main Office simply by calling 408-296-3013 and requesting a directory or by dropping by the Main Office.

Hockey team to host fourth annual Laps for Lyme and Lymphoma

Saint Lawrence's hockey team will hold its annual benefit event, Laps for Lyme and Lymphoma, on Sep. 24 from 8:00-11:00 p.m. at Rollin' Ice at the Silver Creek Sportsplex.

The team introduced this highly successful service project four years ago to benefit

the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society and the California Lyme Disease Association. It attracts participants not only from Saint Lawrence Academy but also from Archbishop Mitty, Bellarmine, Presentation, Notre Dame, Santa Theresa, Willow Glen, Santa Clara, and Homestead High Schools.

CAMPUS FUND RAISING

Annual magazine drive is short and sweet

■ Provides needed funds early in the school year

The magazine drive is an opportunity to enable your friends and family to enhance their home libraries while benefiting the school. The magazine drive is one of our important sources of fundraising revenue.

Our goal is for each student in the school to sell a minimum of five magazines. If we meet this goal, the school will earn approximately \$12,000.

Each family will be credited with the amount of fund raising individually earned during this drive. Families can earn 40% of the cost of each magazine toward their \$150

fundraising responsibility for the year. Not only does this give families a running start on meeting their commitments, it earns needed funds early in the year for the school program. Students can earn prizes-free dress passes, cash, and class competition points.

If a family chooses to donate toward their fundraising requirement rather than participate in the drive, the equivalent of selling five magazines is a \$40 donation.

This drive is short and sweet. It began Aug. 25 and ends Sept. 22. Please return your order forms as soon as possible.

Purchase your scrip

■ Families may purchase scrip through the Academy's Main Office

Purchasing scrip is a convenient way to benefit Saint Lawrence while you shop at the same places you patronize regularly.

You may download an order form from our Web site (www.saintlawrence.org—

school forms tab) or pick one up outside the Main Office. We are not able to fill orders on the spot, but orders can generally be filled within 24 hours.

IMPORTANT SEPTEMBER DATES

Sept. 1	8:30 am	Mass in the church
Sept. 3		Minimum Day —school dismissed at 12:15
Sept. 6		LABOR DAY —No classes
Sept. 7	7:00 pm	Parent Club Meeting in the Little Theater
Sept. 9	6:30 pm	Education Council meeting in the SLEMS faculty lounge
Sept. 10	8:30 am	Mass in the Church
Sept. 10	8:30 am-2:30 pm	Freshman Zacchaeus Retreat
Sept. 11	11:00 am-2:00 pm	Parent Club BBQ in the Pavilion
Sept. 14	6:30 pm	Men's Club Meeting in the Pavilion
Sept. 14	7:00-9:00 pm	High School Information Night at Most Holy Trinity School
Sept. 16	6:30 pm	Finance Council meeting in the Rectory
Sept. 16	7:00-9:00 pm	High School Information Night at St. Lucy School
Sept. 17	7:00-9:00 pm	Trivia Game Night in the Parish Hall
Sept. 17		Student Council Lock-in from 7:00 pm until 8 am on Sept. 18 in Academy building
Sept. 20		Toilet paper drive begins 
Sept. 20	7:00-9:00 pm	High School Information Night at St. Catherine School
Sept. 22		Magazine drive ends
Sept. 23	8:30 am-2:30 pm	Senior Breakaway Day from at Central Park
Sept. 23	7:00-9:00 pm	High School Information Night at St. Clare School
Sept. 24		Celtic Pride Day Celebrity Sandwich Day in the Pavilion
Sept. 24	8:00-11:00 pm	Laps for Lyme and Lymphoma at Rollin' Ice
Sept. 25		Campus Restoration Day
Sept. 26	6:00 pm	Academy-sponsored mass in the Church
Sept. 27	8:30 am	Make up picture day in the Parish Hall
Sept. 28	7:00-9:00 pm	High School Information Night at Holy Spirit School
Sept. 30	7:00-9:00 pm	High School Information Night at St. John Vianney School

