



Honor and Praise

www.slchs.org

February e-Newsletter

Notes from the President, *Ms. Deborah Frank*

Inside this

Issue:

Testing Day

Catholic Schools Week Special

Student of the Year

Student News

School Musical

Announcements

Calendar

Thank You's

Alumni News

Supporting St. Louis

Sights and Scenes of SLC

Christian-Witness, honesty, tolerance, respect, responsibility, self-discipline, courage, leadership, cooperation, compassion, and the list goes on, are all descriptors of the traits that are taught in Catholic schools throughout this great nation. "Catholic Schools: Faith, Academics, Service" is the theme that we celebrate during Catholic Schools Week January 29th - February 4th. For generations, Catholic schools have produced outstanding academics within the context of Catholic faith formation, Catholic practice, and service to others. In what other school setting, for example, are students taught to respect and honor life from conception to natural death as our students were last week during the anniversary week of Roe v. Wade? How many schools require service, or apostolic hours of its students? What other schools graduate all of its seniors, on time, as St. Louis Catholic did last school year?

As someone who attended Catholic schools and whose children, and now grandchildren in Texas and California are parochial school students, I am well aware of the sacrifices that parents make to ensure that their children experience a quality education in a Catholic school. However, the true value of a Catholic education exceeds just dollars and cents. St. Louis and other Catholic schools instill in students certain values that stay with them the rest of their lives and on which there is no way to place a dollar amount. (By the way, a Catholic education at St. Louis Catholic is a bargain: our tuition is among the lowest in the state for Catholic high schools of our size.) Nationally, there is about a \$2,000 gap between what tuition costs bring in and what it actually costs to educate a child in a Catholic high school, and the same holds true at St. Louis. To narrow this gap, we must solicit funds from other sources such as grants, subsidies, and donations. It is only through the dedication of our faculty and staff who earn much less than they would in a public school setting and the generosity of our benefactors that we are able to offer the outstanding programs, academic and extracurricular, that we have.

During Catholic Schools Week, let us be thankful to our parents for entrusting their children's education to us; to our alumni for their support; and to our students for being such fine young men and women. Let's also remember that St. Louis Catholic begins its re-enrollment process for continuing students on Wednesday, February 1st. This will end on Friday, February 10th.

The Principal's Point: *Mr. Ted Nixon*

As we begin the second semester of the school year 2011-2012, it is nice to say congratulations to all for a successful beginning to another year. To some of you that have just started the educational process at St. Louis Catholic High School, graduation seems a long way away. However from experience I can tell you that it will happen quickly. For it has been said by a wise man that "TIME flies when you are having FUN!" I know that all of you will be busy having fun this spring, so I must remind you of some important things. First, students and parents, make sure that ALL the Apostolic Hours of Service that are required by your students get finished BEFORE the required dates of completion. Secondly, Students are reminded to have all required assignments completed before they are due (term papers, projects, etc.) Third, it is most important to have the students here at St. Louis Catholic High School study and complete all assignments to ensure academic success. It will take hard work and perseverance, but with the grace of God all of the students will become winners. Finally, I would like you to know that March 21st and 22nd are important dates for St. Louis Catholic High school. On these days the Quality Assurance Review team of educators will come to visit and evaluate the entire school. This is important and allows St. Louis Catholic High School to be accredited which helps in the continuation of traditional excellence in our school. May you all have a great Spring season and May God Bless You Daily.

2012 Student of the Year

The 2011-2012 St. Louis Catholic High School Student of the Year recipient is senior **Jonathan Vogel**.

The Louisiana Student of the Year Award Program was established to identify and recognize an outstanding senior who represents all students in our diocesan school system. The criteria for selecting an *outstanding student* are based on academic achievement, service, character, leadership and communication skills. Candidates for Students of the Year must have a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 on a four-point scale and submit an application portfolio.

Jonathan is the son of Mr. and Mrs. David Vogel, and has served as student council senator of St. Louis Catholic High School for four years. He was selected to the National Honor Society and has also served as president of the Mu Alpha Theta Math Honor Society while at St. Louis. He has been captain of the swim team at SLCHS and been a member of the SLCHS baseball team. Jonathan was selected to serve as a SLCHS ambassador this year and has been a member of the St. Louis Key Club and Quiz Bowl team. Jonathan has also been active in Boy Scouts of America, earning his Eagle Scout Award, serving as Crew Leader on a 11 day backpacking trip to New Mexico, and developing and administering the Lake Charles Historical Hike. His volunteer efforts include work for Habitat for Humanity, Catholic Charities, and Special Olympics. On being selected as St. Louis Catholic High School Student of the Year, Jonathan will continue in the competition at the diocesan, regional, and state level.



Louisiana Teen Readers' Choice

The State Library of Louisiana has a new literacy program for teens called Louisiana Teen Readers' Choice. The purpose of this program is "to entice Louisiana teens to read and participate in the recognition of outstanding contemporary literature." Students, across Louisiana, can vote in the election for Louisiana's favorite teen book if they read or listened to at least 2 books on the 2012 list. Four of our students qualified to vote. As a thank you for voting Niki Bui, Amani Husein, Alex Loftin Jessica Mordente, and Ashlyn Stewart received a coupon for a free cappuccino from the library OR a free concession stand item at a basketball game. After February 1st, the votes will be tabulated, and we will let you know the winner for 2012. The library will begin promoting the 2013 list after February so that even more students can vote next year.



Above: Ashlyn Stewart voting,

Below: Amani Husein voting



Testing Results Day: First Ever at St. Louis

SLCHS held a special Test Results day on January 19. Each 9th-11th grade student received his/her test report and the test booklet from the test taken in October. English, Math, and Science teachers reviewed frequently missed test items on the EXPLORE, PLAN, and PSAT. Since the PSAT does not have a science portion on the test, a science teacher taught a lesson on ACT science review for juniors. Students also met with the Deans of Students, who discussed Apostolic Hours and Twerp concerns.

In the class period for Guidance, counselors helped students understand how to read and interpret their test results. Counselors also guided students in creating accounts on the LA Connect website, which is a new website replacing the LAePortal that students formerly used to create their 4 year Individual Graduation Plan. It has a career search, a college search, and tons of wonderful areas to explore for college and scholarships. Juniors were also guided in creating an account on the My College Quickstart website, which is linked to the student's PSAT report. This website contains detailed answer explanations, an SAT tutorial based on the student's PSAT results, and practice problems for the SAT. It also offers a career and major search and a college search for students.

Feedback from this first Test Results Day indicates it was a valuable time spent reviewing recent test results and test items frequently missed, which should translate into improved test scores in the future. Students should continue to access and explore the new LA Connect website, and parents should create a parent account on the site, following instructions sent out by counselors.

Drama Club Musical: The Little Mermaid, London Maust

The revived Saint Louis Drama club further proved its knack for success with its most recent production, a musical adaptation of *The Little Mermaid*, on January 21. A full house danced along in delight at both performances. Sailors Gabrielle Burnham, Breana Moreno, Ashlynn Stewart, Jessica Flaherty, Mylika Brown and Chandler Mayo set the bar high for the show when they tossed their lines out loud and proud amidst the opening score. Debut actress, Chloe Dore (Ariel), enraptured the crowd with her melodic voice and bright, red hair. But who would Ariel be without her friends? Wesley Guidry (Sebastian) and Emily Lancon (Flounder), both veterans to the stage, sang and glided right alongside Chloe as they brought the audience under the sea. Ariel's sisters, played by Maggie France, Isabelle Moreno, Ali Oertling, Raleigh Goodwin, Hailey Cooley and Lindsey Bower, lit up the stage as they wiggled their tailfins. As in all musicals, beautiful voices graced the stage from every direction. Male performers Jacob Kraft (King Triton) and Lex Townsley (Prince Eric) had the audience hanging from their seats as the boys sang about their love for Ariel. Laughs aplenty erupted as Mary Kate Core (Scuttle) tap danced her way through a comedic dance number and Alexis Nixon (Chef Louis) pretended to fight Wesley in a battle of power. Brooke Walker (Ursula) nearly brought the house down as she finished her first song with a Broadway worthy note. Together with her "eels", Alex Stokes (Flotsam) and London Maust (Jetsam), Brooke managed to spook even the adults as she claimed her role as villainess. Back on land, more laughter came as Cadie St.Romain (Carlotta) and Amy LeBleu (Grimsby) interpreted their roles as their own, each girl playing her character as a jealous, scorned woman in love with Prince Eric. By the time Raleigh (also Vanessa) stepped out to declare her evil plans, younger members of the audience had long ago abandoned their seats in favor of the floor near the stage. As the entire cast gathered onstage to sing the finale, they were greeted by standing ovations. Under the direction of Head Director, Holley Fontenot, Student Director, London Maust, and Stage Managers, Jennifer Gabb, Mercedes Lewis and Lee Metoyer, the Saint Louis Drama Club pulled off the performance of a century. All cast members remained in costume afterward and signed autographs and took pictures with their adoring fans, young and old! The Drama Club wishes to thank everyone who attended their performances, as well as those who contributed to making it such a success. Expect great things from the Drama Club in the future!



Saints in the Community

Honor and Praise

Our Baseball team just recently has been seen at St. Martin De Porres church worshipping together. Members brought up the offertory gifts and donated a basket of baby supplies to the parish in honor of Prolife Month during January.

"Thanks to the St. Louis Catholic High Art I and II students who hand made over 500 Christmas cards for Volunteers of America to deliver to the elderly, homeless, and disabled on Christmas. The V.O.A. staff said it was "touching" to see their clients receiving the cards and were very thankful for the generous donation of time and creativity."

We had a total of 24 students donate blood which is a great number for a school our size given the fact that we require parental consent for all who want to participate (including the 18 year old students). FYI, the blood donated to Life Share goes directly to the hospitals. The Life Share Staff is very appreciative of our willingness to help.



Mrs. Jaycox's Physics Class on KPLC, Catapults




Mrs. Linda Jaycox's Physics classes participated in group projects where they had to design and construct a catapult. The products ranged from small pencil catapults to 18 feet tall catapults. Amazing! KPLC even covered the launching debut. Senior Jacob Hughes and Mrs. Jaycox were interviewed.

February 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	Catholic Schools' Week		1 Registration for Returning Students Begins 	2 Honors Breakfast, Sr. Parent Fin. Aid Mtg. 6 pm	3 1:30 dismissal, JCL Banquet	4
5	6	7	8	9	10 Mass, Progress Reports, Regist. Ends	11 State Wrestling
12 Special Needs Mass	13	14 	15 One-to-One Parent Orientation Mtg. 6 pm 	16	17 Mass	18
19	20 No School, President's Day	21 No School, Mardi Gras	22 Ash Wed. Mass, ACEH	23 BCDEFG	24 ABDFGH	25 State Soccer
26	27	28 8th Grd. Retreat	29			

March 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 Early Dismissal	3 ACT prep
4	5	6	7	8 BB State Finals	9 Mass, BB State Finals	10 ACT Prep, BB State Finals, Gulf Coast Classic
11	12 Cheer Parent Mtg. (tryouts)	13	14 Hall of Fame	15	16 3rd Qtr. Ends, 8th grd. Cheer clinic	17 ACT prep 
18	19	20	21	22	23 Mass, Report cards, Cheer Clinic, Taussig	24 ACT prep, Cheer Tryouts
25	26 Sweetheart Tryouts	27	28	29	30 Mass	31 ACT prep



One mission of St. Louis Catholic High School is to prepare our students to become leaders of the future. The students will face problems in college and the workplace, and technology will be the tool they use to solve these issues. St. Louis has a strong vision for how technology use will advance our academics. In this vision, we plan to incorporate modern learning tools such as digital multimedia, computer tablets, and social media into our everyday lives here at school. Students will have access to interactive white boards and full multimedia labs in order to produce high quality video and audio podcasts. We want to offer a variety of computer courses, such as computer applications and networking, in addition to our normal course load here at school. We strongly feel that implementing this initiative will prepare our students to excel in tomorrow's professional and competitive world.

The first phase of our initiative, currently in progress, involves planning and teacher orientation. In this new school year, teachers will integrate laptop use into their routine teaching activities allowing them the chance to cope with developing technology and curriculum. This, in turn, will create confident teachers who use advanced teaching tools in the classroom environment. In phase two, the students will receive the laptops during their own technology orientation and will then use these laptops in their daily lessons. For the third and final phase of the initiative, students will be trained to repair and maintain their own laptops here at school.

Traditionally, St. Louis students have always exhibited academic excellence within the community. Excellence has been achieved through the opportunity to grow in an institution that encourages spiritual formation, stewardship, and learning while building lasting friendships. We are challenged in Catholic education to not only uphold our faith traditions, but to keep up with this fast-paced world of advanced technology. We call upon alumni support to aid us during the growing stages of our One to One initiative.

St. Louis's future is bright, and we need you, our valued alumni, to be a part of this giant step into the twenty-first century. Please consider us in your donations of prayer, time, and money. The attached "HALO" Mail form will serve as your bequest to financially support our school, and as always we treasure your continued confidence in our mission to build an even greater St. Louis Catholic High School.

This article appeared in our HALO alumni mailing that was sent out in June 2011. If you did not receive one and are an alumni, then we need to take some steps to update your information in our alumni database. Please email Geneva Breaux at gbreaux@slchs.org with your contact information. Please include a complete name, address, phone number, and email address so that we can include you in our alumni publications.

The form below can be printed and mailed to St. Louis Catholic with your check. There is also a form on our school website for your convenience to print and mail along with your gift to Catholic education and our wonderful students. (You do not have to be a St. Louis Catholic alum in order to contribute.)

We at SLCHS truly appreciate the generosity demonstrated by you, the alumni, throughout the years.



HALO 2011

PLEASE RETURN THIS SECTION WITH YOUR TAX DEDUCTIBLE GIFT

Amount Pledged/Enclosed: \$75 \$100 \$200 \$250 \$500
\$ _____

My employer, _____, will match my gift. Please enclose form.

Make checks payable to: **ST. LOUIS HALO MAIL 2011**, 1620 Bank Street, Lake Charles, LA 70601

- ◆ Registration for returning students begins **February 1, 2012**. All families should receive a registration form in the mail. Please fill those out completely and accurately and return to our school office. Registration ends Friday, **February 10, 2012**. 
- ◆ "2012 Art Show is scheduled for Tuesday Evening, April 17th. Exhibits and performances to include: original student artwork, choir and **nose harp?** Presentations. Swing by for an evening of relaxation and live entertainment. You have GOT to see the talent, it will blow you away!"
- ◆ We are selling memorial bricks to honor members of our St. Louis family. Bricks available to etch are already placed in the *Our Lady of Life Prayer Garden* in front of the school to serve as a tribute to those we love, both living and deceased. Currently, there are 31 bricks waiting in the garden to be named. The cost of the memorial is \$1,000.00. For more information, please call Geneva Breaux at 436-7275 ext. 244 or visit our school website. Select the Support St. Louis tab at the top of our homepage.
- ◆ Yearbook is currently selling ads for the 2011-2012 yearbook, *2012 Blue Us Away*. Please contact M. Core at mcore@slchs.org for more information. Yearbook reservations forms are now available.
- ◆ Don't gamble with Google! Bet on Landry Library's Databases! If you need help with research, use Gale, WorldBook Online, or EBSCO, provided by the Diocese of Lake Charles and SLCHS Landry Library. You can access these resources through the library's website. Go to www.slchs.org. Click on *Landry Library*. Then, click on *Research Databases*. Please contact the librarians, Mrs. Guillory or Mrs. LeJeune, for username and password information at 436-7275 Ext. 233.
- ◆ The library is open until 5 PM on Mondays and Wednesdays. We collect Community Coffee UPCs! If you drink Community Coffee, please save the UPC labels and turn them in to the library or office. Last year, Community Coffee gave us \$205.60 for those labels. This money is used to purchase books/materials for the library. Thank you!
- ◆ St. Louis Catholic High School is seeking applicants for the Director of Development. Interested parties are invited to access the school website, www.slchs.org, to download an application and the complete job description. Applications and resumes should be forwarded to Deborah Frank, President, no later than April 1, 2012.
- ◆ In preparation for our exciting school year coming up here at St. Louis Catholic, we will have a One-to-One Parent Orientation meeting Wednesday, February 15, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. in the Commons. Students, teachers, and administration from St. Thomas More will share their successes with their One-to-One program that they launched this year. Also present will be the Fujitsu representatives with whom we have been working for the past year. All parents and faculty are invited to attend. more 

ALUMNI NEWS

- ◆ Alumni, we are currently updating our database. We want to properly communicate with you so that you can be aware of all our alumni events. Expect growth in this area of our community with new and exciting events! If you have recently had a change of address or phone, please let us know. We also would like to have your email address so that we can send out an alumni e-newsletter. We appreciate any help we can get in this area. It will not happen overnight, but little by little, we will collect those emails! If you have not received a HALO publication in the last few years or even this year, you need to correct your contact information with us. Please contact Geneva Breaux, Alumni Director at gbreaux@slchs.org or call at 337-436-7275 ext. 244.
- ◆ Any alumni interested in helping with alumni events through planning and organizing??? If so, please contact Geneva Breaux at the address and phone number above.
- ◆ Looking for Class Representatives to help with alumni events. Please email Geneva if you are interested.
- ◆ Congrats to Andy DeRouen, c/o 2011, for being named LSU Ambassador



We, along with the rest of the country, celebrate Catholic Schools' Week. The theme this year is Catholic Schools: Faith. Academics. Service. This is a perfect time to reflect on our many gifts we have here at St. Louis. We have been given a chance to learn and grow in an environment that upholds the ideals and traditions of our Catholic faith. We are able to pray together, and learn together, as friends of Jesus Christ. And every day we strive to live out our mission to Honor and Praise God...in all ways. Thank you God for this awesome opportunity!

Faith. Academics. Service.

Catholic Schools

- Currently, there are 6,980 Catholic schools in the United States.
- Parents choose Catholic schools for any and all of the following reasons: faith formation, high academic standards, values-added education, and safe school environment.
- The national Catholic school graduation rate is 99.1% of high school students. Of these graduates, 84.7% go on to college, compared to 44.1% of public school graduates.

Thank you to Mr. Morris LeBleu with the Diocese of Lake Charles for providing photos of the Catholic Schools' Week Mass at the Cathedral on Tuesday, January 31, 2012. After Mass all 8th graders were invited to St. Louis for lunch and tours of the school. Special thanks to the St. Louis Ambassadors for all their help.



- ◆ Thank you to Dr. LeRue Stevens who has so generously provided a donation to place lights in the gym parking lot.
- ◆ Thank you to Student Council, sponsored by Mr. Casey Vincent, for providing the pizzas for our annual 8th Grade Visitation this year during Catholic Schools' Week.
- ◆ Thank you to Mr. Gatti's Pizza for providing the pizzas to St. Louis at a discounted price.



SLC Snapshots

Honor and Praise God...in All Ways

Called as friends of Jesus Christ and led by the knowledge and wisdom of the Holy Spirit, St. Louis Catholic High School gathers to honor and praise God the Father.

Twirp 2012



Our spirited students dressed as their favorite Disney character, above. Right: One of Mrs. Robertson's art classes who made Christmas cards for the KPLC Christmas. Left: Jamie and Mrs. Lemoine at the Transitions book store.