

LA SALLE Parent Newsletter

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

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2007

Principal Ideas

Parent support of their children in education is critical to college bound academic success. The Yakima Herald carried an article this week that summarized a recent study that once again makes that same point. The study further mentioned that private schools operated under the heritage and support of religious community do the best at preparing students for college. The De La Salle Christian Brother tradition of education spans over 325 years and finds a home in the lives of people in over 80 countries around the world. We do our best at La Salle to uphold that tradition within the context of the rich heritage of Catholic education of the Yakima valley.

So what about the “L”?

The school has been particularly silent about the “L” that turned into an “Ev” and is now gradually turning into an “Lv” with each passing rain storm. The school has nothing to do with it— never had, never will. In fact, this week we are discouraging the students from going up there to do any further modifications. We hope the parents will help us. The new landowner of the property is not pleased with unwelcomed visitors and may prosecute anyone trespassing. We have passed on this information to the students. We can show our spirit and pride in other ways.

The Pick-a-thon really punctuated the value and difficulty of manual labor with many of the students. The work is dignified and important to the everyone’s daily life. Our follow up to the experience tells us we need to do a better job of preparing students for the actual technique of picking properly so that apples are not wasted. With thousands of people in Washington State dependent on the services of food pantries and soup kitchens, our students were exposed to

their role as leaders of agriculture and education. What each did in picking one day of apples is significant.

The upcoming Service Immersions, the first going to Seattle, experiences the other side of the distribution chain. Last year, the Seattle Urban Immersion group helped bag a half million carrots for distribution from the Northwest Harvest warehouse there.

Progress Reports and Conferences

This past six week progress report told us that students are, in general, working hard at their studies. When colleges and universities look at high school transcripts, they will often not accept students with D’s in core subjects. Now is the time to make sure homework and projects are being done and turned in. The upcoming Parent-Student-Teacher Conferences (notice that “Student” is the center of the title) will bring together the three key people in academic development of the student, the most important of the three being the student. Please note the details of this night in the Newsletter.

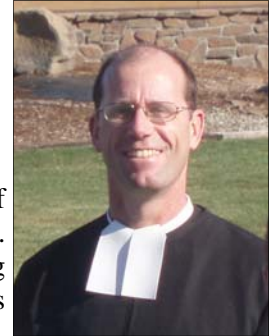
Volunteer Form

Parent Volunteer forms were sent home twice and are not coming back to us. Our Parent Board is really having a hard time with coordinating the needs we have with events for volunteers. Please turn in the forms so we can move forward with planning.

Live Jesus in Our Hearts,



Br. James Joost, FSC
Principal



“D” GRADES
ARE NOT
COLLEGE
BOUND
FRIENDLY





THANK YOU
NORTHWEST
HARVEST
AND
FIRST HARVEST

Pick-a-thon



Though the students did not reach their goal in collecting Pick-a-thon sponsorships, a much needed second school van was purchased this week with the money raised . Along with monies donated specifically for the van, a grant received from the Cahalan Trust, the generosity of the dealership that found the van for us (used but only 23,000 miles on it), and impending grant opportunity, we are able to cover most of the expense at this point. Further donations are still being accepted.

The van will go into immediate use for the Lower Valley morning commute that picks up students. Also, Mr. Lowry's English classes have started tutoring at the Union Gap school twice a month and will be using both vans to transport students. Making La Salle accessible to the Lower Valley and reaching out in service to our community, are important to us.

103 Bins Picked

- 34 bins: Seniors (20 big, 20 small)
- 30 bins: Freshmen (30 big)
- 25 bins: Sophomores (24 big)
- 9 bins*: Juniors (9 big)

*Juniors had the last day and finished off the orchard quickly before cleaning up the property for the orchardist.

Thank you to the businesses that provided lunch:

- McDonald's on 56th and Summitview
- Burger King on 26th and Nob Hill



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

Looking to the Future

Welcome Back!



It seems that just moments ago administrators and teachers were saying goodbye to their students in June and here we are welcoming them, as well as our new families, back to a brand new school year...*La Salle's tenth year!* Faculty and staff at La Salle want to wish each family your most successful school year ever. While you have been busy preparing your student for the next steps of his/her high school journey, we, at La Salle, have been preparing for the upcoming year as well.

At our spring and summer board meetings, through our budget process, the board reaffirmed the strategic direction of our young school. At the heart of this affirmation is our commitment to giving a **quality, college preparatory education** to a **diversity** of students in our valley. For those who attended our "back to school night," I'm sure you will attest to the outstanding quality of our teachers, staff and administrators. We understand that *this* is where "the rubber" of our commitment to academic excellence meets the "road" of our students...and we don't hold back.

Our commitment to **diversity** means that we don't just accept families who can foot the tuition bill. This year we will distribute \$350,000 of financial support to our families. Twenty-five percent of our students are from families near or below the federal poverty level. **Diversity** at La Salle means we work hard to reach out to all kinds of students. What they all have in common is a desire to learn and serve, and La Salle is the place to build the foundation for that education. Economic diversity means we have to dig a little harder to meet our challenges, but we do it because that's what we're all about.

Academic quality and faith in the presence of God, two of our core values, also mean a commitment to *expand and improve* our impact to students and their families. That not only means superb teachers but a commitment of **excellence in our facilities**. The summer of 2007 has been an opportunity to tell our story, especially to those who have the ability to help with the next steps of our campus development. The reception has been excellent! Our supporters are pleased with our impact and ready to assist with the next steps our campus development...a student center and science facility. As we bring these investments together, I will do my best to keep you, our Lasallian community "in the loop."

Thank you for entrusting your student to our care. Beyond giving your child the gift of a De La Salle Christian Brothers education, there is a wonderful gift here for you...the gift of a Lasallian community. We are looking forward to our best year yet in serving our families and your children.

God bless you and all our families.

Sincerely,

Tim McGree
President



OVER 35% OF OUR STUDENTS FAMILIES RECEIVE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM OUR GENEROUS DONORS WHO VALUE A QUALITY CATHOLIC EDUCATION



QUALITY EDUCATION IN THE ARTS: FRESHMEN WORK ON WASHINGTON STATE HISTORY MASK PROJECTS

Dean of Studies

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

**ONGOING
 ACADEMIC
 EXCELLENCE**

ACADEMIC LETTER

La Salle awarded its first ever Academic Letters at the September Academic Awards Ceremony. The purpose of the Academic Letter is to recognize exceptional and ongoing academic excellence at La Salle. Similar to an athletic letter, students will receive a patch with the Block LS and the word Academics. A student can display this patch on their school jacket or frame it for home. In addition to high academic achievement, students must also provide evidence in how they use their academic gifts and talents for others.

The following students are the first ever recipients of the Academic Letter:



Bonny, Alexis	12
Bonny, Megan	12
Chambard, Lauren	12
Champoux, Melissa	12
Eschbach, Katherine	12
Gibbons, Carlee	12
LaCour, Lucinda	12
McElrath, Ariana	12
Nichols, Lauren	12
Picatti, Robert	12
Rivard, Nicole	12
Stohr, Jasmine	12
Taylor, Melissa	12
Sawyer, Evan	11
Stillwaggon, Emily	11

**PARENT-STUDENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES
 TUES., OCT. 16 (4-7 PM) AND
 WED., OCT. 17 (1-4 PM)**

Parent-Student-Teacher Conferences:
 Students, and their parent(s) are required to meet with teachers from who they have received any D or F grades. Other parents/students are welcome.

To set up a conference with your student's teacher(s):
 Call Mrs. Paniagua at 225-2900 (Main Office). She will schedule as calls come in. When you arrive on campus for the conference, please check in first at the Main Office for a teacher room assignment and a map.

Mr. Briffett will be away after 2:15 pm each day so please schedule accordingly if you wish to meet with him.

PowerSchool– New Features

Logging onto La Salle's PowerSchool website last month, both parents and students notice a new addition. Now listed right above the current grades is a student's academic eligibility status. This simple addition informs both the student and the family of their status. It is updated at each grading period. With the Week 6 grades, PowerSchool now provides a link to see the historical eligibility status of the current school year. We hope this will help parents identify possible patterns as we progress through the year. Continue to log into PowerSchool and see new features in the months ahead.

**POWERSCHOOL
 PROVIDES 24/7
 ACCESS TO
 STUDENT
 GRADES AND
 MORE.**



QUALITY EDUCATION IN ACADEMICS: SOPHOMORES COLLECTING DATA OF A BIOLOGY PROJECT RELATED TO THE PICK-A-THON.

Dean of Students

Mr. Matt Schulte
mschulte@lasalleyakima.org
(509) 225-2909

As we continue into the first semester, a couple discipline area notes need to be emphasized:



Attendance: we now have the attendance line up and running. If your student needs to be absent and you have not previously cleared it with the school, please call 225-2920 by 9:00 AM (call the main line after 9:00 AM) to let us know why your student will not be at school.

**ATTENDANCE
LINE:
225-2920
BEFORE 9 AM**

Cell Phones/Electronics: Please remind your students that cell phones are not to be used during the school day. School policy states that if a phone or other electronic device is taken from a student, it will be held by Mr. Schulte until a parent can come a pick it up.



Notes From Sister Ann Marie (225-2915) Student Support Services

There will be a special **Testing Day** schedule on Wed., Oct. 18. The schedule will be posted on the school website.

Juniors will take the PSAT/NMSQT. The PSAT (collegeboard.com) prepares students for the SAT, generates college search information and is used in determining some scholarship opportunities. Students who take the PSAT receive a subscription to *My Road*, a powerful search engine that helps them in the college search process.

Sophomores will take the PLAN. The PLAN (act.org) 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 to them.

Freshmen will take EXPLORE. EXPLORE (act.org) helps students identify academic strengths and areas for improvement, consider careers that match their interests, and plan their classes for the next three years to ensure college readiness.

Seniors are encouraged to make **college campus visits** on Oct. 17. It is a great way to gain first hand experience about colleges and universities. Contact the admissions office of the school(s) two weeks before the visit to arrange the most productive visit.

College Counseling

All seniors should be working to identify and narrow down the list of colleges in which they are interested. They are meeting with Sr. Ann Marie for individualized help in the college search and application process. They will have additional meetings with her as they move through the process.

Workshops are offered during lunch to help students focus on particular aspects of this important part of the senior year. Workshop topics include the college application process October 29 and 31, and looking for scholarships in January. An additional workshop on making effective college campus visits is available before spring break to juniors and seniors. The workshops are optional. Each is offered twice so it is easier for students to find a time in their schedules to attend. Check the school calendar on the web site for dates.

Students are able to learn more about opportunities for their education after high school when representatives from colleges and universities visit our campus. The web site calendar is updated when visits are confirmed. Check often for the latest information. Students sign up to attend the visits in Room 303. Confirmed visits include the University of Portland, Carroll College, St. Mary's College, Seattle University and Washington State University Tri-Cities.

The second annual lunch time college fair will be November 8. Watch the school web site to know which schools confirm their participation.

Seniors who have not taken the SAT or ACT or those who want to take one the tests again should register to take one or both of these tests used in the college admissions process. Registration deadlines and links for online registration on the school calendar.

**TESTS PAVE
THE WAY FOR
SAT AND ACT**

**SENIORS PLAN
AHEAD.**

Homecoming Events 2007

Contact: Ms. Cuevas (rcuevas@lasalleyakima.org)

This year our Homecoming theme is a **Rumble in the Jungle**. This school year we are focusing on Inclusive community and what a better way to be inclusive than Homecoming. Please note the following activities for Homecoming week, and again encourage your child to participate in all of our activities during this week of fun.

Theme Dress Days All Week:

Students may dress up according to the theme. Otherwise they are to be in regular school dress code. Regardless of the theme of the day, Please not the following limitations:

- Gender cross dressing is not allowed.
- Clothing with degrading messages or references to alcohol or drugs are not allowed.
- Shoes need to have a heel or heel strap (no flip flops).

Monday, Oct. 8: Animal Dress Day (animal print/ animal costumes)

Tuesday, Oct. 9: Thrifty Tuesday (dress in your favorite thrift store wear)

Wednesday, Oct. 10: Neon Day

Thursday, Oct. 11: Tacky Tourist Day (remember—no flip flops)

Friday, Oct. 12: Go Bananas (i.e. Spirit Day: wear silver and/or blue, La Salle wear recommended)

Fri., October 12

Rally and Special Event

Besides our Homecoming

Rally before lunch, Mister O'Brien is sponsoring a special alumni gathering for guests who graduated from the former Catholic high schools of the Yakima area. From 1:00-3:00, our guests will meet mainly in Lightning Hall but will also be touring the school.

Homecoming Game

This year we will be playing Kittitas @ 7p.m. @ Marquette Stadium. Don't miss our half time entertainment, Floats, car show, Crowning of the Homecoming Court, and Music by our very own La Salle High School Band.

Sat., October 13

"Mister Tom O'Brien" Classic Golf Tournament

A special event beginning at 9:00 AM —see details at: <http://lasalleyakima.com/home/Alumni+Association/Mister%27s+Alumni+Golf+Tourney>



Homecoming Dance (8-11 PM)

Please encourage your child to come to the dance, with a date or a group of friends either way he/she will be bound to have fun.

Tickets will be on sale during Spirit Week (Oct. 8-12)

*Ticket prices are \$10 for a single and \$15 per couple



GUEST PASSES: If your student plans on bringing a guest from another school they need to see Ms. Cuevas for a guest pass. Guest passes are \$1 and they may be purchased starting October 1st.

- All guest passes must be in 48 hours prior to the dance.
- If a student's guest pass is not in 48 hours prior to the dance guest will not be allowed into the dance.

DANCE NIGHT GUIDELINES: Dance hours are from 8 p.m.- 11 p.m.

Arrival and Departure Reminders: Doors close at 8:30PM and reopen at 10:30PM

- The gates to the school will be locked at 8:30 p.m. and reopened at 10:30 p.m. Those planning to arrive later than 8:30 p.m. or leave prior to 10:30 p.m. need to make *prior* arrangements with the Dean of Students.

PHOTO I.D. CARD IS REQUIRED

Dress Up for this dance.

Appropriate dress for girls includes:

- Girls may wear halter, strapless and spaghetti strap dresses as long as the dress is modest, in good taste and appropriate for the girl's body type.

Inappropriate dress that is not allowed:

- T-Shirts with inappropriate words or symbols are not allowed. (i.e., those that might suggest or promote alcohol, drugs or sex)
- Skirt or dresses shorter than four inches above the knee
- Midriff bearing clothing or sheer/see-through fabric
- Plunging neckline—front or back

If a student is admitted and his/her apparel "regresses" to reveal any of the above, that student will be excused from the dance upon parent notification.

Other Dance Policies (see the Student-Parent Handbook, pg. 25)

SENIORS
SPEARHEAD
DANCE
PLANNING

"MISTER"
BRINGS
TOGETHER
CATHOLIC
SCHOOL
ALUMNI

Parents Association

Parent Volunteering Opportunities

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

President: **Jim Widhalm** at (509) 952-8891 or jimwidhalm@filtrona.com

Academics/Arts Boosters: **Jay and Jill Carroll** at (509) 248-6030 or jcarroll@vhlegal.com

Athletic Boosters: **Chuck Stillwaggon** 697-9660 or stillwaggon@elltel.net



SAINT JOHN BAPTIST DE LA SALLE CREDITED MUCH OF HIS RELIGIOUS DEVELOPMENT TO HIS GRANDMOTHER WHO HE WOULD SPEND HOLIDAYS WITH ON HER FARM WHEN HE WAS A BOY. SHE WOULD READ TO HIM FROM THE "LIVES OF THE SAINTS."

OPEN HOUSE

SUN., Nov. 4, 2007 * 1:00-4:00 PM

Tell your friends and neighbors with Junior High students (particularly 8th graders) to come to our 11th annual Open House. **We also need Volunteers** in two different ways:

- 1) On Fri., Nov. 3 bring cookies or juice to the Administrative Offices (the tuition building). Make sure your name, your student's name and grade are on it so you can receive a volunteer hour.
- 2) Help the day of the Open House— BUT call and let Ms. Cuevas (225-2928) know you can help as she only needs a limited number of parent helpers. One need is for Spanish/English translation.

Athletic Boosters Fundraising Totals as of Sept. 29

- \$5,000** Fall Fest (Great job for a first time event!!)
- \$850** Concessions at games (Great job Volunteer crews!!)
- \$5,300** Gate Receipts from games (football, volleyball and soccer)
- \$5,000** Advertising Banners

TOTAL
Over \$16,000

Upcoming Event: "Mister's"
Classic Golf Tourney (Oct. 13)

Host an International Student

CIEE is a group that recruits and places International high school students in USA schools and homes. They are also looking for a pool of families they can call on to act as host families. Though next year seems far away, now is the time to consider being a host family for a student for 2008-2009. Please contact Br. James if you have an interest in exploring this option. 225-2998 or brojames@lasalleyakima.org. He will direct you on to the local CIEE Coordinator, Denise Ball. Expectations for host families can be found at <http://www.ciee.org/hostfamily/>.



Liquid Gold!!!

Christmas gift idea #28: LIQUID LIGHTNING coffee.

Order forms are available on our website. Try the new "Double Bolt Bold" blend. Also, at events, pick up a coffee or Italian soda at the **Lightning Jolt coffee bar**. If you are interested in helping as a coffee barista, call Trina Cooper at 833-6474.

The Arts and Academic Boosters are also sponsoring the Indian John Hill rest stop during Thanksgiving weekend (also the Apple Cup Weekend this year). Proceeds help offset the expense of their Spring Break concert trip to our schools in the San Francisco Bay Area. If you would like to help with the Thanksgiving coffee serving in the great outdoors call Jay Carroll (248-6030).



Fri., October 12
7:00 PM Homecoming Game

Sat., October 13
8:00-11:00 PM Homecoming Dance

Mon., October 15
6:30-7:30 PM Athletic Boosters Meeting

Tues., October 16 EARLY DISMISSAL Schedule
4:00-7:00 pm Parent-Teacher-Student Conferences

Wed., October 17 SPECIAL SCHEDULE
8:00-12:00 Student Testing Day
Grade 9: EXPLORE test
Grade 10: PLAN test
Grade 11: PSAT test
Grade 12: College Visit Day (Seniors not at school)
1:00-4:00 PM Parent-Teacher-Student Conferences
7:00 PM Seattle Urban Immersion Parent Meeting

Thurs., October 18
8:00 AM FINAL Wreath Sale Collection Day

Tues., October 23
3:00 PM Progress Reports Due (given to students to bring home Wednesday)

October 29-November 2
Faith and Action Week (Homelessness)

October 29
Thanksgiving Food Drive begins

Thurs., November 1 Block "E" Assembly Schedule
11:15 AM All Saints Liturgy

Sun., November 4
1:00-4:00 Open House

Mon., November 5
6:00-7:00 PM Athletic Boosters Meeting
7:00-8:30 PM Mandatory Winter Sport Meeting

Mon., November 12 NO SCHOOL (Veteran's Holiday)

Tues., November 13
3:00 PM Progress Reports due (mailed home Wednesday)

Thurs., November 15
Field Trip: Honors Biology to Seattle (Hutch High)

Mon., November 19
Senior Grad announcement packets passed out by Jostens

Wed., November 21 SPECIAL SCHEDULE
Heroic Vow Thanksgiving Prayer Service

Thurs.-Fri., November 22-23 NO SCHOOL (Thanksgiving)



Christmas Wreath Sales

The wreath sale is a major parent fundraiser for the school. The total after the first Collection Days leaves room for a lot of improvement for the next one:

- Freshman have sold 129 and are at 19% of required amount.
- Sophomore have sold 0 and are at 0% of required amount.
- Juniors have sold 59 and are at 11% of required amount.
- Seniors have sold 9 and are at 2% of required amount.

Final orders need to come in by Wed., Oct. 18. Each grade has the ability to earn 5% of their net profit from their wreath sales toward their class funds. The more wreaths sold, the better it is for the class sponsored student activities.

Parents are reminded that the wreath sales are one of two required fundraisers. The minimum number of wreaths to be sold by each family is 12 or \$240. Sell the 12 wreaths and avoid a \$20-per-wreath-not-sold-charge.



Athletics Forms and Permissions

To play Winter Sports (Boys or Girls Basketball), potential athletes are reminded of the following:
Students already playing Fall Sports:

- soccer, volleyball, and football uniforms must be turned in before participation in basketball can occur.
- \$75 fee for Winter sport must be turned in

Students already playing Fall Sports:

- Forms (includes physical) must be turned in and are available outside the Main Office
- \$75 fee for Winter sport must be turned in

Winter Sport Mandatory Meeting is at 7:00 Pm on Mon., Nov. 5 in Lightning Hall following the 6 pm Athletic Booster meeting.

GET READY
FOR WINTER
SPORT
PARTICIPATION