



PARENT NEWSLETTER

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May-June 2010



April Showers Give Way to May Flowers and End-of-the-Year Activities

Message from the Principal

Dear Parents,

As another school year draws to a close, we are reminded of the many blessings that we share at Saint Lawrence Academy. We are thankful to the students who pass through our doors each day. We are grateful to the parents, friends, and community members who support the Academy on a daily basis.

We are reminded of the community members whom we lost during the past year - graduates, parents, relatives, and friends. May they find eternal rest with the Lord.

We also look ahead to the future. We are eager to watch our seniors go off into the world to become the successes that we know they can be. We look forward to seeing the Class of 2011 step into new leadership roles. And we are excited about meeting and getting to know the Class of 2014.

We wish you all a safe and blessed summer. Whether you are graduating, returning or entering our building as a new student, we wish you success, blessings, and safety.

God Bless You,

Christie H. Filios



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Minimum Day Schedule on May 14

Fri., May 14 is a minimum day schedule because of a major school activity—the prom. School will be dismissed at 12:15 p.m. Please pick up your student early.

Academic Awards Night Coming on May 18

■ Honorees will be notified by mail. Be sure to reply to invitation.

Academic Awards Night will take place on the evening of May 18 at 7:00 p.m. in the Community Center. Students who will be receiving academic, extracurricular, or special awards will receive a personal invitation in the mail.

This is a significant recognition for students. If invited, please RSVP promptly. We hope everyone will be able to attend, but we will announce the names only of those students who respond to the invitation and let us know they will be present.

Remember the Memorial Day Holiday

There is no school on Mon., May 31 in observance of Memorial Day. The school building will be closed.

DEVELOPMENT

A Big THANK YOU from the Development Office

Sr. Grayce Ross

Where has the year gone? Seems like only yesterday when “Beginning of the 2009-10 Year” events were taking place.

No matter where the school year has gone, I hope and pray that it has been a good year for you. I especially want to say thank you for your support of all the work that the Development Office does. It was wonderful to have so many of you involved in our joint Saint Lawrence Education Center events: Comedy Club and Rodeo Round-Up OLE. Your sharing of time, talent and treasure to make these events so successful is a true gift. It is always a joy to work with you!

Thank you to all who have participated in our “Embrace the Challenge” Annual Ad-

vancement Campaign. This has certainly been a year of embracing challenges... in a variety of ways and for a variety of reasons. I dare say we each have had our unique challenges to embrace. And as you well know, the AAC goes on. We are always pleased to receive contributions that help enrich our wonderful Saint Lawrence Education Center.

Know that I carry our Saint Lawrence Education Center Community in my heart and in my prayers. So no matter where you are in the future, God knows who you are. No need for a “Memory Stick!” God often says to me: “I hear you, Grayce!”

God bless you one and all...

Sr. Grayce



Academy Welcomes Class of 2014

The Saint Lawrence Academy community welcomed the Class of 2014 at its annual class mass and brunch on Sunday, April 25.

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All Juniors Should Sign Up for Senior Portraits

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Juniors should plan to sign up for their senior portrait on either May 5th or 6th at lunch. Representatives from The Pro Image will be on campus to sign up students for their portraits.

All juniors must have their picture taken by The Pro Image for next school year's school yearbook. Families are not required, however, to purchase pictures in order to have the portrait published in the yearbook.

Calendar Highlights for Seniors and Their Parents

The end of the school year is busy, especially for our senior class. Here are some important dates for the Class of 2010 and its parents to keep track of.



May 14

On this evening, the Junior/Senior Prom will be held at the Los Gatos Opera House in Los Gatos. The dance begins at 7:00 p.m. and ends at 11:00 p.m. Doors close at 7:30 p.m., at which time dinner will be served. Students must attend school on May 14 to be allowed to participate in the dance that evening.

May 17

Senior Cut Day. See article below.

June 1

Baccalaureate practice in church from 12:30-2:30 p.m. following semester exams. Students will get their graduation gowns at this rehearsal

June 2

Graduation practice in the piazza from 12:30-2:30 p.m. following semester exams. The class will take its formal graduation picture at this practice.

June 3

Baccalaureate Mass at 7:00 p.m. in the church. Seating is on a first-come, first-served basis, so try to arrive early.

June 5

Graduation ceremony at 10:00 a.m. in the piazza. Seating is on a first-come, first-served basis, so arrive early if you can. There is no limit to the number of guests that a student may invite.

May 17 Is Senior Cut Day

The Senior Class will hold its Senior Cut Day on Mon., May 17. Seniors will not have classes on this day.

This is the only day that seniors can miss with school approval. For any questions about Senior Cut Day, please contact Mrs. Filios.

Have fun, seniors!!!



The Gift of Leadership: Men's Club President David Page "Graduates"

Mr. Kevin Sawyer, father of Kameron Sawyer ('08), founded the Saint Lawrence Academy Men's Club four years ago. Mr. Sawyer served as President of the organization for the first two years. His dynamic, energetic leadership style enabled the Men's Club to get off to a very successful start.

In May 2008, in anticipation of Kevin's departure from SLA after his son's graduation, the members of the Men's Club elected Mr. David Page, father of Roxanne Page



('10) to take over the leadership role in the group. Mr. Page had some big shoes to fill, but that didn't stop him from

using his own unique leadership style to help the group thrive for the next two years. Dave's enthusiasm and superb communication and organizational skills have served the group well. He clearly understands the value of leading by example.

In the past two years, the Men's Club has hosted successful events, such as the annual Father-Daughter Dance, an annual father-son event, and two very successful bowl-a-thon fundraisers. Monthly Men's Club meetings provide Saint Lawrence dads and guardians with an opportunity to socialize, enjoy dinner together, and listen to a variety of guest speakers. The organization also

assists the Parent Club with the annual Education Center dinner & auction.

Dave's enthusiasm is contagious. Finding volunteers for various activities was never a problem for Dave, because he never "sent" volunteers off to do a job—instead, he would "lead" them and work side-by-side with them on whatever needed to be done.

We would like to thank Dave for all he has done these past two years to share his gifts with the Men's Club community. We are also grateful that he had the foresight to train his successor. Mr. Fred Ryan, father of Max ('12), will take over leadership of the Men's Club this month. The club has been blessed with consistently strong leadership since its inception. We are confident that will continue during Mr. Ryan's tenure.

As John Quincy Adams once said, "If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a

**Come to the
Junior Ring
Ceremony on
April 30**

All parents and families of juniors are invited to attend this year's Junior Ring Ceremony to be held on Fri., April 30 at 8:30 a.m. in the church. Join us as we recognize the junior class, the Class of 2011, as they step into their role as the future leadership of the Academy.

Junior Ring
Ceremony

It's Not Too Late To Make Summer School Arrangements

■ Whether it's an enrichment course or a course to make a low grade, there are a number of ways students can attend summer school.



Students who receive a semester grade of F must attend summer school. The student will need to make up lost units in order to be on track for graduation. Only students who are on track for graduation are allowed to return in the fall.

In order to be eligible for a four-year college, students must earn semester grades of C- or better in all academic courses. If your student earns a grade lower than a C- in an academic course, then he or she will want to repeat the course in order to earn a better grade.

If your student is interested in taking an enrichment course, there are a number of wonderful courses available to students. Students should select courses that are not currently offered by the high school.

Whatever the reason, there are a number of ways for students to handle summer school needs. Traditionally, public summer school programs only accept students who are making up failing grades and need credits. They generally do not accept students who are trying to improve low grades. With the state budget in such disarray, it is difficult to predict what the summer school situation will be or whether there will even be summer classes provided by the public schools. Parents and students should check the web sites of the local Catholic schools to verify what courses will be offered this summer and to read the

course descriptions as well as the prerequisites. Students need to register early in order to secure enrollment.

Because private schools cost money and enrollments are limited in both the public and private sector, students should be especially careful to register for classes that will count for the credit they need. Saint Lawrence Academy administrators or counselors must approve a summer school course before a student registers for the course. A class will not be listed on the student's transcript if the student did not receive prior approval.

Approval is also needed for online courses. These classes can be a practical, less expensive way to repeat a course or improve a grade; however, not all colleges and universities accept online classes for credit. Additionally, not all students can handle online courses; they are only for students who are self-disciplined and can work on their own. Our students need to confer with our school counselors concerning online choices. Again, no class will be placed on a student's transcript unless the class receives approval by an administrator or counselor. Additionally, final exams for online courses must be taken here at the Academy in order for students to receive credit for the courses and to have them placed on SLA transcripts.

PARENT CLUBS



Thank You Parent Club and Men's Club Board Members

A special thank you to this year's Parent Club and Men's Club Board members. On behalf of the Academy community, we wish to thank Elizabeth Brownfield, Anna Phan, Jackie McKee and Regina Rondez for their leadership in the Parent Club.

A special thank you goes out to Dave Page and Fred Ryan for their leadership in

the Men's Club and to Kevin Carroll who has served as liaison to the group.

This year would not have been nearly as successful if not for the efforts of these two boards and the individuals who lead them.

Final Exams

Here Is the Final Exam Schedule

Tue., June 1	8:10-9:45 a.m. 10-11:30am	Third period final Fourth period final
Wed., June 2	8:10-9:45 a.m. 10-11:30 a.m.	Fifth period final Sixth period final
Thu., June 3	8:10-9:45 a.m. 10-11:30 a.m.	First period final Second period final



Final Exam Testing Accommodations

More information is available from Mrs. Olein in the Main Office

Any student who is legally qualified for extended time or other accommodations must complete an accommodation request form for each testing session. The forms are found outside the Main Office. It is the student's responsibility to request the accommodations.

For students who legally qualify for extended time and who completed the Testing Accommodations Form prior to finals, final exams will run from 7:25 to 9:45 a.m. and 10 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

Freshman-Sophomore News

For those of you who missed the parent night on April 15th, Joe Connolly (the dean of Students at Harker Elementary School) spoke about drug education and communicating with your teen. Joe has been speaking for years in the area of communication as it relates to parenting.

Joe emphasized that the more parents openly communicate with their kids, the less likely the kids are to use drugs. The key here is to talk *with* them, not *at*

them. Treat them as adults. Educate yourself as a parent in the area of drug education. Ask yourself what type of behavior you are modeling for your child. If you come home and have a drink when you are stressed out, they will feel that that is an appropriate behavior. Look at what is and is not appropriate.

Look for opportunities to have conversations with your kids. Stay current on the latest movies and magazines as they make great conversation starters. Use the one-minute rule when talking with teens. Make one point in a minute or less. Stop and actively listen to their response to that point.

Develop a plan with your teen. If drugs or alcohol is involved, give them a password

to say when they phone you that lets you know they are in trouble. If your teens do experiment with alcohol let them know that you will still pick them up. Wait 24 hours to have a conversation with them as they are in no shape to talk while intoxicated.

“Joe emphasized that the more parents openly communicate with their kids, the less likely the kids are to use drugs.”

Be a good role model and realize just how important talking with your teens is. Pick your spots and be a good role model. Teens look at teachers and

parents as their role models. They are easily influenced by their peers but parents are their primary source of information.

With summer just around the corner, it is important that we start really setting the pace for good communication. Be a good listener and meet your children at their level. They will shut down if you begin to preach. Set firm boundaries and limits so that your summer experience is a good one.

Take care and enjoy your family over the summer!

Cheryl Weeks
Counselor



Closing Out the School Year

■ Students have three major responsibilities besides final exams at the end of the year. Students need to complete the following before leaving for the summer:

1. Students must return their computer equipment to Mr. Johnson in the library. Students will be billed for missing equipment, and grades and transcripts will be held until all computer matters are satisfied. See article below for more information.
2. All students must clean out their lockers. All books, papers, and personal items should be removed from lockers by Thu., June 3. Garbage should be placed in the garbage cans provided and personal items should be taken home. Students are to turn in their locks to the Main Office. Students will be asked to complete a computer tag to be attached to their lock; this tag should include the student's name, locker number, and combination.
3. Students should return their books to the Book Buy Back Center between 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. on Thu., June 3. Returning students will be given credit on their account; graduating students and non-returning students will receive a check in the mail from the book company.

How to Turn In Your Laptop

■ Everything you need to know about returning laptops and avoiding penalties

Students will have the opportunity to retain their computers through final examinations if they wish. Following are procedures for the return of laptops:

1. Students may return computers on Fri., May 28 at lunch and after school (2:45 to 3:30 p.m.); Tue., Wed., and Thu. June 1-3 following semester exams from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
2. Students will be expected to return their laptops and power supplies no later than Thu., June 3.
3. Students will be charged for failure to return any equipment. The charges for missing equipment are \$1,030 for a computer, \$55 for a power supply.

4. Any senior who does not return his/her computer will not be allowed to graduate. Any other student who does not return his/her computer, will be fined the cost of the computer equipment, will have his/her grades and transcript held, and will not be scheduled for classes for the 2010-2011 school year.

If you have any questions about computer collection, please don't hesitate to contact the school.

Book Buy Backs

At the end of each school year, students can sell back any hardbound books in good condition that will be used the following year. The book buy back day will be held on Thu., June 3 from 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. This is the only day on which books can be returned. Be watching for more information regarding the Book Buy Back program.

IMPORTANT MAY AND JUNE DATES

May 1	8:30 - 11 am	High School Challenge Tests (math and computers) in the Academy building
May 3 - 14		AP Exam Weeks
May 4		Executive Board elections
May 4		Parent Club Social in the piazza
May 5	12:17 - 12:47 pm	Juniors sign up for senior portraits in the pavilion
May 6		Juniors attend the WACAC college conference
May 6	3:30 - 5 pm	Foreign Language Challenge Test in the Academy building
May 6	7 pm	Pastoral Parish Council Meeting in the rectory
May 6	12:17 - 12:47 pm	Juniors sign up for senior portraits in the pavilion
May 7		Freshman, sophomore, and junior service hours due
May 11	6:30 pm	Men's Club Meeting in the library
May 12	6:30 pm	Education Council Meeting in SLEMS Faculty Lounge
May 14		Celtic Pride Day
May 14		Minimum day—12:15 dismissal
May 14		End-of-the-Year Rally
May 14	7 - 11 pm	Junior/Senior Prom at Los Gatos Opera House
May 15		Macy's Shopping Day fund raiser
May 17		Senior Cut Day
May 18	7 pm	Academic Awards Night in Community Center
May 19		Class of the Year event
May 20	6:30 pm	Finance Council Meeting in the rectory
May 21		Senior Graduation Luncheon
May 27		End of fourth quarter
May 28		Exam Prep Day
May 28		Celtic Pride Day
May 28	8 am	Fourth quarter grades due
May 31		Memorial Day—no classes
June 1	8:10 - 11:30 am	Final exams
June 1	12:30 - 2:30 pm	Baccalaureate Mass practice in the church
June 2	8:10 - 11:30 am	Final exams
June 2	12:30 - 2:30 pm	Graduation practice in piazza
June 3	8:10 - 11:30 am	Final exams
June 3	11:30 am - 1 pm	Book Buy Back following exams
June 3	7 pm	Baccalaureate Mass in Church
June 4	8 am - noon	Make Up Exam Day
June 5	10 am	Graduation in the piazza

