

**NOTRE DAME ACADEMY HIGH SCHOOL**  
**PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER**

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**Vol. VII, no. ii**

**December 2009**

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Dear Parent,

I hope all is going well for you and your daughter as we approach the upcoming Christmas season. This is a busy time of year and hopefully, you will have a peaceful and restful Christmas vacation. This year's Christmas break will begin with a Liturgy and Assembly Program on December 23, 2009. Students will be dismissed at about 11:15 AM on that day. We will return to school on January 4, 2010.

This year we have moved the Walkathon to the second semester. We will have our Kickoff Assembly on Wednesday, February 24, 2010 and will follow that with collection days until Friday, March 5, 2010. We count on 100 % participation from our students to reach a goal of \$125 per student. Remember that you already have a Walkathon Coupon worth \$75 and need to supplement it either with \$25 coupons or cash/checks to help us realize that goal. There will be various incentives for students who go beyond the minimum of \$125 per student. We look forward to your cooperation in this important fund raiser.

**Legislative Update:** On Thursday, December 10, 2009, a Legislative Forum was held at Farrell High School to highlight New York State's discrimination of Catholic institutions and refusal to provide the financial support and aid that we deserve. Assemblyman, Lou Tobacco, has indicated that the following legislators have been most responsible for this policy:

Assembly Speaker – Sheldon Silver (212) 312 – 1420

Governor – David Patterson (518) 474-8390

Senator – John L. Sampson (718) – 649-7653

Please call these individuals to voice your disapproval.

**ACADEMICS**

Hopefully you were able to speak to your daughter's teachers at Parent-Teacher Conferences. At this time you may be receiving interim progress reports. Please remember that these are warnings and there is still time for improvement during the second marking period; you will be receiving three more report cards before the end of the school year and almost seventy five percent of her grade is still to be determined.

We are also attaching a January exam schedule for you and your daughter so that she can make necessary preparations for exams. Each exam is two hours and tests students on all the work covered in the first semester. They are also in the format of State Regents Examinations and require concentrated study on the part of students. For many of our ninth graders this is the first time that they are taking comprehensive exams; so, please make sure that your daughter gets sufficient sleep during this time and does not leave her

preparation until the night before the exam. In addition, January is review time and it is crucial for students to be here to prepare for their exams.

Our eleventh graders will be taking the English Comprehensive Regents on two days in January. In addition, some eleventh graders will be taking the Math B Regents. Students are to report to school only on the days when they are scheduled for an examination and should be in complete uniform. In addition, all financial obligations should be up to date prior to the taking of examinations. Students will be prohibited from taking examinations **“IF TUITION AND FEES ARE NOT PAID UP TO DATE ACCORDING TO SCHEDULE.” (Student Handbook, p.22).** If you have questions concerning tuition and fees, please contact Ms. Brennan (ext 301).

Of the 112 graduates from last year, 60 (54%) were enrolled in Advanced Placement courses, 7 were AP scholars (3 exams 3 or better), 7 were AP scholars with distinction (4 exams 3 or better) and 6 were AP scholars with distinction (5 exams 3 or better). For the Class of 2010, we have three students who are considered commended students in the National Merit Scholarship program.

## **ACTIVITIES**

Hopefully you were able to see our latest school production of Babes In Arms, which took place early in December. A special thanks to Ms. Tanya Nicklaus Garaffa, our director, Mr. Michael Ancona, our musical coordinator, Mr. Andre Boulay, our technical director, Ms. Theresa Spear, our producer, our helping parents, and all the actresses, actors and stage crew members who gave us an entertaining and talented performance.

Hopefully, you will be able to join us for our seventh annual Christmas Concert and Tree Lighting Ceremony on December 18, 2009 in the new Arts and Humanities Building. We ask any parents attending to bring any baked goods and share them with the attendees. Our Parent Guild will provide festive decorations around campus.

Our Parent Guild is planning a Dinner/Dance at the Staaten on Friday evening, April 30, 2010. You will be receiving information concerning a journal for the evening in January. If you own or operate a business or wish to congratulate your daughter, we hope you will be able to sponsor an ad in this journal. In addition, parents will be calling you to ask you to donate a gift card to this event so that we can prepare special gift baskets for this affair. The Family Activity Coupon, worth seventy dollars, is your ticket for one admission. We do hope you will join us at this affair.

**SNOW CLOSURE:** We will try to provide information concerning school closure due to inclement weather on the school website: [notredameacademy.org](http://notredameacademy.org). We will continue to use the phone chain established in homeroom. If you call the school number and enter **#555**, you will get information concerning school closure as well and we will try to communicate school closure through the e-mail process.

We will be once again offering **Driver Education** to our students. The earlier you register, the better the times of availability. If you are interested, please contact Ms. O'Toole in the General Office.

**Italy trip** – there are still a few openings for this summer – if your daughter is interested, she needs to see Dr. Rossicone as soon as possible.

### **Safety**

As we get ready for the usual winter weather, we ask you to be careful if you drive your daughter to school. Please use the Victory Boulevard Gate for drop off when it snows. We have to be mindful of the hills on Howard and on our property when it snows.

### **DATES TO REMEMBER:**

<b>December 23</b>	<b>-special assembly (approximately 11:15 AM dismissal)</b>
<b>December 23-January 3</b>	<b>Christmas recess</b>
<b>January 4-</b>	<b>formal classes resume</b>
<b>January 12-</b>	<b>St. Marguerite's Feast Day</b>
<b>January 14-</b>	<b>early dismissal/dressdown (1:05 PM – faculty meeting)</b>
<b>January 22-</b>	<b>Special Study Day</b>
<b>Jan25-Feb 1</b>	<b>school/Regents Exams</b>
<b>Feb 2-</b>	<b>formal classes resume –</b>
<b>Week of Feb 8th</b>	<b>approximate date for report cards</b>
<b>February 15-19-</b>	<b>Energy Conservation Week</b>
<b>February 22-</b>	<b>formal classes resume</b>
<b>February 24-</b>	<b>parent teacher conferences (6:00-8:00PM)</b>
<b>February 26 –</b>	<b>early dismissal/dressdown (1:05 PM – faculty meeting)</b>
	<b>Semi Formal Dance (Ryan Hall)</b>

### **JANUARY 2010** **EXAM SCHEDULE**

**Friday – January 22, 2010 – study day**

**Monday – January 25, 2010**

**8:30** English 9/ English 10 / Psychology/Math11

**11:00** US History/ AP US History/Economics/Government/Theology 10

**Tuesday – January 26, 2010**

**8:30** AP Biology/ Math 9/ Accelerated Math 9/  
**Mathematics B Regents**(Acc Math 11)(Math 12retakes)

**11:00** Spanish 12/Global 10/AP World

**12:00** **Comprehensive English Regents**(English 11)

**Wednesday – January 27, 2010**

**8:30** Chemistry (10) Global 9 /Sociology/  
**Spanish Regents/Earth Science Regents**(retakes)

**11:00** Spanish 9/Acc French 9/Statistics

**12:00** **Comprehensive English Regents**(English 11)

**Thursday – January 28, 2010**

**8:30** Physics/Living Environment/ AP Calculus/College Calculus/PreCalculus/  
**US History Regents/Geometry**(acc Math 10)(retakes)

**12:00** Sociology/Spanish 11/French 11(College)/Math10  
**Chemistry/Physics Regents**(retakes)

**Friday – January 29, 2010**

**8:30** Anatomy// Earth Science/Chemistry (11)Theology 9  
**Global Regents**(retakes)

**11:00** Spanish 10/Acc Spanish10/French 10

**Monday – February 1, 2010 – Makeups -**

