



August 2009

1. I hope you plan to join us on Wednesday (grades 4-8) or Thursday nights (9-12) for our Back to School nights. Each night will begin in the gym with a short presentation on academics, including a discussion of our test scores, faculty achievement, and curricular innovations. The parents will then be invited to follow a mini-schedule of 10 minute periods. Please bring your student's schedule(s). The night is scheduled to end by 8:00 pm.
2. Five of our teachers deserve special recognition: Casey Pellerin, Kim Poirrier, and Mallory McGowan for earning their state teaching certification over the summer; Lucy Lissard for earning her Master Catechist Certification over the summer; and Susan Oubre for earning her Master's degree in Educational Technology. Congratulations!
3. You may have heard that we have begun a new Birthday recognition program, thanks to Larry Miller and McDonald's. Students earn a free ice cream cone on their birthdays and receive the certificate from the office when their birthday is announced. Even the high school students love to hear their name announced!
4. In the Elementary School, Mr. Roussel has begun a new program to honor good behavior. The "Top Panther" pins are awarded to students who are caught doing something good. The first four recipients (Maggie Landry and Stevie Ridge, Haley Bayard, and Elijah Scott) were awarded the pins in the past two days.
5. We have begun work on compiling and checking the inoculation records of our students. If you have not turned in your student's updated records, please do so as soon as possible.
6. We became aware that Lipari's has run out of youth ties. We did not foresee this possibility since we had ordered 300 to begin with. We did not anticipate that people would buy more than one. With the first Mass right around the corner, (Thursday, August 20th) we're trying to

solve the problem as best as we can. More ties will be ordered but it will take some time. Our hope is that the boys can share and we'll have enough for Thursday. Stay tuned.

7. We'll have a Safe Environment training (renewal) tomorrow night, Tuesday, August 18th, at 5:00 pm in the Library. This is for anyone who has previously had Safe Environment training.
8. As part of our own attempts to make this environment safe, most faculty coaches, secretaries, and administrators received training in First Aid, CPR, and AED.
9. We were disappointed to note that our enrollment for this year is down approximately 5%. While statistics are not available from other Catholic schools in the area, it sounds like 5% is a commonly cited number. Our hope is that as the economy improves, some of these families will return to Catholic High.
10. Last Wednesday, the teachers received their yearly bonus check from the Teachers' Benefit Trust Fund. While most of the endowed funds are designed to grow over time, this fund was set up to provide teachers with a yearly bonus. And what better time to arrive than the first day of school? Last year, even in a down market, the fund earned \$6500 which was divided among the 61 teachers.
11. Speaking of teachers, did you know that the average years of experience for a Catholic High teacher is 12.4? Or that the average age of a Catholic High teacher is 39? Or that 17 (28%) hold a Master's degree? Or that 15 graduated from Catholic High or Mt. Carmel? Or that 26 teachers (43%) are entering at least their 4th year at Catholic High?
12. A reminder that Catholic High is still accepting Community Coffee labels as well as Box Tops for education. We receive yearly contributions from each one of those programs as well as from the Winn Dixie rewards program.
13. Our hope is that Science Fair will see increased participation this year. We're seeing more teachers require their students to participate—especially in the high school science honors classes.
14. Please take the time to sign up for Voter Voice. With state budget money tight, every interested party needs to lobby and fight for every dollar. That's where Voter Voice comes in—they will keep you updated on funding and will lobby for you. Please go to www.louisianaced.org and sign up for Voter Voice.
15. This is our yearly Asbestos update:

- a. According to the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA), each school system must notify the public of inspections, response actions, periodic surveillance and re-inspection activities on an annual basis.
- b. This is to inform you that AHERA Compliance Management Plans are available for public inspection in either the principal's or coordinator's office of each school site in the Diocese of Lafayette School System. These documents include the Inspection Reports, Re-inspection Reports and the Management Plan. Requests to view these may be made Monday-Friday during regular school hours.
- c. Inspections of Asbestos Containing Material (ACM) are made by each school every six (6) months. Every three (3) years, re-inspection is conducted by a Certified Asbestos Inspector/Management Planner.

Dr. Tim Uhl

August 17, 2009