



CATHOLIC HIGH PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

March 10

INTRODUCTION

The liturgical season of Lent calls us to strip away the nonessential and reflect on what is important in our lives. Reduced to a frozen, shivering mass of humanity last Friday in Independence Bowl Stadium in Shreveport, I hung on. Not for victory, but to recognize the superb achievement of our girls in making it to the state championship game and by hanging on throughout the game and the four overtimes. Unfortunately, their efforts weren't enough to win. But I couldn't have been prouder of our student-athletes for how hard they played and how well they represented Catholic High. Winning isn't everything. Playing hard, playing with character and integrity, and playing up to a team's potential are much more essential.

INFORMATION

1. All the important dates of 2010-11 are listed below. Please note that our Spring Break will again fall during Holy Week and not during the week after Easter. This is different from the Iberia Parish schedule. With Easter falling during the latest date of our lifetime, if we were to place the spring break after Easter we would not be returning to school until May. It is more realistic to have the break a week earlier which will allow us to have a break before the "May push." Also, notice that graduation is later in 2011 in order to fall in line with diocesan policy.

Important Dates 2010-11*

***All dates are subject to change**

August 9	High School Orientation Day
August 10	Grades 4-8 Orientation Day
August 11	First Day of School
August 19	All School Mass of the Holy Spirit
September 6	No School—Labor Day
September 24	No School—Faculty Professional Development
October 8	1 st Quarter Ends
Oct 9-11	Fall Kairos
Oct 12	Powder Puff & Bonfire
Oct 13	Fall Testing (HS); Homecoming Olympics 1-3
Oct 15	Homecoming Parade, Game, Dance
Oct 18	No School—Fall Break
October 23	Panther Hall of Fame Golf Classic (Squirrel Run)
Nov 17	Family Night with Raffle Drawing
Nov 22-26	No School--Thanksgiving Break
Dec 14-17	First Semester Exams
Dec 18-Jan 2	No School--Christmas Break
January 14	No School—Faculty Professional Development

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January 17	No School—Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday
February 1	Catholic Schools Week
Feb 24-25	Frosh Retreat (mandatory); Spring Sophomore Retreat
March 7-11	Mardi Gras Break
March 12	3 rd Quarter Ends
March 21 st	Stanford testing begins
April 18-22	No School—Holy Week
May 5	Senior Retreat
May 6	Prom/Senior Skip Day; May Crowning Ceremony
May 7	Spring Gala
May 9-12	Senior Exams
May 13	All-School Mass (8:30 am) Baccalaureate
May 15	Junior Retreat
May 16	Graduation
May 19	All-School Mass—Junior Ring Ceremony
May 24-27	Final Exams
May 30-31	No School—Faculty Professional Development

2. We will have a Pay 2 Dress day on Wednesday, March 10th to raise money for the Beta Club, which hopes to use any profits to give to Catholic Relief Services' efforts in Chile.
3. Registration was very successful this year. We have more families registered this year than last year at this time. Later this week, we will begin the "forecasting" process for grades 8-11. At assemblies on Thursday, students will be explained their curricular choices for next year. Then, they will be given forms to fill out and sign (along with their parents). Those forms are due Wednesday, March 10th. Please look for the forecasting forms. Ask for them by name! The following (slight) curriculum changes will impact student choices:
 - a. Freshmen will be encouraged to either start their foreign language (every student beginning with the current 10th graders is required to take two years of the same foreign language) or take FAS (every student is required to take one year of fine arts). This slot will take the place of the CTA/Health slot. CTA is being taught in 8th grade and Health will now be moved back into PE.
 - b. All sophomores will be encouraged to begin their foreign language, too. They can choose to delay until their junior year, but the only option is take studio art or dance.
 - c. Dance is now a new elective and will be taught by Heidi Dueitt. It will not be a "Dance Team Athletic PE," however, but a full-fledged course on dance to be offered to 10th-12th graders. With two years of dance, students will meet the TOPS requirement.

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- d. Other new electives that will be offered next year: Psychology (semester) and General Business (semester).
4. This Friday, the Parent's Club has contracted with P.E.E.R.S. to bring a drunk driving simulator program to campus. Please feel free to stop in and watch the educational program as it will be offered all day to our high school students.
5. On March 11th, the high school will have its spring testing date. The freshmen and the sophomores will be taking the PLAN test. This test measures each student's academic progress and helps us identify strengths/weaknesses in our curriculum as well as individual student's course placement. The juniors will take a practice ACT test. The seniors will have regular classes and the high school will dismiss early that day (noon) for faculty professional development.
6. Speaking of tests, the Middle and Elementary schools will begin their yearly Stanford Achievement Tests on Monday, March 15th. While these tests are not of the "high-stakes" variety that determines whether students move on to the next grade, they are still vital. The reasons include:
 - a. The test scores indicate growth from one school year to the next in academic areas
 - b. The overall test data help to determine revisions in our curriculum and teaching methods
 - c. The test scores are part of the formula for determining Honors course placements for students entering grades 6-8.
7. In order to ensure success for all students during these testing days, we make the following requests:
 - a. Encourage students to do their best. The fact that you are aware of the tests will send the right message to students of the importance of the tests.
 - b. Remind them of the importance of the tests.
 - c. Ensure that they get plenty of sleep and eat a healthy breakfast.
 - d. Help them to celebrate their success upon completion of the tests.
8. You may have noticed the new exercise facility being constructed inside the bus loop. The purpose of the 8-station fitness facility is to provide our students with another PE option for fitness. The facility was constructed and developed through the generosity of many donors, including Dr. Angela Langlinais Bourg and Dr. Ellen Shea Mullen.

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9. We have developed a slight change to our Graduation week. The Baccalaureate Mass has been rescheduled to Friday morning, May 7th, at 8:30 am in the gym. This will be an All-School Mass and will provide the student body an opportunity to say goodbye to our senior class in their last day on campus. The Mass will begin with the rose ceremony as each mother will be presented a rose by the seniors.
10. We received news today that Sandra Lancon, our longtime cafeteria manager, has resigned due to health reasons. The diocese is looking to hire a replacement soon.
11. Personnel news: Elysia Burgess and April Harris have both announced that they are leaving New Iberia for family reasons. We are currently seeking a 12th grade math teacher (Advanced Math) and a 9th grade Physical Science teacher. In addition, April's departure has led to a vacancy in the volleyball team. Jessica Frederick has offered to move over to volleyball (Jessica has coached volleyball and basketball in the past and was a college volleyball player) and Katie Robicheaux will now step up to be the Head Coach of girls basketball. We will begin the process for hiring a new football coach next week.

GOOD NEWS

1. Congratulations to our Students of the Month:
 - a. 4th grade: Brittain Falterman
 - b. 5th grade: Daniel Turner
 - c. 6th grade: Nicholas Viator
 - d. 7th grade: Austin Lipari
 - e. 8th grade: Morgan Lahasky
 - f. 9th grade: Mashaera Alexander
 - g. 10th grade: Farrah Freeman
 - h. 11th grade: Alyssa Mannina
 - i. 12th grade: Jessica Hastedt
2. Congratulations to Brenda Smith, who was recognized by her peers as the Employee of the Month.
3. This month, we recognized two teachers as Educators of the Year. For grades, 4-8, Donna Goulas was nominated by her peers for her devotion to the students and the excellence in her classroom. She is a great teacher and cross country coach. Julie Romero was nominated by her high school peers and was recognized for her tireless efforts in campus ministry, student life, and religion. We are fortunate to have two great teachers such as Donna and Julie.

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4. The Diocese allows us to recognize an Achiever/Supporter of the Year. This year, we chose to recognize Jamie Nelson-Hebert for her outstanding work supporting Catholic High. Jamie works tirelessly to support Catholic High and is well-deserving of this honor.
5. Two of our students advanced in the Young Authors contest by finishing first in the regional contest. Both winners now advance to the state competition:
 - a. Nicholas Bonin in 7th grade fiction (congratulations also goes to Heidi Dueitt)
 - b. Katelyn Dean in 9th grade fiction.
6. Congratulations to our soccer teams. Coming off an undefeated district season, the Lady Panthers won their second district title in their short history! And the boys dropped only one game in district to win their first district title! Both teams will begin the playoffs this weekend.
7. Brittany Patout, 6th grader, placed at the Iberia Parish Social Studies Fair and is now eligible to compete at UL on March 27th based on her 3rd place Economics project "What are Heads and Tails Above the Rest?"
8. Congratulations to the Dance Team for their Semifinal-winning performance in Orlando and to the Cheerleading squad for their excellent work in Orlando, too. Simply qualifying to compete in Orlando is accomplishment
9. Congratulations to our school spelling bee winners:
 - a. 4th grade: Cade Thielen
 - b. 5th & 6th grade: Payton Florsheim
 - c. 7th & 8th grade: Casey Dore
10. Congratulations to junior Ryan Durand for his second-place finish in the Diocese's Pro-Life Oratory contest for his speech entitled, "The Tragedy of Euthanasia."
11. Academic All-State awards in football went to seniors Brady Rogers, Thomas Theriot, and Miles Landry. Congratulations to these student-athletes.

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12. While our girls soccer team garnered recognition for their team accomplishments, several Lady Panthers earned All-District honors:
 - a. First Team: Sydney Lahasky, Lauren Jolivette, Casey Breaux, Angelle Patout, Taylor Lahasky (offensive MVP), Natalie Derouen (defensive MVP), and Marie Hoag (overall MVP).
 - b. Coach of the Year is Chris Hoag.
 - c. Second Team: Caity Breaux, Kristen Ball, and Allison Talley.
 - d. Honorable Mention: Katelyn Guilbeau, Taylor Delahoussaye, and Linzee LeJeune.

13. The boys team, also district champions, was also well-represented on its all-district team:
 - a. First team: Brock Romero (Overall MVP), Grant Quinlan, Thomas Caffery, James Simon, Jordan Durand, and Ian Bordes.
 - b. Coach of the Year is John Louviere.
 - c. Second team: Cameron Champagne, Jude Frederick, and Ramsey Breaux.
 - d. Honorable Mention: Mark Landry, Carson Dubois, Paul Breaux, and JT Gibson.

14. An accomplishment which snuck under the radar was Morgann Leleux's state championship at the State Indoor Meet. Morgann now holds the highest pole vault (13'6") in country for girls' pole vaulters. What an incredible statistic!

15. Last quarter, our revenues from the Winn-Dixie reward program generated \$353.21 for the school.

REQUESTS

1. We need volunteer judges for Speech Night on April 20th. Grandparents are welcome! Please e-mail Jamie if you're interested... jhebert@chspanthers.com

2. Matilde Nelson needs help organizing a lunch for seniors on April 22nd. Please e-mail her if you are available... nels93@aol.com

3. March 11th and 12th are important days for our freshmen and sophomores. All freshmen participate in the Frosh Retreat, which begins on Thursday afternoon, March 11th, and lasts through the night until Friday night. Sophomores are required to attend either the fall or spring retreat. If the sophomores did not attend the fall retreat, they will be required to attend the spring sophomore retreat.

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RESOURCES

1. Ascension Driving School will be offering Driver's Education on campus March 20-21 and March 27-28. More information is available at the front office. They will also offer a class over the summer June 21-24 from 8 am-3:30 pm.
2. As many of you know, we post timely information on our cNotes blog. You don't need to keep checking the blog, however. You can simply sign up to have any updates e-mailed to you. Next time you click onto the cNotes blog, sign up to get the information e-mailed to you directly.

UPCOMING EVENTS

1. At various times and in various ways, seniors and parents have complained that there was no mandatory senior retreat. All along, Darlene Scott have planned to conduct a daylong spring senior retreat. However, we didn't want the news of that retreat to interfere with the potential for the Kairos retreat program. We have seen a tremendous response to the Kairos retreat program as all but 15 seniors are signed up to make one of those retreats. Therefore, it's time to begin announcing the spring senior retreat scheduled for Thursday, April 22nd (the day before Senior Skip Day/Prom). The retreat will depart from campus that morning via bus and will return that night after dinner. We're looking for some help with the potluck lunch (please e-mail Matilde Nelson at nels93@aol.com) .
2. The RetroProm is scheduled for Saturday, April 23rd. This event is meant to be the parents' chance to participate in the Annual Appeal and to celebrate the end of the school year. This is meant to be a fun night and a party for adults. Please mark your calendar.
3. The second Kairos will depart Catholic High this Saturday. Please keep our students, the student leaders, and the faculty leaders in your prayers for those special three days. Faculty members who have donated their time to be leaders for the retreat include Darlene Scott, Terry Roussel, Brenda Champagne, Chris Meaux, Tonya Danos, Alycee Indest, and Alan Arabie.
4. The Streva Relays is taking place this Friday. Come out and cheer on your Panthers in their only home track & field meet of the season!
5. Home softball games this month: March 2nd, March 11th, March 19th-20th (Bayou Blowout at Pepperplex), March 23rd, March 25th, and March 31st.
6. Home baseball games this month: March 18th and March 29th.

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7. The Academic Pep Rally will take place on Friday, March 19th, at 8:30 am. The District Rally is the next day at UL.
8. Regional Science Fair is Saturday, March 13th, and State Science Fair is March 29-30.

CONCLUSION

Today marks the beginning of March Madness as we scramble to keep up with the numerous events of this year and plan for a successful 2010-11 school year. Come join the fun!

Dr. Tim Uhl
March 2, 2010