

THE GRIFFIN GRAM

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Bishop Maginn High School
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From The Head of School

Annemarie Barkman

The first half of the year has flown by. Now is the time to make a renewed commitment to academic achievement, tuition payment, college admission and 100% graduation for our seniors. We are also beginning the process of preparing a new schedule for 2010-2011 school year, the budget, and the calendar. We are celebrating the academic accomplishments of our honor roll students and our MasterMinds team. We are proud of the service our students provide to the community. Our athletic teams continue to succeed and provide yet another opportunity to work together. Please support us by focusing your efforts on academics, daily attendance and punctuality, and full participation.

Development

Our phonation is well underway. Alumni, parents, and students are working with Nicole Ward to individually invite alumni and friends of Bishop Maginn to contribute. We must raise \$200,000 this year as part of our operating budget. Tuition alone does not pay for all our expenses or provide financial aid for deserving students. When you are called, please give all you can to keep us strong and successful.

Silent Auction

The Fourth Annual Silent Auction will be held on Saturday, February 6, 2010 at the Normanside Country Club. Tickets to attend the event are \$45.00 each and can be purchased through Nicole Ward. Please call her at 463-2247 to purchase tickets over the phone via credit card or you may pick up tickets at school between 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

There will also be a raffle with cash prizes. The Grand Prize is \$1,000.00, second prize is \$500.00, and third prize is \$250.00. Raffle tickets are \$10.00 each.

Tuition collection

This is a reminder to all parents regarding the importance of making monthly tuition payments on time. If you have any questions about tuition payments you must call the **Smart Tuition Parent Call Center** directly at **1-888-868-8828** or go on line at the new **Smart Tuition website**, www.smarttuition.com. **As per the agreement you signed, all payments must be current for your child to continue with us for the third quarter. We are now able to accept credit card payments for tuition in person or over the phone. Ms. Barkman is in the process of contacting families who are not current.**

Recruitment

We are offering another scholarship exam opportunity for prospective students on Saturday, February 27 at 8:30 a.m. There is no charge for the exam. Please call Mr. Hurley, Ext. 111, for more information.

Please continue to encourage incoming ninth graders to come and shadow a current student and discover the safe, spiritual, and academic environment at Bishop Maginn.

Program Updates

Did you know we provide personal coaching to students in need of academic improvement?

Bishop Maginn is committed to helping each student achieve academic success. We have created the PASS program (Positive Action for Student Success). Counselors and Administrators team up and meet with students experiencing academic difficulty. The list of students needing extra help is shared with staff and coaches. Our staff is committed to after school help and providing multiple opportunities for student success. Parent conferences are held when needed.

Service to others was a mission of Jesus.

Our students participated in two Center for Disability telethons. Bishop Maginn students have volunteered their time on Friday, January 29 on radio station.

WGNA from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. and on Sunday, January 31 they can be seen on Fox 23 television from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. The Service Club collected about \$200.00 for the Haiti relief fund administered by Catholic Charities. Our students understand and practice the mission of service that is a foundation principle of Bishop Maginn.

Teacher Feature
Sam Laflin
English Teacher

Mr. Laflin is enjoying his fourth year as an English teacher at Bishop Maginn. Mr. Laflin received a Bachelor's degree from Hobart College and a Master's degree from the State University of New York at Albany. He studied English Literature with a minor in Sociology. Mr. Laflin teaches both ninth and twelfth grade English. He also serves as a coach for the MasterMinds team and provides supervision at basketball games. His enthusiasm and sense of humor are appreciated by students and staff. Mr. Laflin is a computer wizard. We rely upon his expertise to further our goals in the area of technology. His classes prepare and publish a newsletter using the computer classroom. Mr. Laflin's hobbies include reading both Stephen King and Shakespeare and playing the mandolin. He is married and has a dog and two cats. Mowing the lawn provides time for reflection and strategy for the next faculty softball game. We are honored to have Mr. Laflin as part of the Maginn family.

From the Principal
Joseph Grasso

Report Cards

The third quarter of the school year begins this Monday. Second quarter grades as well as Mid-Term, Regents, and RCT grades will be given to students at the end of the day on Thursday, February 11. Please be sure to ask your child for their report card. If you wish to speak with a teacher, please call 463-2247. If the teacher is in class please leave a message for a return call. I have asked that all calls be returned the same day.

Academics

Each academic department is currently working on preparations for the 2010-2011 school year. Their work includes budgeting, textbook selection, new course proposals, and planning for the master schedule. Several sub committees have been formed within the faculty and staff to review the recommendations of each department.

Student Scheduling

After we complete the master schedule, the student schedules will be formulated by the guidance staff. Faculty recommendations and student achievement will aid us in the placement of each student.

Spring Production

Our Drama Club is preparing for their Spring Production, Luann, which is scheduled for March 19 and 20 at 7:30 p.m. Auditions have been held, the cast has been chosen, and rehearsals have begun.

MasterMinds

Our MasterMinds program has been very successful this year, currently they are in third place in their league. There have been several noteworthy victories over schools such as Albany High School and LaSalle Institute.

Athletics

Many of our students are involved in extra curricular activities and sports programs. Currently, our varsity boys' basketball team has a 10-2 overall record. They are second in the Big Ten and ranked 21st in the New York State Sportswriter's Poll. Our girls' varsity basketball team is third in the Big Ten with an overall record of 8-4. The bowling team has also been very competitive. Our varsity cheerleaders are preparing for the Big Ten Competition and Scotia Invitational this week. Indoor track has consistently finished in the top three out of ten teams in each of their meets thus far.

Congratulations to all of our students and their coaches and moderators.

Calendar

Mid-winter vacation is Monday, February 15 through Friday, February 19. There are no classes during that week.

**BLESSINGS FROM B'GINN,
MR. GRASSO & MS. BARKMAN**

