

THE GRIFFIN GRAM

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From The Head of School **Annemarie Barkman**

As we focus on the 2010-11 school year and our future, I would like you to know about some of our exciting plans for next year and beyond.

As a result of the hard work of our administration, staff, school board and the Diocese, we are receiving an increase of Diocesan financial support. I have no doubt that we will be able to continue our success with your help and the generous support of our alumni and friends. Please read the development, academic, and recruitment areas of this newsletter to learn about our accomplishments as evidence of progress.

Development

We have currently increased our annual fund gifts by approximately \$12,000 over last year's total at this time. Our phone-a-thon pledges came in at \$27,000. If you pledged, please send in your donation. We are pleased to report 586 friends of Bishop Maginn increased their donations from last year.

Silent Auction

The Fourth Annual Silent Auction was held on Saturday, February 6, 2010 at the Normanside Country Club. Approximately 105 people attended. The ballroom was beautifully decorated in a Mardi Gras theme. All auction items were donated. Participants were busy making bids in front of each item. Items such as a trip to Florida and tickets to a Yankee game were offered. The Silent Auction raised \$16,800, an increase of \$4000 over last year's total. We wish to thank chairpersons Kim and Jim Matteo and committee members Tammy Crasto, Dawn Petruccione, Tony Gaetano, Roberta Sims, Anne Spath, Robin Jira, Sabrina Viglucci, and our Advancement Director, Nicole Ward for their outstanding work.

Tuition collection

We are pleased to announce that tuition collection is on target for this year. To prepare for next year please note that paying each month through a billing process will not be an option. Monthly payments must be deducted from a bank account or paid via an automatic debit on a credit card. Paying in full or by the half year is available. 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. Families who owe tuition at the end of the year cannot return unless accounts are paid in full. 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.

Grant & Aid applications for tuition assistance for next year are available in the main office. Those students whose parent/guardian applied last year have been given the application in homeroom. Please check with your child. The deadline for applications is **April 15, 2010**. This same application is used for consideration for Lally Scholarships and Beacon of Hope Scholarships provided through the Diocese of Albany. Also, the separate Beacon of Hope Scholarship applications are available in the main office. Parents will receive notice of the school financial aid allocation in early June.

Recruitment

March 17, 2010 is a very important date. Our accepted incoming ninth graders and their families will be here to formally register at 7:00 PM. 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. For more information on registration, please call Nicole Ward.

Program Updates

Each department chair has met with Ms. Barkman and Mr. Grasso to talk about next year's courses and schedule. We are in the process of designing a schedule that serves the mission of our school. An even greater emphasis will be on regents courses for all, more college course opportunities, and extra help for those students who could benefit from it.

Service to others was a mission of Jesus.

Six of our students will be accompanying Ms. Sue Silverstein, one of our Theology teachers, to the March 9, 2010 Public Policy Day. Students will have the opportunity to interact with Legislators and Catholic Church leaders. Our students understand and practice the mission of service that is a foundation principle of Bishop Maginn.

Teacher Feature

Richard Gilooly

Social Studies Teacher/Dean of Students

Mr. Gilooly is enjoying his ninth year as Social Studies teacher and Dean of Students at Bishop Maginn. Mr. Gilooly received a Bachelor's degree from Union College in American History. He also played Division III college basketball. Mr. Gilooly teaches Economics and Government. His lively discussions and activities prepare seniors for the next step in life. He also serves as Dean of Students, maintaining Bishop Maginn's excellent reputation as a safe and secure environment. This year, he coordinates our computer program. His fair, effective manner and sense of humor are appreciated by students and staff.

When Mr. Gilooly is not at Bishop Maginn, he is Assistant Basketball coach at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. In this position, he recruits new players from all over the country. He is the Head Basketball coach for the Empire State basketball team. He is married and has two lovely daughters. We are honored to have Mr. Gilooly as part of the Maginn family.

From the Principal

Joseph Grasso

As we move into the second semester for the 2009-2010 school year, we also begin a great deal of preparation for next year, which requires planning and cooperation. The budget process has already begun, as has the development of the school's master schedule for classes.

Re-registration, Report Card pick-up, and Parents Night will be held on **Thursday, April 22, 2010** from **6:00-8:30 P.M.** A parent/guardian must pick-up the Third Quarter Report Card, review and

sign next year's schedule and textbook forms as well as complete the tuition agreement, registration and health forms. This re-registration process will take place in the cafeteria and should take no more than 20 minutes. Deadlines for textbook and transportation forms must be met.

Teachers will be available in their classrooms to meet with parents/guardians following the re-registration process. I invite you to meet with your child's teachers on this night. Parents/guardians who are unable to attend on this night are asked to make an appointment to pick up the report card and re-register your child for next year in the guidance office between 8:15 A.M.- 4:00 P.M. on a school day.

Our Spring Musical, "**Luann**", will be performed by our drama club on **Friday, March 19** and **Saturday, March 20 at 7:30 P.M.** You are cordially invited to come to either or both of these performances and support our students. A great deal of hard work and effort goes into the hours and hours of rehearsals necessary to stage a successful performance. Admission is \$6.00 for an adult and \$5.00 for students.

Extra-Curricular Activities continue to be a vital part of our student experience at Bishop Maginn High School. Congratulations to the Master Minds for their fine showing in all of their academic meets this winter. Our Boys and Girls Basketball teams were highly successful as they now proceed into Section 2 Class AA playoffs. Participation in Boys and Girls Track, Bowling and Cheerleading were very rewarding as well. We also congratulate many of our fine Art students who have had their work displayed at the Empire State Plaza during Catholic Schools Week.

Food Service

We have a new food service company providing our daily lunches, the Altamont Program. They are providing a variety of new items for our students with a special each day and will also begin a breakfast program this coming week. Thus far, comments from students and faculty have been quite positive. They are providing quality food items prepared and presented in a highly professional manner each day. It is also very clear that many more students are purchasing their lunch as well.

Calendar

There will be no classes due to the Easter holiday and Spring Break from March 31 through April 11. Classes will resume on Monday, April 12, 2010.

*Blessings from B'ginn,
Mr. Grasso & Ms. Barkman*