



Saint Michael Academy Parent Newsletter

February 2010

Note from the Principal

As I complete my first “quarter” at Saint Michael’s, I am happy to report some very positive news:

Applications for admission to the incoming class rose by 20% (our first choices by 34%); our athletes are winning national acclaim (as well as several scholarships), and once again our seniors are displaying an admirable ability to further their education at the next level, receiving acceptances from their target colleges.

Our Middle States Association accreditation review is coming up in early March; we ask for your help in getting the physical plant of the school “up to snuff”. We welcome any and all assistance you can provide. Attached you will find a flyer describing our February 27th “Beautification Day”. The use of volunteers will allow us to use scarce funds to purchase educational materials instead. Please join us if you can.

I thank you for your interest and participation, and I hope we will continue to have your support for our mission and our efforts on behalf of your daughter.

Dr. Felipe Gorostiza

Report Cards

On Friday, February 12th we will cancel classes so that you can speak with your daughter’s teachers from 3-6PM. All parents are permitted and encouraged to meet with teachers. If your financial obligations are not met, you will not receive your daughter’s report card, but you can still meet with her teachers to discuss her progress in her specific classes. Report cards cannot be released to students, so we look forward to seeing all parents on that day.

Tuition and Fees Policy

Report cards and transcripts will be held until all financial obligations (tuition, fees, candy money) have been met. Report Card Day is coming up on February 12th. If you are unsure of your financial obligations, please call the school.

Re-Registration

In order for us to successfully plan for the next school year, we need an accurate measure of students returning for the 2010-2011 school year. Freshman, sophomore and junior parents must complete the enclosed re-registration form and return it to SMA by March 5th.

Contacting Your Daughter’s Teachers

The best way to speak to your daughter’s teachers is at Report Card Day. If you need to speak to a teacher before then, call the school at (212) 563-2547. Leave a message at the front desk that includes your name, your daughter’s name, the teacher’s name and a phone number. The teacher will return your call within 48 hours of receiving your message.

Graduation

We look forward to the beautiful SMA graduation ceremony on June 3rd at Saint Patrick’s Cathedral. In order for your daughter to receive her diploma, she must have successfully completed all of her courses from 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th grades. This means that if she fails a course her senior year or if she has yet to make up a class from a previous year, she will not receive her diploma until she passes the course (summer school). Seniors must also have passed the Regents exams required by New York State. If you have *any* questions about your daughter’s eligibility for graduation, please contact Ms. Hartman at (212) 563-2547 ext. 1203. These last four months of the senior school year will fly by.

Uniform

It is still cold out! The school sweater is a mandatory part of the uniform. Your daughter will be permitted to wear only a school sweater while in the school. To purchase a sweater, contact Lu-Del’s Uniforms at (914) 969-2664.



Wall of Fame

This January Micaela Adams, a senior, was named *Michaelite of the Month* because of her amazing progress, growth and accomplishment this year. Isnara St. Phard, also a senior, was named *Community Service Student of the Month* because she has far surpassed SMA's requirements. Genesis Valdez, a sophomore on the junior varsity basketball team, was named *Athlete of the Month* because of her leadership on and off of the court. We also honor our PACE (Positive Attitudes Change Everything) Club. Congratulations to all!

School Events and Accomplishments

Saint Michael Academy offers nearly as many learning experiences outside of its classrooms as it does within its walls.

- Select juniors and seniors have visited McGraw Hill headquarters twice this year and are working on a major project with the McGraw Hill group.
- Six Michaelites have been chosen to participate in the elite Jobs Opportunity Program. They competed with high school students from around New York City and were chosen because of their stellar academic performance.
- Fifteen Michaelites will participate in the Bright Horizons program at the Associated Press.
- Twenty five Michaelites have been chosen for the Higher Horizons Leadership Program.
- On January 20th, students had the opportunity to see the Broadway show *Wicked* for only \$5.
- On January 22nd, students preparing for January Regents attended three-hour intensive reviews for their exams.
- Also on January 22nd, students who were not scheduled for Regents exams participated in Career Day. Students attended three presentations on interview skills, women in the workforce and careers in fashion and beyond.
- On January 28th and 29th, freshmen and sophomores went bowling with Ms. Nee.

Spiritual Growth

As a Catholic school, we strive to provide your daughter with a firm moral background and guidance.

- The entire school is participating in a coin drive. All proceeds will be sent to Haiti to help in the wake of the terrible tragedy.
- 9th and 10th grade students participated in a prayer service on January 15th for Haiti. They reflected on how faith calls us to respond amidst such challenges, just as Jesus calmed the seas when the Apostles became frightened. Students responded individually and collectively in song and verse.
- Saint Michael Academy's unique sacramental program continues this year with plans for six students to be confirmed in the spring.

Open House/ SMA Service Day

In November we held our first SMA Service Day to prepare for our fall open house. We will have another service day on February 5th to prepare the school for our winter open house. We will follow a schedule D on that day and students will be able to dress down. Appropriate dress down attire means that torn or revealing clothing is not permitted.

Guidance

Seniors—Parents should have completed the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) by February 1st. A financial aid information packet was distributed to seniors early in December. For a copy of the packet or for answers to other college-related questions, parents should email Mrs. Darling at st.michaelguidance@gmail.com By February 9th, seniors who used the Common Application must submit one copy of their Common App. Mid Year Report to Mrs. Darling to be sent to all the schools along with one envelope per Common App. school and *two* stamps per envelope.

Juniors— Mrs. Darling will begin the college application process this spring. Look out for handouts and information to be sent home to help you start the process early and keep it as stress-free as possible. Juniors will also begin career exploration with Mrs. Darling to help them decide on colleges and college majors and to prepare for life beyond school.

Sophomores—Students will begin a unit this spring on anger management, communication and conflict resolution.

Yearbook

Shout-outs and dedications to your daughter in the yearbook can be purchased by contacting Mrs. Dominowski. Leave a message at the front desk for details. Yearbooks are available for sale to under-classwomen for \$45 from Ms. Nee. The deadline for pages and shout-outs is February 12th (Report Card Day).



Financial Aid for 2010-2011

Current Recipients—Any student currently receiving financial aid directly from SMA *must* reapply for financial aid for the next school year. The completed forms, along with a \$21.00 processing fee, must be sent by March 31st, 2010, directly to PSAS, the company that analyzes the financial documents and provides us with a report. If you do not reapply, we *cannot* renew your financial aid. Forms can be obtained by contacting Mrs. Nilka Rivera, Director of Admissions. Financial aid is determined on a year-to-year basis. PSAS determines the student's need and SMA allocates its own resources. If you receive aid from an outside organization you do not have to reapply through us.

New Applicants—If you have never received financial aid, and wish to apply now, contact Mrs. Nilka Rivera and ask for an application. The completed forms, along with a \$21.00 processing fee must be sent to PSAS by March 31, 2010.

Middle States/SMA Beautification Day

Parents are stakeholders in the accreditation process. You can view the Standards for Accreditation at <http://www.css-msa.org/resources/publications.html#standards>. Comments can be submitted to the Executive Director, Middle States Commission on Secondary Schools, 3624 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104. In preparation for our Middle States visit this March, we will hold the first annual Saint Michael Academy Beautification Day. Students, parents, and friends of the school can volunteer to paint, scrape, move and just plain beautify our beloved school on Saturday, February 27th from 9AM-5PM. Come for part of the day or all day. RSVP to mradice.sma@gmail.com or call (212) 563-2547 (x1213). Students, see Mr. Radice in the Office for Advancement.

Spring and Mother's Day Yankee Candle Sale

This optional fundraising event will begin February 3rd and end Friday, March 5th. Yankee Candles make wonderful gifts and a portion of the sales goes to benefit Saint Michael Academy directly. Contact Sandra Casatelli with questions at extension 1224.

Tutoring

All teachers at Saint Michael Academy offer students help outside of class. Included in this mailing is the revised tutoring schedule for second semester. Please go over it with your daughter.

Regents and School Examinations

Midterms make up a significant portion of your daughter's final average for each of her classes. Regents exams are required for graduation. Exam grades will be printed on second quarter report cards. Please review them carefully.

Educational Concerns

If you have concerns about your daughter's learning style, attention, organization or testing abilities please contact Ms. France or Ms. Hartman to discuss having your daughter evaluated for eligibility for special learning support services.

Calendar

February

3rd Schedule C, Prayer Service of St. Blaise
 5th Schedule D, SMA Service Day
 8th 6-7:30PM Open House, parents welcome
 12th **NO SCHOOL**, 3-6PM Report Card Day
 Parents must attend and pick up report cards
 15-19th **NO SCHOOL**, February Break
 24th Schedule B, Career Presentations
 25th Second Semester Activities Sign Up
 27th SMA Beautification Day

March

3rd **1:30PM** dismissal, Schedule X
 New Student Registration
 9-12th Middle States Visit
 12th **1:30PM dismissal**, Schedule X, Faculty Meeting
 17th **NO SCHOOL**, St. Patrick's Day
 19th 6PM Poetry Show
 31st Third Quarter Ends



RE-REGISTRATION FORM FOR 2010-2011

PLEASE RETURN TO NILKA RIVERA BY MARCH 5, 2010

to be completed by all students entering the 10th, 11th, and 12th grades

NAME OF STUDENT: _____

CURRENT HOMEROOM: _____

GRADE IN 2010-2011: _____

NAME OF PARENT: _____

PARENT'S EMAIL: _____ @ _____

(please print your email address clearly)

RE-REGISTER:

- Yes, I am re-registering my daughter for September 2010 and I agree to pay the \$80.00 re-registration fee by June 1, 2010.
- No, I am not re-registering my daughter for September 2010 for the following reasons (check all that apply):
- Financial
 - Academic
 - Location
 - Other _____

2010-2011 Tuition: \$6,100; \$6,300 for seniors (Class of 2011)

2010-2011 Academic/Activity Fee: \$300 for all students

2010-2011 Re-registration: \$80 for sophomores, juniors, seniors (Classes of '13, '12 and '11)