



Saint Michael Academy Parent Newsletter

March 2010

Snow Day Calendar Change

Every year, we build one extra day into our school calendar, with the expectation that we will have a snow day. Often, we do not even have one. This year, so far, we have had two snow days. This means that we must schedule another school day. On Friday, May 28th we were scheduled to be off. Because we have used more snow days than we scheduled, **there will be school on May 28th**. It will be a normal school day. Please adjust your calendars as necessary.

Progress Reports

Halfway through every quarter, teachers write reports about their students' academic progress. If any of your daughter's teachers have written reports, they are included in this envelope. Please review them with your daughter. If you have any questions, contact her teachers.

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.

Report Card Pick Up

A number of parents have not yet picked up report cards. Report cards for students who have fulfilled all of their financial obligations and are not on probation are held at the front desk for pick up. A parent or guardian must pick up the report card between 7:30AM and 4:00PM. We cannot mail report cards or send them home with students.

Tuition and Fees Policy

Report cards and transcripts will be held until all financial obligations (tuition, fees, candy money) have been met. The next Report Card Day is April 23rd. 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 re-registration form and return it to Mrs. Nilka Rivera by March 5th, **this Friday**.

Graduation

Graduation is only three months away! In order for your daughter to receive her diploma on June 3rd, 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, contact Ms. Hartman at (212) 563-2547 ext. 1203.

Guidance

Seniors—Remind your daughter to give thank you cards to the teachers who wrote her recommendations for college. If you haven't heard from colleges yet, don't worry. Acceptance letters will arrive over the next two months. All FAFSA applications should have been completed February 15th, 2010.

Juniors— Starting this Wednesday, March 3rd, Mrs. Darling will meet with the juniors every Day 5 during 1st and 3rd periods to start the college application process as well as to conduct a career inventory unit with them.

Spring and Mother's Day Yankee Candle Sale

This optional fundraising event began February 3rd and will 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.

Middle States

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. Our Middle States accreditation visit will take place from March 9th-12th.

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.

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.

Junior Ring Day

Junior Ring Day will be held on Wednesday, May 5, 2010. Check payments will be accepted up until Monday, April 26th. Cash and money order payments will be accepted up until Monday, May 3rd. Payments may be made in installments. All checks and money orders should be made out to Saint Michael Academy. All payments should be in an envelope and given to Ms. Rosado. The envelope should have the student's name, homeroom, and the amount of payment. If you have any questions, call the school at (212) 563-2547 and leave a message for Ms. Julissa Rosado.

Discount Broadway Opportunity: *In the Heights*

SMA alumna Blanca Camacho appears in the Broadway musical, *In the Heights*. Students and parents can purchase discount tickets for \$46.50 from Ms. Nee or Mrs. Rivera for the March 16th performance at 7:00PM. There is no school the next day so you can sleep in. Additionally, there will be a special question and answer session for Michaelites after the show.

National Latin Exam

This year, for the first time, we will offer our students taking Latin I the opportunity to take the National Latin Exam. We wish them luck on March 11th!

Calendar

March	April
3 rd 1:30PM Dismissal, Schedule X New Student Registration	1 st -11 th NO SCHOOL, Easter Break
5 th 1:30PM Dismissal, Schedule X, Faculty Meeting \$3 Dress Down Day	13 th Junior Retreat
9 th -12 th Middle States Accreditation Visit	14 th Senior Class of 2011 Portraits
12 th 1:30PM Dismissal, Schedule X, Faculty Meeting	21 st Schedule B, Career Presentations
17 th NO SCHOOL, St. Patrick's Day	23 rd NO CLASSES, Report Card Day Parent must pick up report card 3-6PM
19 th 6PM Poetry Show	30 th 6PM Talent and Art Show
26 th Schedule D, Talent Show	
31 st Third Quarter Ends	