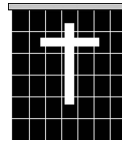


President's Newsletter

Bishop Stang High School
500 Slocum Road • North Dartmouth, MA 02747-2999
www.bishopstang.com
508-996-5602



Dear Parents, Students, and Friends,

"What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? ...faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead." (James 2:14, 17)

It was just about this time 5 years ago when we met with the sophomores and juniors and explained to them that the service program as they knew it was no longer going to exist at Bishop Stang High School. Rather, through much prayer, reflection, and combined effort, we presented the students with an alternative service model that would ideally instill and foster a love for life-long service. Thus, the FIAT Christian Service Program was born! It was our hope that through the educational, service, and reflection components of FIAT, students would come to clearly understand the connection between their faith and their actions, between their baptismal call and Christian service.

As with any new program, FIAT's first year was a learning experience. With the ongoing help and interest of the students, faculty, and parents, the program continues to evolve, offering a growing number of service options, and greater faculty, student, and parent participation. In the past five years we've witnessed how passionately our community defends life; we've learned about the environment, the role of the Audubon Society, the gift of hospice, the degree of homelessness, and the tremendous 'need' in our own backyard. But we learned more than that! We learned about the personal side of diseases and the impact that MS, Alzheimer's, and cancer can have on a family. We've been touched by the elderly who have allowed us into their homes and yards to help with life's chores that have become too burdensome. We've been afforded the opportunity to share our faith through parish evangelization. Whether we're working in our own 'home' through such projects as uniform recycling, working to support foreign missions, or anywhere in between, at the core of each FIAT option is a profound respect for life!

In five short years, we've come a long way from counting service hours to being immersed in a growing Christian service program that inspires students to see service as a way of life. We have students whose goal it is to do every FIAT project available! We have significant parent involvement; we even have parents who volunteer for projects that their sons/daughters are not involved in! How great is that! We're so grateful for all of those who join our community in continually bringing our faith to life! That's what Faith In Action Together is all about!

Prayerfully,

Jean L. Revil, Obl. SB

Jean Revil, Obl. SB
FIAT Coordinator

Kathleen Ruginis, Obl. SB

Kathleen Ruginis, Obl. SB
FIAT Coordinator

Volume 23,
Number 5
February 2010



ADMISSIONS UPDATE – CLASS OF 2014

All completed applicant folders are under review as of Jan. 4th, 2010. Complete application kits must include: BSHS Application for Admission, Student Guidance Report, Pastor and Personal Recommendations. Freshman applicants must also submit scores from a high school placement exam. Please call the Admissions Office at 508-996-5602 ext 424 or ext 435 with any questions.

Department Chairpersons will review all completed applicant folders to make recommendations for level placements. Our Admissions Committee will review prospective student folders and decision letters will be mailed beginning January 25th, 2010. The Bishop Stang Admissions Office must receive a registration card and a \$300.00 deposit by February 12th, 2010 to confirm acceptance. Good luck to all students!

Financial Aid for Incoming Freshmen and Transfer Students

All prospective family members who completed our financial aid request form should have received a financial aid packet. If you did not receive a financial aid packet, please contact the Admissions Office at 508-996-5602 ext 435.

Completed packets are due to FACTS Grant & Aid Assessment postmarked no later than Monday, February 22nd, 2010. Applications can also be processed online at www.factstuitionaid.com. Please call our business office at 508-996-5602 ext 412 or 413 if you have any questions. Parents of all incoming and current students are invited to attend an optional financial aid informational seminar at BSHS on February 9th at 6 p.m.

NATIONAL GIRLS AND WOMEN IN SPORT DAY

We are proud to announce senior athletes Claire Martin and Alyssa Quann will be representing Bishop Stang at Girls and Women in Sport Day 2010 at Faneuil Hall on February 5th. This is a special day set aside to honor all female athletes. Congratulations Claire and Alyssa!

WEATHER DISMISSALS FOR CAPE AND R.I. STUDENTS

Inclement weather in the afternoon has been a concern for parents and students who commute from Cape Cod and Rhode Island to BSHS. In order to alleviate the congestion at the attendance office, we request that parents who wish to have their child begin the commute home a little earlier than normal on these days send written permission that morning. A phone call will be made to confirm the early dismissal request. This should allow the students to dismiss in a more orderly fashion. Thank you for your help in this matter.

INCOMING FRESHMEN COURSE REGISTRATION NIGHT

Harvey Uniforms – March 2nd

Welcome to the incoming Class of 2014! All students who have deposited for next year's freshman class will have an informational evening regarding the course registration process for the 2010-2011 school year on Tuesday, March 2nd, beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the John C. O'Brien Gymnasium. Freshmen will receive their course level placements and additional information about course selection for our next school year. The guidance department will review placement exam results. We will also cover topics such as the FACTS Tuition Management Program, transportation options, and many other pertinent topics to help families with their ongoing transition into Bishop Stang High School.

Administrators, guidance counselors and department chairpersons will be available to answer your questions. Textbooks will also be available for your review.

Please note that Harvey Uniforms will be available from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m., prior to the Freshmen Course Registration presentation, to take measurements and orders for incoming students.

CURRENT STUDENT COURSE SELECTION NIGHTS

On **Thursday, February 4th**, and **Tuesday, February 9th**, the Academic Principal, department chairpersons and guidance department will be hosting Course Selection Night for current freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and their parents. The program will be held in the cafeteria at 7:00 p.m. Course Selection Night reviews suggested programs of study for the 2010-2011 school year and covers curriculum offerings and new classes, emphasizes the importance of teacher and department chair recommendations, and reviews graduation requirements. All parents are strongly encouraged to attend one of these two evenings.

FINANCIAL AID REMINDER

Parents of current students are reminded that they must apply for financial aid every year. Applications can be processed online at www.factstuitionaid.com. Applications must be postmarked by February 22, 2010. The deadline for online applications is March 1, 2010. Anyone still needing a financial aid packet should call Mrs. Janson at 508-996-5602 ext 412.

RECENT GRAD REUNION

On January 4th, members of the classes of '05, '06, '07, '08 and '09 returned to Stang for a casual afternoon reunion with friends, teachers, and current students while home on winter break. As Stang's newest alumni, those in attendance had a wonderful time talking about their Stang memories and college experiences.



Ms. Cooke visits with Stang Alumni

FINANCIAL AID NIGHT *For Parents of Bishop Stang Students*

There will be an optional financial aid night to explain the process of applying for and criteria for receiving financial aid to attend Bishop Stang High School. This meeting will be for **parents of all current students and incoming freshmen** who need additional assistance in applying for aid for the 2010-2011 school year. It will be held in the cafeteria at 6 p.m. on **Tuesday, February 9, 2010**. It will be followed by course registration at 7 p.m. for the parents of current 9th, 10th, and 11th grade students.

CALL TO REPORT ABSENCES AND TARDINESS

Parents and guardians are reminded that they are expected to call the school when their son or daughter is absent or tardy. According to the Student Handbook, "All absences must be verified with a telephone call from a parent or guardian by 10:00 a.m. on the day of the student's absence" (page 30). When you call into the school, please contact the office of Mrs. Maribel Williamson who serves as attendance officer at 508-996-5602 extension 417. Thank you for your cooperation in reporting student absences and tardiness.

FROM CAMPUS MINISTRY

All sophomores will attend a class retreat on Friday, February 26th. The retreat is scheduled from 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. with the girls at St. Mary's in Dartmouth and the boys at St. Julie Billiart's in Dartmouth. Students must bring their own lunches and are expected to dress comfortably and appropriately.

AUCTION 2010 UNDER THE SEA! *Be Part of the Fun!*

April 9th and the Auction are just around the corner. Do you want to support the scholarship fund but just don't know how? Donate a gift or service from the list below and ask your friends and colleagues to do the same. Or combine your talents and resources and surprise us with that one of a kind gift! Donation forms can be downloaded from the school's website. Sponsorships are also available.

Electronic Gifts: Laptop, iPod, iPhone, ITouch, Digital Video Recorder, Digital Camera, Blackberry, GPS

Gift Boutique: Gift basket selections of fine wines or liquors, something from Waterford, Vera Bradley, Coach

Gift Certificates: Day at a spa, restaurants, concert tickets

Sports and Hobbies: Tickets to professional and college games, golf for four, golf equipment, kayak, children's toys

Travel and Leisure: Vacation home, vacation package, airline tickets, frequent flier miles, hotel package, bed and breakfast

Questions? Call Suzy Burke at 508-996-5602 x 430.

Come to the Auction! Raffle tickets and invitations will be mailed mid-February. There are many great prizes and surprises planned for the evening! Don't miss out on the fun!

STUDENTS PERFORM IN DISTRICT FESTIVALS

Stang junior Seamus Gallagher and sophomores Katherine Lambert and Emily Oliveira were selected to perform with an elite group of instrumentalists at the Southeast Senior District Festival on January 8th and 9th at Oliver Ames High School. Seamus will be playing violin with the orchestra. Katherine and Emily are singing in the district chorus. Freshmen Blake Alexander, Allison Cambra, Hanna Desilets, and Colleen Packard have been selected to sing in the chorus for the Southeast Junior District Festival in March at Attleboro High School. Students are chosen at highly competitive auditions and then follow intense rehearsal with other select musicians from the Southeast region. Congratulations to these talented artists!

WINTER VACATION – FEBRUARY 15-19

Winter vacation begins Monday, February 15th, and continues through Friday, February 19th. Classes resume on Monday, February 22nd. The business office will be open Tuesday through Friday of winter vacation week between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

A NOTE ON PLANNED ABSENCES

Make-up Work

Absences due to vacations are highly discouraged. Academic Principal Mrs. Miskel reminds students and parents that teachers cannot provide work to students who are taking days off from school unless they have a form signed by administration. Written notice from parents should be sent to Mrs. Miskel or Mr. O'Brien two weeks in advance of the **planned absence**. This is required for any student who will be absent for more than two consecutive days. Students and parents are reminded to review the excessive absenteeism policy on pages 30-31 of the handbook. Thank you for your cooperation.

THE GIFT OF LIFE

March 4th NHS Blood Drive

The Sr. Teresa Trayers, SND Chapter of the National Honor Society is holding a Blood Drive on Thursday, March 4th at Bishop Stang. The SouthCoast Mobile van will be parked in the school lot. The blood drive is Sponsored by the SouthCoast Community Hospitals, and open to any potential donor age 17 or older. Students who wish to donate may sign up through NHS officers during the school day. Members of our community who would like to participate should call Donna Rogers, RN in the Health Office (Ext. 426) to set up an appointment.

It is recommended that blood donors eat something, both before and after the blood donation, and drink plenty of water and juice. The symptoms of weakness and dizziness, which often occur after blood donation, are the result of fluid loss and a decrease in blood pressure. Drinking plenty of liquids is the key to replacing fluid volume and feeling well. Please note that it can take weeks to replace the iron content of the blood. To increase iron levels, eat iron-rich foods such as red meats and green leafy vegetables. Fatigue is often a noted side effect of blood donation, especially in teenagers.

FROM THE HEALTH OFFICE

On January 7, 2010 Bishop Stang held an H1N1 vaccination clinic in conjunction with the Dartmouth Board of Health. Approximately 160 students and staff members received vaccinations for H1N1. A special thank you to Wendy Henderson and Lisa Russell from the Dartmouth Board of Health and Cynde Silvia, RN and Patti Psychojos, RN for their assistance.

PARENT ASSOCIATION

The Parent Association will be preparing and serving Teacher Appreciation Breakfast on February 1st and Luncheon on February 3rd in celebration of Catholic Schools week. The next meeting of the Parent Association is Tuesday, March 9th at 7:00 p.m. in the cafeteria. The focus of the meeting will be planning for Joseph's Apprentices, Parent Wellness Night, Cardboard Tent City, Auction, and LITE Retreat.

AFTER PROM PARTY

The next After Prom Party meeting is Wednesday, February 10th at 7:00 p.m. in the Music Room. All parents, not only senior parents, are invited to this meeting and to become involved in the event. Chairperson for the party is Patty Bancroft (pbancroft@bridgew.edu). Rose Grant is the Senior Advisor, and Suzy Burke is the school Advancement Director and resource person. At present, our greatest need is door prizes. We need about 200 prizes such as gift certificates and small dorm related items. Let us know if you'd like to help!

VALENTINE'S DAY

Students can purchase non-uniform passes at lunches to be used on FRIDAY, Feb. 12th, St. Valentine's Day. Passes are \$2 each and proceeds will benefit the sophomore class. Students are reminded to review the non-uniform day policy on page 32 of the student handbook.

ATHLETIC POLICY ON PHYSICALS

All athletes must have a current physical on file in the Trainer's office. These physicals are valid for thirteen months from the date of the physical. After the expiration date, they must be redone in order for the athlete to practice and compete. This is an MIAA rule and cannot be ignored. Spring sports candidates who have not participated in Fall or Winter athletics must be sure to have a current physical on file, otherwise one must be obtained before spring tryouts/practices. Contact Ms. Kathleen Thornton after school in the Trainer's office next to the gym with any questions. If you aren't sure and cannot contact her, leave a message with Mr. Shaughnessy at ext. 427. Please make sure you are up to date so that there are no conflicts in March. Thank you!

VACATION POLICY - APRIL

Spring sports tryouts and practices will start on Monday, March 15th. If you intend to be on a spring team, you must be at practices and games. April vacation will begin on Saturday, April 17th. Please keep this in mind as you plan your spring vacations.

PEER MEDIATION

The Peer Mediation Program is in its thirteenth year with a staff of mediators comprised of students and teachers. Mediation is offered by this select professionally trained group of peers to assist students when they sense a misunderstanding between two (or more) parties. The process is offered on a voluntary basis with the goal of curtailing a misunderstanding before it has the opportunity to develop into a major conflict. Forms are available in each homeroom, the guidance area, and the library/media center. Anyone may fill out the forms; the mediation teams will take it from there. The service is provided on a confidential basis.

Any student interested in joining the peer mediation staff should see faculty advisor Mr. Eric LeVie to begin the application/screening process. New members will begin an intensive training program in March.

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
NEW BEDFORD, MA
PERMIT NO. 5

Bishop Stang High School
500 Slocum Road
North Dartmouth, MA 02747-2999
Address Service Requested

