

# St. Greg's Gazette

The Parent/Guardian Newsletter of St. Gregory the GREAT High School

Volume 12, Issue 2

October, 2009

## H1N1 FLU NOTES

- **DO NOT SEND YOUR STUDENT TO SCHOOL IF THEY ARE EXHIBITING FLU LIKE SYMPTOMS.**
- Students, faculty and staff must stay home until at least 24 hours after they no longer have a fever or signs of a fever.
- This should be determined without the use of fever reducing medications.
- This is shorter than the previously recommended 7-day wait period.

## Dates to Remember

October 5—9

- Spirit Week

Sunday, October 11

- SGHS Participates in the Chicago Marathon

Tuesday, October 13

- Tuition Suspension
- Junior/Senior Ring Assembly

Thursday, October 15

- Health Record Suspension

Tuesday, October 20

- Ring Orders Due

October 22—23

- Stage 1 Exams

November 5-7

- Junior/Senior Overnight Retreat

# Applause

Students acknowledged for merit earning in September include:

Generous/Helpful: **Jorge Campos '10** and **Marisol Lay '13**  
Honest: **Enrique Morales '12**  
Prepared: **Christine Leos '10**  
Just: **Leonel Hernandez '11**  
Responsible: **Donniece Bell '12**  
Respectful: **Jairo Mateo '10**  
Hopeful: **Klaus Kuckla '12**  
Peaceful: **Gustavo Cruz '12**  
Courageous: **Shar Ka Baw '13**

## SGHS Best Practices for Service Learning

In order to facilitate authentic, meaningful, reflective service learning at SGHS, we have improved our service program.

Students will be drafted to a service site team of their choice. Each team is coached by a member of the SGHS faculty and staff. Teams will choose captains to assist the coach. Each team will be trained in the skills necessary to serve at their site.

For five months beginning November 18, the service teams will be dismissed after lunch to go into the community and perform service at the same site. Coaches will model our beliefs and work ethic for service, as well as encourage the students to grow and use their talents. Students will develop a specific skill set and experience accountability to the team with whom they work and to those they serve. By becoming "regulars" at the site, students will experience service as a reciprocal journey with others.

Students will have opportunities in their team, in classes, during advisory and at worship to reflect on and share with each other their insights and experiences.

This new program better fulfills our school goals for service learning:

- Students realize that, regardless of their own difficulties, they have something to contribute.



Juniors Matthew Korn, Blaise Ndiwe and Patrick McGraw help Mr. Brown with a campus ministry project.

- Service fosters a sense of community awareness and encourages giving back to the community.
- Teamwork and leadership skills are developed through helping others.
- Students practice Gospel values in challenging situations.
- Service becomes an integral part of our school curriculum, prayer life and culture.

All students who owe hours from last year are still responsible to make them up. They are encouraged to do so at this year's service site.

Please contact Mr. Darren Brown in Campus Ministry (773/907-2117) with any questions.

## Business Office Update

### Student Fundraising

On September 11 every student received two boxes (50 per box) of World's Finest Chocolate. The \$100 fundraising charge has been added to your tuition bill and will be credited when the \$100 is turned in. Please try to complete sales by Friday, October 30. Students will earn 50 merit points for every box they sell after the first two.

### Tuition Suspension

**October 13 will be a tuition suspension day.** Parents/guardians of students whose tuition is not up-to-date will receive a letter explaining the amount due by October 13. It is very important that parents/guardians keep the payment agreement they made when the school year began. A \$25 late fee is added to the tuition statement each month that tuition is not current. Please contact the business office (773/907-2103) if there is a problem.

## Reminders . . .

1. If a student is going to be absent from school, a parent/guardian must call the attendance office (773/907-2100) each day the student is absent. A message may be left at any time on the 24-hour voice mail number (773/907-2100). If a call is not received by 10:00 AM, a \$15 fine will be placed on the student's account.
2. Students arriving after 8:45 AM without a call or note from a parent/guardian, will be marked truant. Truancy results in a Saturday detention and counts as an absence.
3. Lunch cards are given to qualifying students once a month and may be used for daily breakfast and lunch. Lost/stolen lunch cards are not replaced during a given month; they should be immediately reported to the cafeteria manager.
4. Health Records are due *now* in the main office. Please turn them in as soon as possible. **On October 15 any student without a current health form will not be allowed to attend school.** Please take care of this important responsibility soon.

## from the Counseling Department . . .



Ms. Pleskach and junior Kalby Dunn-Lubin chat about college possibilities.



Jim Cranley from Herff-Jones will meet with juniors and seniors on Tuesday, October 13 to present the options for purchasing a class ring. The ring order is due Tuesday, October 20; the first payment is due Tuesday, October 27.

***Ms. Goldman will be taking lucky SGHS students on the ultimate field trip: Russia!***

### Senior College Visit

Each senior will visit one of three colleges during the school day on October 28 - Loyola University, University of Illinois at Chicago and Chicago State University. We will try to accommodate students' top choices. Permission slips will be sent home the week before the visit.

### Planning for College

Now is the time for your senior student to start the work of completing college applications and researching scholarship opportunities! Please encourage your student to take advantage of all the resources at SGHS: re-

searching in a variety of resource books, visiting with college representatives, etc. If your student needs help with college planning, she/he should speak with Ms. Goodchild.

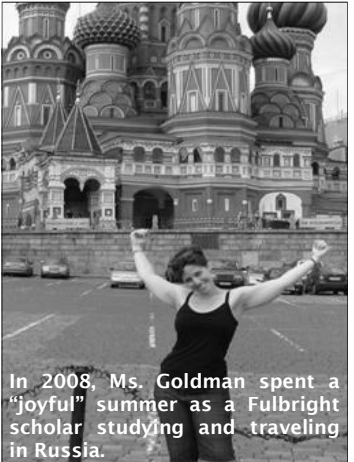
### Junior/Sophomore Meetings

Junior and sophomore one-on-one counseling meetings will take place between October 5 - October 30. Parents/guardians are encouraged to participate in these meetings concerning credit checks, college/career planning, etc. Times can be arranged to accommodate schedules. Please contact your student's counselor for more information.

## All Aboard for Russia

What is your child doing for spring break? How about a trip to Russia! Ms. Goldman will be taking lucky SGHS students on the ultimate field trip: a chance to experience life in another country! From April 1 -April 11, 2010, students will learn firsthand about Russian culture as they live with carefully screened host families, spend a few days in a Russian high school, travel the country-

side, and visit Moscow landmarks. The trip cost of \$2,800 includes transportation, housing, visa, and spending money. Interested students will be fundraising to pay their portion, but a *monthly* deposit of \$200 will be required to reserve a space. For more information about this incredible opportunity, please contact Ms. Goldman @ [bgoldman@stgregory.org](mailto:bgoldman@stgregory.org) or (773) 907-2100.



In 2008, Ms. Goldman spent a "joyful" summer as a Fulbright scholar studying and traveling in Russia.

## Praying Always

Have your students shared with you our SGHS Order for Prayer? Every school day begins and ends with prayer over the PA with the entire school community. Every class also begins with prayer. Our order for prayer begins: Leader: Let us remember . . . All: **that we are now, and at all times, in God's Holy Presence and the sacred presence of one another.**



Seniors Emmanuel Mercado, Kevin Howard, Jairo Mateo, Amanda Grogan, (back) Eric Witzak and Earl Phillips begin the day with prayer.

name and information (i.e., Rest in Peace Clare Bernardoni, aunt of Cecilia George, Class of '41; submitted by junior Donte Wojcik).

**+In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and the Holy Spirit, Amen.**

That is followed by a brief traditional prayer, a moment of silence, a reflection or sharing of student intentions. Prayer always ends:

Leader: St. Gregory the Great All: **Pray for us.**

Leader: In service and love.

All: **With courage and hope. Amen.**

We will also have special prayers and remembrances for our beloved departed during November, the traditional time of year to remember the dead. If you have a loved one or know someone connected to SGHS who you would like included in our prayers, please contact Mr. Brian Sieve : [mrsievesclass@gmail.com](mailto:mrsievesclass@gmail.com). Include their complete name, their connection to SGHS or one of our families and your

## Strategic Intervention

This year, eight teachers are participating in a two-year program offered through the University of Notre Dame which will provide professional development and training in classroom intervention strategies. This team will work with SGHS teachers to develop an action plan of strategies and appropriate interventions for students who may have learning and/or behavior difficulties in their classes. The team will provide support and follow-up with the teacher and student to ensure that a successful teaching-learning interaction is taking place. Parents may be notified of the action plan and included in conferences concerning their child's progress. Teachers participating are: Peter Doyle, Breanne Goldman, Elizabeth Krymski, Roy McLean, Jerry Mead-Lucero, Carol Pagine, Brian Sieve and Kashawndra Wilson.

## Open House

Invite your family and friends to SGHS open house:

**Saturday  
November 14 from  
noon to 3:00 PM.**

Sixth, seventh and eighth graders and their parents/guardians will be able to meet teachers and find out about the programs and opportunities available.