



Principal's Newsletter

From the Principal's Desk

Upcoming Events

- **20 August – Senior Portraits 8AM-1PM**
- **21 August – Senior Portraits 8AM-1PM**
- **2 September – Freshman Orientation Day 1, 10AM-2PM**
- **8 September – Faculty Orientation Day**
- **9 September – Freshman Orientation Day 2. Regular dismissal time.**
- **10 September – Upperclassman Orientation Day. Regular dismissal time.**
- **11 September – First day of 1st semester.**
- **17 September – Back to School Night for all grades, 7PM.**
- **19 September – Senior Retreat Day. Required for graduation.**
- **29 September – Academic Awards Night and NHS Induction, 7PM**
- **9 & 10 October – Variety Show, 7PM.**

As we begin this new academic year and this new chapter in the 110 year history of Burke Catholic, I would like to point out a few of the extraordinary achievements of our students during last year:

Congratulations to the 156 graduates of the Class of 2009. In addition to their academic and extra-curricular accomplishments, the Class of 2009 garnered 11.2 million dollars in college scholarships and 99.5% of the graduates will be attending the college of their choice in the Fall.

Congratulations to our entire student body for their academic successes this year as well as for their involvement in school and community based activities. The highlights include:

- Medical Mission service trip to the Dominican Republic.
- Mission collections to assist the work of the Missionaries of Charity in the Bronx.
- A wonderful production of the musical *42nd Street* as well as numerous other stage productions.
- An active circle of the Columbian Squires (youth division of the Knights of Columbus).
- Right to Life Baby Shower to benefit Good Counsel Home
- Thanksgiving Food Drive
- Christmas Child Project
- Participated in Project H²O
- Toy Drive and Three Kings Party for the children at House on the Hill.
- Volunteering at Southwinds.

Congratulations as well to all the students who were involved in our sports programs. Our athletes had very successful seasons during the past school year as can be seen from the following list of accomplishments:

Fall Season

Boys' Soccer: Orange County Interscholastic Athletic Association (OCIAA) Division IV Champions and Section IX Class B Runner-up.

Winter Season

Ice Hockey: Section IX Division II Champions, New York State Public High School Athletic Association Division II Regional Champions, and lost by 1 goal in the semi-finals of the NYS D-II state championship tournament.

Boys' Basketball: OCIAA Division IV Champions, Section IX Class B Champions, and New York State Public High School Athletic Association Class B Regional Runner-up. Mr. Janeczko, the Head Coach received the Jim Taravilla Coaches Award. ...**Continued on page 2**

Girls' Basketball: OCIAA Division IV Co-Champions

Wrestling: 3 Wrestlers qualified for the Section IX Tournament

Cheerleading: OCIAA Division II Champions (first in school history)

Indoor Track and Field: CJ Douglas finished 8th (out of 33 competitors) in the triple jump at the NYS Indoor Track and Field State Championship and CJ was also awarded the Indoor Track and Field Championships "Sportsmanship Award."

Girls' Alpine Skiing (first year program): Girls finished 14th and 28th in the Section IX Qualifying meet.

Spring Season

Boys' Track and Field: Sean Cooper 2009 Division II NEW YORK STATE CHAMPION in the Pentathlon (events include; shot put, 110 meter hurdles, long jump, high jump, 1500 meter run).

Girls' Track and Field: Paula Pryor-set new Junior class record in the 400 meter dash.

Girls' Lacrosse: Section IX Class C Runner-up.

Boys' Lacrosse: Section IX Class C Runner-up

Boys' Golf: Michael Ciabattari qualified for the 2nd round of Section IX Championship Tournament.

As I mentioned above, there is a new chapter beginning in the history of Burke Catholic with the change in the governance structure of Burke Catholic High School. The Board of Directors has assumed fiduciary responsibility for the school and will offer assistance and advice to me as principal as I continue managing the day-to-day running of the school. The membership of the Board of Directors is composed of vetted and advisory members (the intent is to have the three advisory members made fully vetted directors as soon as possible after 1 September). The members are the following: Rev. Michael McLoughlin, Chairman of the Board of Directors, Bishop Dominick Lagonegro, Mr. Patrick Welsh, Mr. Al Fusco, Sr., Mrs. Corinne Varnavides, Mrs. Cynthia Anderson, Mrs. Greta Foley, EdD, Mr. Thomas Clarke, Esq., Mr. Robert Dillon, EdD and Mr. Joseph Valenti. I once again thank these ten individuals for agreeing to serve on the inaugural Board of Directors. Each was chosen for their proven support of Burke Catholic and their expertise in various areas which will be of tremendous assistance as we move forward.

Once again, be assured that this change will not affect any aspect of the superior Catholic academic education offered at Burke Catholic, nor will it affect the many and varied extracurricular programs our students currently enjoy.

As I also informed you in writing, after completing our hiring process for the separately incorporated Burke Catholic, all those currently working at Burke Catholic who wished to be hired for the new, separately incorporated Burke Catholic beginning in September of 2009 were hired. Although we received many applications seeking employment for the 2009-2010 school year, we found none better qualified than those individuals who have worked so hard to bring so many successes to our students over the past years. This has come as wonderful news to all in our school community since we are very well aware of the esteem in which our faculty and staff are held by our students and their families.

Please take the time to read the Principal's Newsletter each month. So often when a parent tells me that they did not know about something I ask if they read the Newsletter and the answer is invariably no.

The repair and renovation of the wing of the building is almost complete and we will be ready for the opening of school in September. Windows and doors have been replaced, the exterior refurbished and new insulation has been put in. All of this will help make the learning environment more comfortable for all.

As we are all so very much aware, the state of the economy has caused much hardship for many in the Burke Catholic community. Enrollment is down this year because many folks just could not afford the tuition and I wish that I had the funds to provide needed assistance, but I simply do not. I would be most grateful (as would those families experiencing hardship) if any members of our community who find they are financially secure would contribute to a **Family in Need Fund**. Any funds would be dispersed by me based upon proven need and no donation would be too small (if each of our current families donated just \$30 to the fund, the fund would have \$15,000 — while this amount represents only 2 full tuitions, most families who have asked for help often only need a few hundred dollars to tide them over). If you would like to make a one-time donation to the fund, or even a monthly one if your means allow, please send checks (made out to Burke Catholic) directly to me and indicate that the check is for the Family in Need Fund. Your donation to this fund would, of course, be tax deductible. Thank you in advance for any help you can offer to our struggling families. If you are one of our families experiencing genuine financial difficulty and would like to be considered for assistance, please email me — I will keep your email on file and if and when funds become available, I will contact you.

I look forward to another great year and look forward to seeing you during the course of the year.

From Ms. Jean, AP for Academics

Summer school is ending which means for me looking ahead to the next school year. Speaking of next year, changes have been made in policy which will impact the academic life here at Burke; therefore, I ask that you look over the enclosed calendar and handbook for the specifics while I highlight the ones dealing with my office.

The calendar contains the dates of specific events which will enable you to keep track of your child's progress here at Burke Catholic, and will prove useful we hope in planning your holidays, as well as vacations. **The sophomores, juniors and seniors will report for their first day on Thursday, 10 September 2009 at regular time and it will be an A Day.** Certain academic policies were change not only to reflect our independent status in the fall but to keep in line with our Middle States Reaccreditation goals. **We will go back to the four quarters as opposed to the six marking periods; the calendar tells you when these quarters end and report cards are issued, as well as, parent-teacher conferences. In addition all teachers will be required to use Snap Grades which we hope will negate the use of progress reports within each quarter.** We will be using a new school data system and ask for your patience as we work out the proverbial kinks. Other changes are in the works, and we will keep you updated as to the progress being made.

As always a new school year brings a specific set of challenges, but I believe that we will only be triumphant, if **we all** work together.

From Mr. Canty, AP for Student Affairs

Just a couple of reminders:

Electronic devices are not to be seen or used in the school building. Upon arriving at school the student should turn the device off and secure the device in their locker. If a faculty member observes a student in possession of an electronic device, the device will be confiscated. The violating student will receive a demerit and a receipt for the device. The electronic device will be turned off and secured in the school's safe. The device will only be returned to a parent or guardian.

Please note the following concerning school shoes: students that have a medical condition must present a MD's note the first day of school if any other shoe is to be worn.

Enclosed with this newsletter is the school calendar for 2009-2010. Please note the vacation periods and remember that absences from school for family vacations must be considered unexcused.

Italy-Spain Trip 2010

Anyone in grades 10-12 is invited to take a trip to Italy and Spain during the Easter vacation. There will be a meeting on 16 September at 7PM in Room 1. All information will be given and explained including cost. If you are interested, you must attend this first meeting. Any questions should be addressed to Mr. Cavaliere at 845-343-5510.

