

Thank you to those that participated in our Coffee with the Principal event on March 20 held in our Lasallian lounge! A special thank you goes out to Patti Fabrizio for helping to promote and coordinate the event.

The forum presented an opportunity for parents of the Saint Patrick community to learn more about current and future doings from the principal's prospective. In addition, families were given an opportunity to ask questions and further discuss other issues that needed clarification or additional explanation.

Below is a brief summary of the agenda items:

- Green & Gold Success

I shared with the group the overall success of the Green & Gold Dinner Auction. In addition, I thanked those that attended and supported the work of the event. Listed below are some of the highlights of the March 7th event and well as the date for next year:

The event at Plumbers' Hall drew a sold-out crowd of 750 attendees, and helped us raise over \$270,000 to benefit our students. We're grateful to our sponsors and volunteers for sharing their time, talent, and treasure to make this event so successful.

Save the date for next year's gala on Saturday, March 5, 2016.

- Calendar for 15-16—August 14 for frosh, August 17 for the school

The school calendar has been finalized for the 2015-2016 school year. The class of 2019 will begin on August 14 with a half day schedule, followed by lunch. The first official day for everyone will be on August 17 with a regular schedule.

- Saint Patrick Day Parades

Please check out the photos capturing some of the sights and sounds of the 2014 Downtown and Northwest side parades at: <http://stpatrick.smugmug.com/201415/2015-15-03-NW-Side-St-Patrick/>. In addition, check out the video of one of our famous staff at: [http://abc7chicago.com/family/chicago-st-patricks-day-parade-2015-\(5\)/558152/](http://abc7chicago.com/family/chicago-st-patricks-day-parade-2015-(5)/558152/)

- Class of 2019 update

We continue to make strides with the incoming class of 2019. Our Class of 2019 welcome evening was held on February 26 to a packed house in the gymnasium! We look forward to seeing all of the newest Shamrocks in the fall.

- Spirit Day (in place of Walk-A-Thon)

Traditionally March signaled the beginning of our final fundraiser for the school year, Walk-A-Thon. However with the change to a mandatory fundraising fee for students and their families for the 2014-2015 school year, both the Sweeps and Walk-A-Thon fundraising fees were combine into one total amount. This change in fundraising caused us to re-think the purpose and incentive for students to complete the Walk-A-Thon. In essence, students no longer need to seek pledges to support their walk and thus walking to validate the pledges became unnecessary. However the school felt the comradery and spirit behind the event warranted us to still participate in some capacity. Therefore the school community will participate in a Spirit Day and attend the Chicago Cubs vs San Diego Padres game at Wrigley Field on April 17 at 1:20 PM.

Students were informed of the decision during the week of March 1 of the change to the event. We announced that the students will have the option to: a) attend the event with a school purchased ticket (donated by Jack Neurauter'64 Alum); b) attend the event with one guest; c) not attend the event and enjoy the day off of school. Homeroom teachers then gathered feedback from the students as to who would be attending and if they would be bringing a guest. During the week of March 8, we held a second request for students who wanted to participate in the event. In total, we will have 800 people attending the event! Lastly we ask that all guests attending the game support Saint Patrick High School by wearing your Saint Patrick apparel. This will be a great way to show the strength and solidarity in our community.

- AdvancEd parent focus group

Parent volunteers were sought to help out with the AdvancEd accreditation process during our March 20 meeting. I am happy to report that 15 parents were able to give their time to the AdvancEd committee. Their insight and feedback will be valuable to our school in moving forward.

- Building Projects

Our state-of-the-art health and wellness center equipped with the latest technology and equipment for physical education classes, team training, and fitness programs will be completed by the end of April. The school has also added 5 LCD TVs to help publicize and promote student achievement and events occurring in and around St. Patrick High School.

- Service

The school is currently looking at its expanding its service and retreat requirements for our students. As part of the strategic plan, one of the overarching goals with Catholic Identity and Lasallian mission is "to foster a life-long commitment among our students, families, faculty, staff, board and alumni."

- Subbing opportunities

The school is currently looking for people who would be able to volunteer and substitute at St. Patrick High School. It would especially helpful on our heavier faculty absence days when people are involved in retreats. It is preferred that someone is a certified substitute teacher, but not a mandatory requirement.

Thank you to those of you who were able to participate in this year's Coffee with the Principal! I look forward to meeting more families next year and in future years as well.