

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

<b>Quiz: Are you organized?</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Preparing for the FAFSA</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Junior Timeline</b>	<b>3</b>
	<b>3</b>
<b>Cub Connection</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Scholarship Info</b>	<b>4</b>

## A Reminder to Senior Parents & Students...

Before Thanksgiving a letter was mailed home to senior parents and students to remind them of student, parent, and guidance counselor responsibilities as well as important dates. We also notified students of what they still needed to submit to guidance counselors in order to have their paperwork mailed off to colleges. If for some reason you did not receive the letter, a copy of the letter is on page four of this newsletter.

There are many students who have empty or incomplete files which means that transcripts and letters of recommendation are not being mailed to schools. Students and parents, please understand applying online is half the battle and in order for that application to be reviewed, students must submit transcripts, letters of recommendation and test scores to the institution.

Transcripts and letters are to

be requested by students and scores can be sent through the testing agency (SAT and/or ACT). Students are playing a waiting game and waiting too late can affect their chances of getting application materials to school on time and/or admissions to the school. So please do not wait and definitely not until the last minute to get applications completed and submitted.

If you are a student who has below a 2.0 GPA it is our hope that you begin completing applications over the Christmas break and study hard for your semester exams. It will be beneficial to you to do extremely well this semester so that your semester grades can be submitted with your transcripts and letters of recommendation. You should request transcripts at the semester end and request that your semester grades be added to your transcript.

Students' mid-year grades will be sent to schools as long as they are favorable. If your semester grades include F's, we try our best not to send them unless the school is requesting them.

At this time all seniors need to be very aware of their current academic standing. Failing a semester class or year long class can result in you attending summer school and/or not walking at graduation. At this point in time, if you are in danger of failing any class for the semester it is your responsibility to meet with your teacher and take the necessary steps in order to pass.

In the event you have to attend summer school, your final transcript will not be sent to colleges until August and you will not receive your diploma until August. This can also cause you to lose admissions into the colleges you would like to attend.

### Important Dates

- Christmas Break December 20– 31; Classes resume Monday, January 3
- Semester Exams January 11-14
- No school January 17
- January 18 3rd Quarter begins

## Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



The guidance department would like to wish all students and families a blessed holiday season and very happy new year!



## Quiz: Are you organized?

Being organized is important for success in the academic and professional world. Take this quiz to find out how organized you are.

1. **I separate my classwork into...**

- A. Separate folders and notebooks.
- B. One huge folder.
- C. Why would I do that?

2. **I keep a daily assignment log...**

- A. So I can visualize deadlines and be ready for them.
- B. Because that's what I'm supposed to do
- C. Because it was free from the school

3. **My friends would say I'm...**

- A. A "neat-freak."
- B. Decently organized
- C. Living in chaos

4. **When I have an exam at the end of the week, I ...**

- A. Plan out when I will study
- B. Start studying two days before the exam
- C. Forget until I'm handed the exam

5. **When materials are no longer necessary, I ...**

- A. Recycle them, throw them out or give them away
- B. Hide them in my closet
- C. Don't really know what I don't need.

### If you answered mostly A's...

Congratulations, you're organized! You keep track of your assignments and deadlines. You aren't afraid of heavy workloads because you set a time line so you don't get overwhelmed.

### If you answered mostly B's...

While there are times when you probably could improve your organization efforts, for the most part you have a system that works for you.

### If you answered mostly C's...

Your organization needs some work. An organization system helps you meet deadlines, but it will also place you in control of your life.

## Preparing for the FAFSA

Here's some information to get you started with the process:

1. **Gather your documents:** Social security number, driver's license, income tax returns, bank statements, and investment records.

2. **Print a FAFSA on the web worksheet.** Write in your answers and gather your infor-

mation then transfer the data to FAFSA on the web. **DO NOT SUBMIT YET!**

3. **Plan how to sign your FAFSA.** Sign electronically with a Personal Identification Number (PIN) or by mailing in a signature page.

4. **Apply for a PIN NOW!** Speed up the process by signing your FAFSA electronically with



your PIN. Your Parent can sign electronically too.

5. **Check your eligibility for federal student aid.**

Apply as early as possible starting January 1. For more information about the FAFSA visit them on the web!

[www.fafsa.ed.gov/index.htm](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/index.htm)

## University Highlight: St. Joseph's University (Philadelphia, PA)

St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia, Pa. is looking for highly motivated students who are "hungry" for four years of life changing intellectual, spiritual and personal growth. The university offers more than 40 undergraduate programs and special study options and has one-on-one faculty/student meeting as an integral part of the undergraduate program. If you are into sports either on the field or the sidelines there are 20 NCAA Division I sports teams to

choose from.

A snapshot of the 2010 freshman class:

- Middle 50% 3.18-3.84 GPA
- Middle 50% SAT 1070-1240
- Middle 50% ACT 23-27

Students come from Maryland, Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey and Connecticut as well as international students.

### Apply for Admissions!

Deadline: Feb. 15

Fee: \$60

Complete the St. Joseph's online application or the Common Application

For more information about St. Joseph's visit:

[www.sju.edu/admissions/index.html](http://www.sju.edu/admissions/index.html)

## Juniors are Switching Gears!

The mid-year mark is fast approaching and its time for all juniors to make college a priority and not just a thought!

There are several things you should be doing this winter to help them make their college aspirations come true.

Starting collecting information about college application procedures, entrance requirements, tuition and fees, room and board costs, student activities, course offerings, diversity, and financial aid. The internet is a good way to "visit" colleges and obtain this information. Begin comparing the schools by the factors that you consider to be most important.

After Christmas vacation make sure you discuss your PSAT scores with your counselors. A letter with your

scores will be mailed home, look over your scores with your parents and be prepared to meet with your counselor during the first weeks back to school.

Begin narrowing down your college choices. Find out if the colleges you are interested in require the SAT I, ACT or SAT II Subject tests for admission.

Register for the SAT and ACT which are administered during the months of February, March and April. Taking it in May or June won't provide you with an opportunity to discuss your score with your counselor.

Begin preparing for the tests you have decided to take. Enroll in prep courses or study on your own.

Have discussions with your parents about the colleges you are interested in

attending. The schools should be reflective of your current academic status and test scores. Examine financial resources, and gather information about financial aid.

Set up a filing system with individual folders for each college's correspondence and printed materials. These folders will be even more helpful come your senior year.

This is a lot of information to take in, however this same information will be included in the January newsletter along with information about ACT and SAT test dates and information about the Junior parent/student college preparation meeting. If you have any questions or concerns in the meantime, contact your counselor!

## From U.S. News & World Report: 8 Big Changes to College Admissions in 2010 and 2011 (Excerpt)

**Earlier deadlines.** Many students, desperate to make sure they get admitted somewhere, are swamping colleges' early decision programs.

Northwestern University, for example, reported a 25 percent increase in early applications this fall over last year. Many public universities are also encouraging

**Colleges, swamped by applications from increasingly anxious high schoolers, are changing their admissions rules to weed out applicants who try to game the system by getting easy A's or plagiarizing their essays.**

or requiring early deadlines to give staff more time to work through the applications. At Purdue University, where each admissions officer handles about 1,200 applications, "we encourage students to apply in September and October because we can't possibly read that kind of volume in one or two months," says admissions dean

Pamela Horne.

**More emphasis on tougher high school courses.** Responding to growing evidence that students who take more rigorous courses in high school are more likely to succeed in college, admissions officers are increasingly weeding out applicants who take it easy in high school by giving more weight to grades in tougher classes. The percentage of colleges giving considerable importance to a student's

## U.S. World & News Con't.

"strength of curriculum" has jumped from 62 percent to 71 percent since 2006. "Looking for easy A classes can be costly because colleges look for students who are better prepared and who will succeed at their institutions," says Suzanne McCray, dean of admissions at the University of Arkansas. "Trying to game the system can only make a student lose out," she adds. "We would much rather see a student challenge himself and get a B" than take an easy class to inflate a GPA, agrees

Kent Rinehart, dean of admission at Marist College.

**More emphasis on application essays.** The percentage of colleges that give essays lots of weight rose from 14 percent in 1993 to 26 percent in 2009, NACAC's survey found. Essays are especially crucial to elite colleges, where they "can make or break your application," says Pitzer's Perez.

**More application auditing.** Stanford, Harvard and a few other colleges have

increased their fact-checking of applications in the wake of the Adam Wheeler scandal. One tool that a growing number of colleges are using, says NACAC president Miller, is Turnitin, a plagiarism software program that looks for phrases in essays that match those in millions of websites, articles and books.

**For the full article visit:**  
<http://www.usnews.com/education/best-colleges/articles/2010/>



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## ARCHBISHOP CARROLL HIGH SCHOOL

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[www.archbishopcarroll.org](http://www.archbishopcarroll.org)

- Dear 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Parents and Students,
- A few months have passed since the College Information Night that was held in September for parents and students. In that meeting the guidance counselors expressed how important it was that students stay on top of their studies as well as their college applications. It was our sincere hope that each senior with a cumulative GPA of 2.0 and higher would have at least one application completed and submitted to a college by Thanksgiving. To do date there are many seniors who have not done so. The window to apply to colleges across the country is quickly closing and it is imperative that students take heed and get their applications completed and submitted in a timely manner.
- A few reminders about student, parent, and guidance responsibilities:
  - Students are responsible for requesting transcripts in the main office. It is important to include the college name and address on the form so your guidance counselor knows where to mail the information.
  - Multiple schools can be written on the back of the form.
  - Students are responsible for requesting two teacher recommendations. The recommendation should come from a teacher who taught you in 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> grade and be a core subject.
  - Students are responsible for submitting personal statement(s) and any supplemental forms to their guidance counselor. Personal statement(s) are encouraged by your guidance counselor even if they are not required the college or university. The personal statement gives the student an opportunity to share their abilities, dreams, ideas, etc. with the college.
  - Parents are responsible for giving reminders to students, paying fees, and continued encouragement.
  - Guidance is responsible for mailing transcripts, letters of recommendations, personal statements, and supplemental forms to schools. All materials will be mailed in once file is complete (transcripts, letters, personal statements). All documents will be mailed in one envelope.
  - Guidance is responsible for being available to students and parents when questions and/or concerns arise.
- Also every month the guidance department releases a newsletter that is included in the Green Notes and published on the ACHS website that provides information on where students should be in the application process, scholarship opportunities, and other information about college that may be helpful to parents and students.
- The Guidance Department is here to assist students and parents with this process however students need to be reminded what they put into the process is what they will get out of the process. We would like to see all of students with college acceptances in the spring and to ensure that they must get on board and get their applications completed and submitted to the colleges and universities of their choice.
- College Application Deadline Information
- Please be aware of the following when requesting and submitting information to you guidance counselor.
 

If you have a deadline of:	All Information needs to be to you guidance counselor by:
• December 1	• Monday, November 22
• December 15	• Monday, November 29
• January 1 - 15	• Wednesday, December 15
• January 15	• Monday, January 3 (at the latest)
• February 1	• Tuesday, January 18
• February 15	• Monday, January 31
- If you have any applications that are due after February make sure that all information is submitted to your counselor at least two weeks before the deadline date.

## Scholarship and College Information

- Top Test Prep is offering accelerated ACT and SAT courses. Contact Sam Osborn at 800.501.PREP for more information.
- The Office of Pre-College Programs at the University of Notre Dame is offering a Seminar for African-American Scholars (SAAS), an all-expense paid Notre Dame experience for 40 talented students from across the country, the coming summer of 2011. The online application for SAAS 2011 will be available to students on **December 1, 2010**. Another program being offered is a 2-week summer session tuition based program with 14 different academic tracks. Limited scholarship are available for academically talented and underrepresented students. Visit: [www.precollege.nd.edu](http://www.precollege.nd.edu)
- If you could search for the answer to one question before you start college, **what would it be?** The University of Dayton has a challenge for you. **Ask a question.** What captivates your interest? **Create a video.** Explain your question and how you would search

for the answer. **Share the video.** Use Facebook, Twitter, e-mail and word-of-mouth to tell your friends and family about your video, and collect as many votes as possible. **Winners will be given money toward the investigation of their question- and one lucky winner will receive a scholarship(\$40,000) to the University of Dayton.**

Learn more at [admission.udayton.edu/yourquestion/](http://admission.udayton.edu/yourquestion/)

- AF College Resource is awarding two \$250.00 college scholarships to high school students in Washington, DC, Maryland and Virginia. If you are interested in applying for this scholarship please see Ms. Burks for a scholarship application. Students from Carroll have been recipients of this scholarship in the past.
- The University of Southern California (USC) 4-2-1 week summer college immersion program which will introduce rising sophomores, juniors and seniors to college life and will focus on

a subject area of the student's choice. Courses are challenging, interactive and engaging, and students receive 3 units of USC elective credit upon successful completion of the 4 week program. If you are interested in the program visit [summer.usc.edu](http://summer.usc.edu) or call **213.740.5679** or email [summer@usc.edu](mailto:summer@usc.edu).

- If you haven't already visited the financial aid page of the college and universities that your child is applying to for admissions. Schools do offer scholarships but the money is limited and first come, first serve. If your child is eligible we encourage you to apply for those monies.

### College Lingo

**Credit Hour**— credit hours are awarded to a student upon passing a course. Courses typically range from one to five credit hours.

**Full-Time** - generally, fulltime is when you are enrolled in 12 or more credit hours, usually three to five classes.