



# Providence Catholic High School

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## Principal's Newsletter

September 14, 2009

Dear Parents & Students:

The 2009-2010 Providence Catholic school year is off to a great start! The student and faculty orientations, faculty in-service, book sale, Freshmen & Transfer Parent Meeting, the Meet the Teacher Night, the Freshmen Welcome, and the opening school Mass are all of the events that have helped create a smooth start.

The opening school Mass always honors St. Augustine, the founder of the Augustinian Order. This opening Mass was presided by Bishop J. Peter Sartain because it was one of two events that celebrated the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Augustinian leadership at PCHS. The other event was the Cor Unum dinner and presentation the night before the opening mass. Fr. McGrath's homily at the opening mass along with Bishop Sartain's remarks at the end of the mass emphasized the role of St. Augustine and the Augustinian leadership in education. The solemnity, warmth, love, and unity that was felt by all, set the tone for everyone in the PCHS community as we work toward the accomplishment of the Augustinian values of truth, unity, and love.

The mass had a special surprise at the end when Fr. Sotak presented Fr. McGrath with a facsimile of a plaque that will be placed on the Providence Catholic Children's Academy building naming it the Reverend Richard J. McGrath, OSA Center. This is an honor that the PCHS community bestowed on Fr. McGrath for his 25 years of dedication, commitment, and leadership to the PCHS community.

The values stressed in the opening mass followed up on the theme of "personal responsibilities" which always is stressed at each of the four student orientations. This theme calls for each of us to live up to our fullest capability and help those around us to do the same. "Live and help live" enhances the family atmosphere and stresses that each of us are to be leaders. It was emphasized that every student, each class, and the whole student body are very capable of achieving personal responsibility due to their commitment to being good people. This commitment is just not expected of them; there is every confidence that everyone in the PCHS community is capable of accomplishing this goal within the PCHS mission.

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Currently we have an enrollment of 1165 students with 316 freshmen compared to a year ago of 1146 students with 325 freshmen. The increased enrollment is a result of all facets of the PCHS faculty working together, committing itself to the mission and values of the community. Parents, students, faculty, and staff have created a positive mission and environment that nurtures the growth of our community.

A huge thank you to everyone who had a big or small role in the events of the last four weeks that have created such a positive start to this school year. It has taken many working together to achieve the renewal of the PCHS community spirit. Please remember that "each of us is lovable and capable!"

Please remember all PCHS alumni in your prayers, but especially the class of 2009 who have gone off to college for their first year. As always, your prayers for the women and men in the military serving our country as well as those who have made the ultimate sacrifice or have been wounded. Your thoughts and prayers for the victims and their families of the 9/11 attack upon this eighth anniversary are appreciated. Also, there have been many families and individuals in the PCHS family that have suffered personal losses and challenges. Our prayers are currently needed for many.

Sincerely,

Donald E. Sebestyen  
Principal



**BOOK STORE VOLUNTEERS** – Want to be an angel? Bookstore angels are parents and grandparents who volunteer a little of their time for a specific shift each week either before school (7:00 AM to 8:30 AM) or after school (2:00 PM to 3:30 PM) to help in the daily routine of selling books, candy, and clothing to students. If you have time to share and can volunteer, please call the bookstore at ext. 3155.

**THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS** – Our thanks goes to all bookstore volunteers, kitchen helpers, orientation day volunteers, and all those whose generosity and kindness is overwhelming. We very much appreciate your willingness to sacrifice your time for a smooth beginning of the school year.

**DAILY ANNOUNCEMENTS** – Just a reminder that you can view our daily announcements on our PCHS website.

**WELCOME TO NEW FACULTY MEMBERS** – We are happy to introduce the following new faculty and staff members:

Mrs. Chrystal Gregory – Mathematics  
 Ms. Stephanie Wiora – Mathematics  
 Ms. Jaquelin Quirke – Spanish  
 Ms. Erin Dextl – Spanish  
 Ms. Cindy Vernon – Physics & Chemistry  
 Mr. John Baier – Physics  
 Mrs. June Persicketti – Admin Asst Pastoral

**TUITION PAYMENTS** – This is a reminder that tuition payments are due on or before the 1<sup>st</sup> of each month. A \$15 late fee will be charged if payments are received after the 5<sup>th</sup> of the month. Please call the Tuition Office prior to the 5<sup>th</sup> of the month if you will have a problem making an on time tuition payment, to avoid a late fee.

**ALL SCHOOL MASSES** – All parents and family members are very welcome at all school masses which are held regularly during the school year. Masses are listed on the calendar with their designated time schedule and are held in the Sacred Heart Gymnasium. Please consult your handbook for specific dates. Also, please feel free to celebrate daily mass with us when we are using schedule A, B2, C, or E at 7:25 AM each morning in our school chapel.

**ILLINOIS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION** – Enclosed with this newsletter is specific letter from us dealing with the recent cuts from the Illinois State Board of Education budget that affect Catholic schools. Please read this letter and follow through with the request if you deem it appropriate. Thank you.

**HARVEST DRIVE** – Our annual fundraiser to augment income for Providence Catholic has begun with the distribution of tickets and ad forms. Please refer to the Harvest Drive webpage for additional information and available forms.

**PLEASE NOTE:** The Harvest Drive Final Returns Day is on Wednesday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> with a full day of school. Friday, September 25<sup>th</sup> is an adjusted A schedule with a 1:35 PM early dismissal. **BOTH DAYS ARE OFFICIAL SCHOOL DAYS; ATTENDANCE IS REQUIRED.**

**COLLEGE FINANCIAL AID PLANNING SEMINAR** – The Guidance Department sponsors its annual College Financial Aid & Planning Seminar on **Wednesday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>**, beginning at 7:00 PM in the Providence cafeteria. If you are overwhelmed by the maze of college financial aid information, please attend this meeting provided to you at no charge to help you in the process of financial aid and planning for college. All parents are welcome regardless of the age of your student.

In addition, the Guidance Department is offering a Parent College Night on **Wednesday, September 16<sup>th</sup>** at 7:00 PM in our library. The purpose of this night is to help parents through the college selection process. Parents of freshmen, sophomores and juniors are invited to attend as well as parents of seniors who did not attend the Parent College Night as parents of juniors last spring.

**COLLEGE FAIR** – The annual College Fair will be held at Joliet Junior College again this year. Over 100 colleges and universities will be represented at the College Fair on **Tuesday, October 13<sup>th</sup>** from 5:30 to 8:00 PM. Moraine Valley is also hosting a College Career Night on **Wednesday, October 14<sup>th</sup>** from 6:00 to 8:30 PM. These are great opportunities to meet with various college representatives with your sons and daughters and gather information.

**PARKING IN FRONT OF BUILDING** – As a reminder, when parking in front of the school building (facing Route #30), there are reserved faculty parking spaces and visitor parking spaces. When parking, please occupy a visitor's space. If those spots are not available, spaces at the west end of this lot are available. Also, **PLEASE REMEMBER**, the front drive is a **ONE WAY** street, going from west to east. Thank you for your cooperation.

**MATH LAB** – The PCHS math lab pilot program continues this school year to help students who are having short term math difficulty. These students can

obtain a pass to attend the math lab during study hall or lunch. They can also visit the math lab before school since it will be open at 7:15 AM except on "B" scheduled days. The intent is for student's who need immediate help, but for a short term such as a day or a few days. Students will be able to "drop in" for assistance from a roaming peer tutor who is under the supervision of a math teacher.

This does not mean that the previous Peer Tutoring Program, which is designed for all subjects, cannot be used for long term math tutoring. It can be used for this purpose on a more formal basis. Students can be recommended by their math teacher to either of these tutoring processes, but the "drop in" can be the quick shot in the arm for a student. We are limited to no more than twenty students per period due to space. This math lab is in room 211 while the Peer Tutoring Room is still in room 213. Mr. Wibiral is the coordinator for both programs.

**STATE LOAN TEXTBOOKS** - This program from the State of Illinois provides the free use of a textbook to the PCHS students who are taking English 4, English 2, Statistics, Physics, Biology, Chemistry, Accounting, Spanish 2 and German 1. Students who receive these textbooks are responsible to return the same numbered book, in good condition, which they received at the start of this school year. If this same numbered book is not returned the student will be charged the cost of replacing the book. We ask that the students and parents be very aware of turning in the appropriate numbered book at the end of this school year. Just a reminder that the book covers given out the first days of school need to be returned on the book as well.

**IHSA POLICY** - Providence Catholic, in compliance with Illinois State law, is a drug, alcohol and tobacco free zone. Please refrain from using any of these substances while on Providence Catholic property. This includes the stadium, all restrooms, all school facilities, and all parking areas. As many of you know, alcohol, drugs and tobacco have no place at Providence, and we thank you in advance for your kind cooperation in assisting us maintain a safe, healthy, and sober environment for all fans.

**OUR CONCESSION STAND** - The Band & Guard Parent Organization welcomes you to the 2009-2010 football season! Stop by and see what we offer; we guarantee there is something for everyone's taste! We continue to offer our delicious hot dogs, hamburgers, cheeseburgers, Aurelios' pizza, famous Providence bosco sticks with marinara sauce, soft pretzels and nachos with cheese! Don't forget - we have the best

popcorn in the Catholic League!!! Look to purchase our popcorn in a Provi Charlie Celtic Band megaphone and cheer our team on when the popcorn is gone! For those looking for something sweet - we have a nice variety of candy and cookies; our beverages include ice-cold water, Gatorade, pop, coffee and tasty hot chocolate for those chilly nights! Cheer on our football team to victory and watch as our amazing Marching Celtics band & guard students entertain the crowd! Our Marching Celtics will be traveling to Tampa, Florida to participate in the Outback Bowl half-time game. GO CELTICS!

**FREE "CLINGY" ENCLOSED** - In order to help promote school spirit the Administration has enclosed a free "clingy" for your personal automobile with this mailing. The clingy works using static electricity and does not use glue. Please peel the backing off the "clingy" and apply it to the inside of your car window in an appropriate place to show your support for Providence Catholic. If the clingy does not stick well, wet the front surface of it before applying, apply it carefully, and smooth out any bumps or wrinkles. Some juniors will receive an additional "sticky" which we had remaining from a previous year. If you would like an additional "clingy" for your family vehicles, please call the school and let us know.

**PROGRESS REPORTS** - Starting this school year, the quarterly progress reports will only be posted on the Ed-Line system unless a parent notifies the Principal in writing that there is a vital need to mail these quarterly progress reports home. This change in school policy is due to the attempt to make our environment more "green" and the success of the Ed-Line system. If you do not have access to a computer to check the quarterly progress report, please notify the Principal in writing.

First quarter progress reports will be e-mailed the week of **September 23<sup>rd</sup>**. These reports are designed to help parents keep in touch with the academic performance of each student and with individual teachers. Please congratulate your children on their achievements; encourage them if their progress is not what you hoped for. Please use these reports to motivate students to obtain better report cards which follow in about a month. Please emphasize to them that they have plenty of time to improve, but effort is essential! Please remember that if you would like to speak to your student's teachers, call school to leave a message for them. They should respond to you within 48 hours.

**BLOOD DRIVE** - The Augustinian Youth Ministry Blood Drive is scheduled for **Tuesday, October 6th from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM**, in the IHM gym. Please bring a photo ID with you on this day. Parents and families are

invited to participate and will receive priority; no appointment is necessary. If any parents would like to volunteer and work the blood drive, please contact Ms. Duffy.

**COLUMBUS DAY - FREE DAY** - No school will be held on **Columbus Day, October 12<sup>th</sup>**.

**STANDARDIZED TESTING** - On the morning of **Wednesday, October 14<sup>th</sup>**, the EXPLORE and the PLAN tests will be administered to the freshmen and sophomores respectively. The PSAT or a practice ACT test will be administered to juniors. Seniors will have no classes that day; attendance is required for all other students. Students will be dismissed at noon. All buses will run before and after school.

**FALL PLAY** - In October, the Providence Drama Club will present the fall play, "Footlight Frenzy," directed by Ms. Denise Hamilton. The evening performances will take place on **Thursday, November 5<sup>th</sup>, Friday, November 6<sup>th</sup>, and Saturday, November 7<sup>th</sup>**. These performances will begin at 7:00 PM. There will be a matinee performance at **2:00 PM on Sunday, November 8<sup>th</sup>**. These performances will take place at Bicentennial Park in Joliet. If you have any questions, or to reserve tickets for any performance, please contact Janlyn Auld at 815-717-3180.

**INK CARTRIDGE COLLECTION** - Please support PCHS Habitat for Humanity by collecting your used ink cartridges and turning them in to Mrs. Maratea in room 118. This fundraiser will help PCHS students fund their annual Habitat trip during the summer of 2009! Ultimately, your contributions will help a family who is in need of a home.

**LATE START DAYS** - On days when weather is not a problem, but the schedule calls for a morning teachers' meeting, all Providence buses run one half hour later. Please keep this simple guideline in mind for the future.



**PCHS OPEN HOUSE** - The PCHS Women's Club is looking for volunteers to provide home baked goods for the PCHS Open House on November 22<sup>nd</sup>. Due to the large crowd expected, we are in need of many bakers. If you would like to help out, please contact Lisa Marth at [marthl@corporatesafe.com](mailto:marthl@corporatesafe.com).

**DRESSES FOR SCHOOL DANCES** - All school dances including Prom and Senior Dinner Dance fall under the dress code rule on pages 38 & 39 in the Student/Parent Handbook. Please read before shopping for any special dance. Although it is very early in the season to

think about next spring's prom, we would like to share some information with you now so that this does not catch you off guard. It is our duty to review school guidelines concerning appropriate dresses. Dresses worn to the prom or dinner dance which have a plunging neckline, no back, a bare midriff, a hemline shorter than 3 inches above the top of the knee, or are not appropriate for a formal dinner party will not be allowed. Young ladies should be expected to dress modestly and appropriately considering their age and level of maturity, therefore, being consistent with our moral values. Please be sure that you have screened all dresses for any school sponsored dance.

**SOLAR PROJECT** - The installation of the Solar Panels and connection to the electrical system has been completed. This "green" project has enabled the science curriculum to be enhanced as well as adding another aspect to the Science Club. This enhancement was made possible by the Illinois Clean Energy Foundation awarding PCHS a \$10,000 grant to install this system. If you are interested in the data that the system provides go to <http://www.solrenview.com/livesites.html>. Scroll down to find "Sun Air Systems" in the left column, click on Providence Catholic High School. The system does provide a small amount of electricity to the Science wing.

**VOLLEY FOR THE CURE - SAVE THE DATE:** Thursday, **October 1<sup>st</sup>** vs. Fenwick High School at PCHS.

VOLLEY FOR THE CURE was created as a way to honor and celebrate the heroic fight against breast cancer. On Thursday, October 1<sup>st</sup>, Providence Catholic High School will be participating in this event. The promotion is dedicated to all the men and women who have been touched by breast cancer with the hopes that this devastating disease will one day be cured. We will be honoring all breast cancer survivors at 6:00 PM that evening.

If you have someone you know that you would like to honor, please email [gmcmaster@providencethecatholic.org](mailto:gmcmaster@providencethecatholic.org) with their name and contact information. In addition, please let us know if the individual will be attending the evening's event.

"Proceeds from the evening's event will go directly to **"Susan G. Komen for the Cure."** If you would like to make a donation, please make checks payable to **Susan G. Komen for the Cure** and send directly to: Providence Catholic High School, Attn: Gail McMaster 1800 W. Lincoln Hwy., New Lenox, IL 60451