

**The St. Ursula Academy Parent Bulletin**  
**Craig Maliborski, Principal**  
**Week of December 5 - 11, 2011**

**Monday, December 5, 2011 BLUE/A**

- Sisters St. Nick all week
- 9:00-10:00am Parent Board Meeting
- 5<sup>th</sup> Bell: Student Organizations – Images, Student Council, The Light, ISSE
- Intramural Lunch
- 4:00-6:00pm Spring Musical Auditions

**Tuesday, December 6, 2011 BLUE/C**

- Intramural Lunch
- 4:00-6:00pm Spring Musical Auditions

**Wednesday, December 7, 2011 BLUE/B**

- 7:30-9:00am Parent Board Coffee
- Intramural Lunch
- 4:00-6:00pm Musical Call-Backs
- 6:00pm Board Meeting

**Thursday, December 8, 2011 GOLD/D (Adjusted Schedule)**

- 7:45am Faculty/Staff Meeting
- 11:00am Feast of the Immaculate Conception Liturgy
- Bulldog Buddy Wrap-up Lunch
- 6:30-8:30pm Showcase Night

**Friday, December 9, 2011 BLUE/A**

- CSTAT Ten Thousand Villages Fundraiser
- 8:00pm Student Council Holiday Dance

**Saturday, December 10, 2011**

**Sunday, December 11, 2011**

- 4:30pm Christmas Concert in the Chapel

**NOTES FROM THE PRINCIPAL**

I reminded the girls this week that we will need to prepare ourselves for the events that occur in December. With the first semester ending with exams (Tues. Dec 20 and Wed. Dec 21) before the Christmas break, I stressed to the girls the importance of staying focused on their classes, keeping up with their work and seeking assistance from teachers if they are having difficulty. The weeks

preceding Christmas can be hectic for all of us--student and adults. With everything else happening in December, it can be easy to lose sight of the preparation that each of us individually need to make during Advent for the celebration of Christmas. Each morning, we do an Advent reflection that reminds us of what we can do to prepare ourselves for the great gift that we are given. By taking time each day to pause, reflect and pray, our hearts and minds will be better suited to accept all of the gifts that we are presented during this most holy time.

Congratulations to Kaitlyn Ferrara, Allison Ridge, Betsy Zilch and Megan Daniher who were named High School All-American Swimmers. Kaitlyn was named All-American (for the second straight year) in the 500 free and the 400 Free Relay; Betsy in the 100 Free and 400 Free Relay; and Allison and Megan both as members of the 400 Free Relay.

This is a reminder that, during all evening events, we have Cincinnati police serve as security. An officer will patrol the streets and lots. Please make sure that, when you park your car, there are no visible signs of items being left in the car. This is particularly true at this time of the year, when you may be coming to an evening event after Christmas shopping.

### **FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL**

Student artists in Ms. Probst's class made a trip downtown this past week to decorate SUA's contribution (35 very cool ornaments!) to Celebritrees. During this wonderful holiday season stop by the Atrium of the 580 Building at 6th and Walnut and see the girls' work. The Celebritrees Show runs from Nov. 28 - Dec. 9 and proceeds from the auction of these trees will benefit Tender Mercies. On another creative adventure the following design students recently participated in Mount Saint Joseph's Design Charrette: Chloe Giorgiades, Isabel Dansereau, Elizabeth Cardone, Katie Clifford, Kathleen O'Donnell, Kaela Shannon and Danielle Summe. Danielle's group placed first, Kathleen's group was second! Join me in congratulating these talented young women!

### ***Foreseeable Absence***

Since before Thanksgiving there has been an increase in the number of **foreseeable absences** of our students. Among the many reasons were college visits, family gatherings and non-St. Ursula programming like athletic "club" sporting events. In the event of a *foreseeable absence* for any reason, please notify either Ms. Bacon or me at least **one week in advance** of the absence. I genuinely appreciate the fact that many of you already do this.

### ***Is this excused?***

Generally, if a student's academic and attendance record is good, then foreseeable absences will be excused. We request notification at least a week in advance so that we can notify the teachers of the absence. This also allows the student to meet with her teachers regarding the class time that she will be missing. Since the absence is foreseeable, the teacher may want to provide the student with any work that the student will miss prior to her leaving. Also, if the student will be missing a test or quiz, the teacher may want the student to take the quiz or test prior to her absence.

### ***Can I take my exams early?***

I know the girls will all be anxious for their Christmas vacation to begin, but exams **cannot** be taken prior to the designated exam days:

Tuesday, 12/20: Exam Day 1

Wednesday, 12/21: Exam Day 2

Thursday, 12/22: Emergency Make-Up Exam Day (only needed if weather forces a school closure on 12/20 or 12/21)

Again, thank you for your cooperation with these procedures. If you have any questions regarding our absence policies, please refer to the Parent Student Handbook or contact me.

Lastly, the girls' resident grandmother, Sister Elizabeth, shared this wonderful reflection with all of us this week and I thought you would enjoy it as well as we greet this Advent season with hope and anticipation:

*My friends, many of you remember the movie, The Color Purple. In my Advent reflection booklet, there is a quote from Shug. She says: "Celie, tell the truth, have you ever found God in church? I never did. I just found a bunch of folks hoping for him to show. Any God I ever felt in church I brought in with me. And I think all the other folks did, too. They come to church to share God, not find God."*

*The message for us: WE NEED TO FIND GOD SOMEWHERE IN OUR EVERYDAY LIVES. Something to think about as we prepare for Christ's coming. S. Elizabeth*

## **PARENTS' CLUB**

Sisters St. Nick is a tradition that has been carried on for the past 26 years at St. Ursula Academy. Before Thanksgiving, each of our Ursulines of Cincinnati sisters is asked to write down her wish list of gifts she would like to receive. These wishes are then listed on tags and placed on a Christmas tree in the Keller Center on Monday, November 28th. Students are asked to choose an ornament, and then purchase the gift listed. **Gifts are to be returned to the Keller Center, wrapped and tagged for the sister, by Thursday, December 15th.**

Any items that parents or friends would like to donate are also welcomed. If you have access to samples of lotions, shampoo, stationery, or other goodies that the sisters might enjoy, please send them in with your daughter to place under the tree with tagged gifts. We are collecting for 13 sisters. The sisters are thrilled on Christmas to open all the gifts given to them by the students. Please encourage your daughter to participate in this wonderful and giving tradition. Thank you for all your generosity this Holiday Season!

## **Theatre Department**

### **The Cappie Reviews are In!**

Congratulations to the cast & crew of the "Radium Girls." Thirty-five Greater-Cincinnati High School theatre critics (Cappies) attended the Saturday, November 12 performance. Below are some highlights from the reviews. Please visit [www.saintursula.org/cappienews.pdf](http://www.saintursula.org/cappienews.pdf) to read more.

### **Performance Comments**

*Anchoring the performance was the unmistakable effort from every member of the cast and crew. The players effectively put on a well-rounded production, especially through their defined, believable characters.*

*The production's greatest strength was the performance of lead actress Dawn Thomas as Grace Fryer, one of the many girls afflicted by the factory's horrific policies. Her physicality was astounding during the play's second act, during most of which her character was afflicted by chronic pain and tremors, which she made seem frighteningly natural. Her facial expressions and clear intentions also*

*helped to make Grace a well-rounded and sympathetic character, providing a solid emotional core for the production.*

### **Technical Comments**

*The make-up crew, led by Maria Broderick, developed a progression of make-up changes that beautifully illustrated the horrific sickness the girls experienced. It was brilliantly subtle and fully thought-out*

*In regards to the tech for this show, the word “supreme” is the only word suitable. The balance between light and shadow highlighted every tiny underlying theme in the story. Scene changes were quick and carefully planned.*

*Overall, the show did an excellent job of conveying conflict between those oppressed by the industrial twenties and those running the corporations. It also portrayed excellently one man’s own moral conflict. It was a production full of emotion and the audience was infected by its power.*

### **Anything Goes Auditions**

Attention Singers, Actors, and Dancers!! Auditions for the St. Ursula Spring Musical “Anything Goes” will take place on Tuesday, December 6, Wednesday, December 7, with dance auditions on Thursday, December 8. Information is available on the Theatre Bulletin Board or contact Ms. Bryll and Ms. Hinkel. All are welcome!

### **Students to Perform in Benefit Performance**

Maria Broderick, Kieran Conway, Megan Devoto, and Jessica Zalewski will be appearing in *Eve and Eddie's Holiday Broadcast* at the Carnegie Theatre in Covington Saturday, December 3 and Sunday, December 4. This production is a fund-raiser for the Redwood Facility in Northern Kentucky. Come join Eve and Eddie for a big-band radio show that celebrates the holiday season through song and dance. This 1940's style musical revue is a radio, USO, and variety show all rolled up into one! The students will be performing a tap routine choreographed by Ms. Dee Anne Bryll. This production also features the Fairfield High School Choraliers, the Bobby Ziegler dancers, as well as other local singers and dancers.

### **Our Miss Brooks begins rehearsals**

Rehearsals are underway for the Winter production, ***Our Miss Brooks***, directed by Allison Hinkel. Tickets will go on sale, Wednesday, January 4. The production runs for three performances, February 3-4.

## **GRIEF SUPPORT**

***Getting Support for Grief and Loss During the Holidays:*** Celebrating the holidays following a loss can present unique challenges for people who have experienced a loss. This workshop will assist people in honoring their grief and getting support during the holiday season. This free program will be held December 13 at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital, Fairfield, 3050 Mack Road, from 7:00 to 9:00pm.

To register or obtain additional information, call Sandy Keiser at Catholic Charities, 241-7745.