

DECEMBER 2009

Our culture blasts us with the message that we can't be happy unless we have more stuff. Our faith reminds us to stop and count our many blessings. This is a holy time of waiting and looking for the messiah. In this difficult economy, let us look to what is truly our treasure: our family. During this Advent season, please be assured of our prayers for your family. Thank you for being a part of ours!

We're in the all-important final stretch to the end of the semester. Enclosed in this mailing is the last **progress report** before final exams. Students still have many opportunities to improve their grades. Please join us in encouraging them to do so.

National Award: Congratulations to our outstanding staff and students for being recognized by the National Association of Secondary School Principals as a **MetLife Breakthrough School** for the next year! Ten schools were recognized for their collaboration and ongoing attempts to improve student learning.

Viper Athletics: Congratulations to our **state-qualifying Varsity Soccer** team and to **Arcenio Trujillo**, our Varsity Cross Country runner who earned 13th place at the state finals. Our first two state banners are up in the Click Family Center. There's plenty of room for more!

- **Varsity Basketball** season begins in December. Please refer to the website for the most accurate schedule of games.
- We offer our thanks and a sad goodbye to our Athletic Director, **Melissa Wheeler**. She has done much to improve our program in just three semesters and we wish her all the best in Phoenix.

Yearbooks can be purchased ONLINE at www.myyear.com. Have your child's name stamped in foil on the cover of his or her yearbook for only an additional \$5.00. Deadline for name stamps are January 18th 2010. Check out www.myyear.com for details! There's Only One... 2010 Yearbook! This seventy-two page, all color book will celebrate the unique community of San Miguel and the strong sense of family amongst its students, staff and community. A limited number of books have been ordered. Reserve one for your student NOW. This book is priced to sell at \$40.00 and payment plans are accepted through the front office.

Counseling Department: We will be sending out notices for students who are missing credits or who have not passed a semester course. Please be on the look out for these notices so that the appropriate plans can be made for summer school.

Senior Parents! Please remind your student to keep on track with all of their college applications and scholarships. The month of December should be dedicated to final touches and last minute details on applications.

On January 13th and 14th we will be hosting a **FINANCIAL AID PARENT NIGHT**. The 13th will be in English and the 14th will be held in Spanish. Here you will have the opportunity to have all your questions about financial aid answered and submit your FASFA application forms to receive federal money for college.

Corporate Internship Program: Please remember that any missed work days must be made up before the start of the new semester. Students must make arrangements with their coordinator to make up days over the holidays.

Final Exam Schedule for fall 2009 can be found on the school website. Please note that students will be dismissed at 12:15 PM on testing days. Students are required to take their exams on the assigned days and times. Please do not ask for exceptions for holiday travel. Exams are worth up to 20% of a final grade.

Christmas break is from 21 December through 1 January.

- Classes resume on Wednesday, 6 January. Faculty have in-services on January 4 – 5th. No classes will meet on those days.
- CIP starts again on Monday, 4 January.

Service Programs: Thank you to our very active **Lasallian Youth** group under the direction of **Mrs. Mejia-Garcia**. During December, they'll be hosting two Lasallian schools (Lasalle High School from Portland, OR, and Cathedral High School from Los Angeles, CA) for *El Otro Lado*, an immersion program about immigration designed by our staff and students.

Parking Lot Chaos: The morning drop off situation in the south parking lot has become dangerous to students being dropped off and to the CIP leaving for work. Too many are trying to drop off students in the same spot at the same time.

- We are working on a plan to block off lanes to re-direct traffic to create a safer parking lot. This will take place in December.
- THE SIMPLER AND IMMEDIATE SOLUTION IS TO USE LERDO STREET. Traffic moves very smoothly there. There is a larger area to drop off students. The distance to walk into the courtyard is the same. Parents get in and out immediately. WE RECOMMEND USING LERDO STREET.