

INSIDE SPELLMAN

CARDINAL SPELLMAN HIGH SCHOOL'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

April 2009 Vol. 32 /No. 7

A Message From...The President

Dear Parents and Friends of Spellman,

As I write this letter the first vestiges of spring are struggling to make an appearance -- a signal to each of us that our Lenten journey is coming to an end. At this time of year we are all encouraged to take strength in the salvation event that brings hope to each of us -- the Resurrection of Jesus ...His dynamic affirmation of life.

In these troubling times, we all need the **hope** that the Easter season brings to us ... **hope** in the goodness of people ... **hope** in the face of helplessness, discouragement and loneliness ... **hope** in the power of God to lift us up from all the difficult realities that tend to stretch our ability to hope.

May the celebration of Easter 2009 restore in each of us an abundant measure of **hope** based on a deep faith in the Lord.

Peace ... and Happy Easter!

Sister Thomasine Knowlton, CSJ
President

A Message From...The Chairman of the Board

Dear Spellman Community:

The events of the current time are certainly worrisome. Rising unemployment, troubling national deficits, unending bailouts, earth-shattering frauds, a battered stock market and two separate wars being concurrently waged half-way around the world...This is not good. The academic world is reporting very negative news as well. Huge faculty layoffs and cutbacks, reduced program content and choice, massive financial losses, rising tuition costs, astronomical increases in student fees and fewer seats for incoming students.

Nevertheless, as we celebrate our 50th Anniversary, Cardinal Spellman High School continues to enjoy a healthy balance sheet, strong enrollment, remarkably low employee turnover, expanding academic, social and athletic opportunities, an increasingly diverse and talented student body, a well-maintained physical plant, and an unwavering dedication to high quality teaching and learning. Better yet, we continue to do this by fueling the educational experience with a contemporary and powerful commitment to our faith and to our God.

Troubling times or not, Cardinal Spellman continues to hold on to its priorities and we remain hopeful and confident about our future. And it's a good thing we do—because the nationwide statistical data is clear. Kids who graduate from Catholic high schools positively outperform, in the aggregate, kids that do not. This is true both in terms of academic performance in college and in later performance in the work place. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, thank you for your continuing support in making this achievement possible.

Barry C. Cosgrove
Chairman

A Message From...The Principal

As we continue our journey through Lent, may you experience God's peace and His love for each of us.

This month is a short month academically with spring vacation but it is also a very important month as we transition from winter to spring and as we anticipate the last term of the year. Please encourage your son/daughter to not let down on his/her academics. Interims were given to seniors on February 26th and to the other classes on March 6th. I hope that you have had an opportunity to review this report with your child. If you feel your son/daughter is letting up on academics, please call and speak to his/her teachers if you have concerns or questions regarding grades. The end of the third term is March 20th for seniors and April 3rd for grades 9, 10 and 11.

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind you that all financial aid forms and endowed scholarship applications are due on April 1st. No financial aid will be awarded without a processed financial aid application.

We continue to work on our self study for re-accreditation. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who have helped in so many ways—especially by responding to our parent survey and by volunteering to be on one of the committees. We are very fortunate to have parents who are committed to our school.

As always, I encourage you to contact any of us at Spellman when you have questions or concerns. As always, we appreciate any feedback that you can provide.

Ms. Dorothy Lynch
Principal

A Message From...The Assistant Principal

Interim and Report Card Dates

This year we have changed the timing when seniors will receive their Interim Reports and Report Cards for Term 3 and 4. Since the seniors have a much shortened Term 4 we moved up the end date for Term 3 from April 3rd to March 20th for seniors only, so the third and fourth terms would be of equal length. Please see important dates listed below:

	Seniors only	Grades 9-11
Term 3 Begins	1/26	1/26
Interims	2/26	3/6
Term 3 ends	3/20	4/3
Report Cards Distributed	3/26	4/9
Term 4 begins	3/23	4/6
Interims	4/15	5/15
Term 4 ends	5/13	6/10

Course Selection for 2009 - 2010

Your sons and daughters are in the process of making decisions regarding courses for the next school year. We encourage you to help them in this process. If you need to speak with a guidance counselor, please do not hesitate to call (508-588-1399).

On April 3rd, your son or daughter will be bringing home a form to be signed containing the courses that he/she has selected for the coming school year for your approval. Please sign this form and have your son/daughter return it to us via the homeroom teacher along with the \$200 re-registration fee.

Forms and fees should be returned on April 6th to your child's homeroom teacher. In order to ensure your son/daughter's seat for the school year 2009 - 2010, it is imperative that you return these signed forms with the re-registration fee (\$200) promptly. If your son or daughter is not returning to Spellman next year, please send a letter to us stating the school he/she will be attending.

PLEASE NOTE:

We build the master schedule based on the course selections made by your son/daughter and approved by you and the school. Once the master schedule is designed it is very difficult to accommodate requests to change a student's courses.

Financial Aid Forms / Endowed Scholarship Applications

Financial Aid / Endowed Scholarship applications were due April 1st. Decisions regarding financial aid will be made in early May. If you are looking for financial assistance for the 2007 - 2008 school year and you have not filed an application, please

call Ms. Lynch immediately. **Financial Aid applications must be completed each year that you are seeking financial aid.**

Uniform Orders

Representatives from Flynn & O'Hara Uniform Company will be here of April 14th from 11:00am – 12:30pm and from 2:30 – 6:00pm to take orders for the 2009 - 2010 school year. We encourage parents of 9th, 10th and 11th grade students to make sure that their sons' and daughters' uniforms are in compliance with our regulations (especially that the skirt/skort is no more than 6 inches above the knee).

Class Rings

Representatives from the Josten Ring Company will be here Wednesday April 8th for a short presentation in the auditorium to give sophomores information regarding class rings. Your son/daughter will be given an order packet with all the information such as styles and cost. Students will be ordering their class rings on Tuesday April 28th. As Parents, you will be receiving information through the mail directly from Josten's within the next few days.

If there are any juniors or seniors who wish to order a class ring they should see Mrs. Davis for the informational packet.

Ms. Susan Davis
Assistant Principal

Religious Studies and Campus Ministry

The school Mass for March was celebrated by Fr. Wally Keymont, Pastor of Saint John's Parish in Bridgewater (also a Cardinal Spellman High School alum!) on the occasion of the feast day of Saint Joseph, March 19th. Several Sisters of Saint Joseph Medallions were awarded prior to Mass. The liturgical choir enlivened and enriched the beautiful, Spirit-filled celebration as they led the congregation in song. Peer ministers participated in various liturgical roles. Special recognition was given to the Sisters of Saint Joseph for their many years of faithful service and dedication to the Cardinal High School community and throughout the Archdiocese of Boston. With much gratitude and appreciation, we extend God's special blessing to each and all!

A Lenten Parent Prayer Night was held on the evening of Wednesday, March 25th sponsored by members of Peer ministry. Parents, friends, and students shared in the evening of prayer that included a Communion Service, Adoration, music and singing, prayer circles, and fellowship. An experience of God's love overflowed in abundance!

Recently, Cardinal Spellman students viewed the video, "God Grew Tired of Us" as a means to raise consciousness about the "Lost Boys of the Sudan" and as segue into a school-wide Lenten project being sponsored by Outreach, STAND, and the Peace

Club. A Run/Walk was held on Saturday, March 21st to raise money for a well to be built in Sudan, known as the "Water for Sudan" project.

Ministry Retreat Days:

Peer Ministry, 2009 welcomed the new candidates for 2010 during an afternoon of retreat on Sunday, March 29th. Students came together in prayer, activities, and fun to recognize this important time of transition. The new candidates were encouraged for their new roles and strengthened for their ministry on behalf of the Spellman community. The torch of God Squad will soon be passed!

Prayer Posse, 2009 will be hosting a welcoming retreat for Prayer Posse

candidates on the evening of April 16th from 6:30-9:30pm at the school.

Other Ministry groups will schedule individual retreat experiences to be held in May, June, or the fall.

Parents, friends, alums: Please join us for one or more of the following events:

A powerful dramatic presentation of the Paschal Mystery will be held in the Cardinal Spellman High School auditorium on Holy Thursday, April 9th. Members of the TAG team have planned an experience like you've never witnessed before! Please come to enter more fully into the sacred events of Holy Week.

The April School Mass will be held in the Spellman auditorium on Thursday, April 16th beginning at 9:30 a.m. Father Ed Riley from Saint Joseph's Parish in Holbrook will be our celebrant.

The next meeting of the Parent Prayer Group will be held on Tuesday evening, April 28th beginning at 7:00 p.m. in Room #104. Parents, faculty and mentors of our students are warmly invited and encouraged to join us in prayer. The sessions are based on a book "The Power of a Praying Parent" authored by Stormie Omartian. With questions or for more information, please contact Spellman parent, Mrs. Margi Mannke (781-337-4097) margim@verizon.net or Mrs. Lynne Jensen (508-584-9276) ljensen@spellman.pvt.k12.ma.us

Guidance

Scheduling

In March, Ms. Michel, Scheduling Coordinator and the guidance counselors met with all of the freshmen, sophomores, and juniors in class to discuss next year's program of studies. Most students have tentatively chosen their courses; however, a small percentage of students still have decisions to make regarding elective choices. At the beginning of April, parents will be asked to review the selections and sign their approval on the course selection worksheet. We trust that students have been discussing the process at home since our original presentation four weeks ago. If parents have any

questions or concerns, we encourage you to contact us by phone (508) 588-1399 or by email.

College Admissions Programs for Juniors

During the month of April, there will be a variety of programs offered to “jump-start” the college admissions process for Juniors:

“Making Your College Search Count”

On March 24 at 10am in the auditorium, the juniors attended an informative college admissions program. Some of the topics included in the presentation include: managing college materials, how to focus one’s search, and understanding how schools select students. Please join us for this engaging program.

National College Fair—April 7 (9am-12pm; 6pm-9pm); April 8 (9am-12pm) at the Convention Center.

Approximately 300 colleges will be represented. Each school is set up at an individual table. Students and parents will have the opportunity to personally speak with the admissions representatives and gather printed information from the college. The sessions offered during the school day and will not be counted as excused absences. Therefore we highly recommend that students and their parents attend the Tuesday night evening session. All of the juniors have been given a flyer listing the colleges that will be in attendance.

College Information Night for Parents and Students

Mark your calendars for Tuesday, April 14 at 7pm for Cardinal Spellman’s Annual College Information Program. The featured speaker will be Brian Murphy, Dean of Admissions at Stonehill College and the members of the Guidance staff. They will provide general information on the college admissions process. That night we intend to distribute Spellman’s College Admissions Guidebook. Although all parents are welcome to attend this program is specifically designed for parents and students of the current junior class.

SAT Registration - Standardized Testing

The Guidance Department recommends that all juniors take the SAT this spring preferably the May 2 test date. The deadline was March 31 to register; late registration is April 9. The SATs will also be given on June 6 with the deadline for registration May 5. The June date is excellent for juniors to take the SAT 2, if they have taken the May 2 SAT. These subject tests are required by about 10% of the colleges in the country (www.collegeboard.com) The ACT test is given June 13 with a deadline of May 8 to register. (www.act.org) If at all possible, register online for all of these tests.

College Visits

April vacation is an excellent time for students to visit college campuses because the colleges are in session. Before you go, check the individual college’s website to make an appointment for a tour.

College Research for Juniors and Sophomores.

The guidance counselors have been meeting with juniors to discuss college admissions and use the Naviance Software. This program provides the tools for students to narrow their choices of colleges. At the end of this current school year, sophomores will also be introduced and registered to use Naviance.

Seniors

By April 1, almost all seniors should have heard from their colleges and will have until May 1 to make their final decision and reply to the colleges. Once again, we ask that the seniors bring in copies of their decision letters (good and “bad” news) to us along with any financial aid award letters. Seniors still have many scholarships to which they can apply in the month of April. If parents/students have any questions about the financial aid award letters, need information about Waiting List status, and /or have any random questions, please get in touch with your son/daughter’s guidance counselors immediately. Remember there are no stupid questions! Let us help.

Admissions

People frequently hear me say, in referring to Spellman, “we’re blessed”! We are. I see indications of this every day.

On Thursday, March 26th, at our Academic and Religious Dimension Program for our incoming freshmen and their parents, this was again evident. As part of the program, four seniors: **Sarah Anderson** of Rockland, **John Hagerty** of Abington, **Joffrey Nichols** of Brockton, and **Reilly Poirier** of Dennis presented, from their perspective, the highlights of the Academic and Religious programs at Spellman. Their presentation was real and factual. Better still, it was spirited and dynamic. Their interactions with one another were spontaneous and relaxed. In the words of one parent: “I couldn’t believe the poise and professionalism of the students—and the rapport they shared!”

Then, Ms. Jenson Chairperson of the Religious Studies department and Ms. Davis, Assistant Principal, further developed the scope and depth of our programs. We are so happy to welcome students of the Class of 2013 and their parents.

--Sr. Patricia Lynch
Director of Admissions

Advancement Happenings

GOLF CLASSIC

A reminder that the annual Cardinal Spellman High School Golf Classic will be held on Monday, June 22nd at LeBaron Hills in Lakeville. The player fees are \$160 per person and a foursome for \$640. The day begins with registration, the driving range and lunch. The shotgun start is 11:30am and the day ends with the Chip-Off, dinner and awards. Sponsors are welcome. There are Tee/Hole Sponsors for \$150. Register online at www.spellmanalumni.com/2009GC or call the Advancement Office at 508-584-3004. Proceeds from the tournament benefit Spellman's athletic programs. We are also looking for volunteers to help during the day of the tournament.

Conor McDonough '09 as Joseph in Spellman's March production of "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat"



AD DRIVE Thank You

Bravo to all who supported our ad program book for *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat!* The ad program book helps pay the costs of the royalties, orchestra, decorations, set design and other miscellaneous expenses. For those who attended this wonderful production, you saw the level of professionalism expected by Mr. McEwan and staff. Thank you!



Art News

Sophomore **Justin Brazier** of Randolph was selected as Norfolk County's third prize winner of AAA's 65th annual Traffic Safety Poster Contest. The themes for this year's contest for grades 9-12 were: distracted driving, drunk driving, and speeding. Justin's work was sent to AAA's national office to be considered for a national award.

The photo at left was taken by senior **Nicole DaSilva**.

--Mark Lynott

Computer Bits

Cyber Time Sharing

It's **Research Paper** time. Put aside some time monthly to be with your son or daughter on the computer and designate it as "Cyber" sharing time. Have them take you to the **EBSCO** database online. They can access this site through Spellman.com where the user name and password are listed. You can also access EBSCO directly from your home page. **Spellman** purchases access to this excellent web site just for them to use.

EBSCO host service provides full text for over 460 general interest and current event magazines. (In addition to scholarly journals general interest magazines such as Consumer Reports, Business week, People, Time, and many others are included). A second component, HealthSource Plus, provides full text for nearly 280 health periodicals, over 1,100 health pamphlets, and 20 health reference books. Newspaper Source provides selected full text articles from 154 U.S. and international newspapers. This site will provide the student with **more accurate responses** than they receive when using the Google.com website. **EBSCO** is used for research throughout the high school years and during their college years and beyond. Try it! If you have any questions regarding technology, please email me: jmarston@spellman.pvt.k12.ma.us

Sports

Reilly Poirier '09 and **Paul Pitts '09** were recently named as Winter All Scholastics athletes by *The Brockton Enterprise*. In addition, Reilly Poirier was named All Scholastic by *The Boston Herald*.

All spring teams have just finished up tryouts and have not played a game to date. Softball, baseball, and tennis teams begin their seasons on Wednesday, April 1 and track begins the following week.

--Mike Gerrish
Athletic Director

Senior Happenings

While there are no plans for April events, we are beginning plans for the senior prom and grand march. The students are polling their classmates to choose a theme for these events. The deposit for the prom will be due in April with the balance due in May. The prom is being held at the Venezia Restaurant in Boston.

--Lisa Briggs

Parent Connection

Matt Albanese, a Spellman graduate and attorney, was the guest speaker at our March meeting. He spoke to parents about estate planning. Matt followed his presentation with an informative question and answer session.

We will not have a meeting in April. Our May meeting, which will consist of a Prayer Service led by Deacon Joe, will take place on Wednesday, May 6 at 7:00pm. Please join us.

As the school year winds down, we are looking ahead to the 2009-2010 academic year. If you have any suggestions for future meeting topics, please let us know.

-Laureen Ballard laballard33@gmail.com
 Harriet Young dillis10@aol.com

April 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3 End of Term 3 for grades 9-11	4 ACT Test Spring Gala
5	6 Teacher grades for grades 9-11 due 3pm	7 Verifications due 3pm	8 Student Senate Mtg. 2:10pm	9 Holy Thursday Report Cards distributed to grades 9-11 Stations of the Cross PM Assembly	10 Good Friday No sessions	11 Holy Saturday
12 Easter	13 Cardinal's Holiday No sessions	14 Teacher Interims for seniors due 3pm College Admissions Mtg. for Jrs. & Parents 7:00-8:30pm	15	16 School Liturgy 9:30am Senior Interims distributed Parent Prayer Meeting led by senior ministers 7pm	17	18
19 School vacation through April 24	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27 Classes resume	28 Parent Prayer Mtg. 7pm in Room 104	29 Junior Prom at Lombardos 7-11pm	30 In Service for NEASC No sessions for students		