

INSIDE SPELLMAN

CARDINAL SPELLMAN HIGH SCHOOL'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

April 2010 Volume 33 No. 7

From the desk of Dr. John F. McEwan, President

March 30, 2010

Dear Parents, Guardians and Friends of Spellman:

It is difficult to believe that most of the 2009-2010 school year is behind us! It has been a great time for me to get re-acquainted with Spellman. It has also been an excellent opportunity to see all the good things that happen every day in Spellman's classrooms, on the playing fields and in the community. I am very proud of Spellman's students, faculty and staff. From the opening of school and throughout the school year, the students and teachers have worked very hard to get the most from their Spellman experiences.

The fantastic members of the Class of 2010 have received most of their acceptances for college and we are proud of their accomplishments. We also have been working very hard to make sure that we have a strong, successful Class of 2014. Sr. Patricia Lynch and the school, as a whole, have sponsored successful Open Houses and student visits to Spellman. Our students have shared beautiful liturgies at our monthly Masses and they have all had their annual retreats. Our fall sports teams were very successful and the winter season did very well too. The cast of *Les Miserables* did a great job with three memorable performances in March.

While we have maintained the traditions and hallmarks of the typical Spellman school year, we have also been working on our commitment to focus on twenty-first century learning and our dedication to making Cardinal Spellman High School the best co-ed Catholic high school in Massachusetts. We are well on the way to doing just that!

We have focused much of our attention on technology in Spellman's classrooms. We anticipate that all classrooms will have Promethean boards this summer and that all blackboards will be replaced by whiteboards. We have changed our Technology Plan to reflect our new server and better Internet and Intranet communications. Over the next year or so, we are hoping to replace our PCs with laptops and a wireless system in order to better prepare our students for their futures on college campuses.

We are also enhancing our Program of Studies and hoping to offer more Advanced Placement courses, instrumental music, and bringing back Latin. We are looking for more rigorous programs across the board and, ultimately, we are studying the options of on-line text books and more on-line programs, through our Virtual High School Program. Teachers have been meeting on a regular basis to explore new methodologies and enhanced instructional methods.

As Spellman's facilities begin their 52nd year, we are proud of the maintenance and cleanliness of our school. However, the times have changed and some of our facilities are in need of updating and/or replacing. We have already begun work to plan and fund a new Fitness Center to become

an integral part of our Wellness and Sports Programs. There are more specifics about this project in the next edition of *Traditions*. Bigger plans that are already “down the road” will reflect how to better use the space now available in the convent. We also plan to create new science labs, a new library, increased classrooms and more access to technology, as well as upgrades in our playing fields. The details for this new and very exciting capital campaign will be forthcoming in future editions of *Traditions* and other communications from Spellman. Your support will be very important to make these plans become a reality.

In the meantime, we look forward to the end of this school year. Spring has arrived, the sports seasons will continue, exams will be taken and the Class of 2010 will join the ranks of our alumni. We are proud of Spellman’s wonderful past...but we are also very excited about Spellman’s powerful future!

THE NEW SPELLMAN

Cardinal Spellman High School has great plans for the future! We have worked hard on our curriculum and our technology over the past year. We are very proud of our commitment to 21st Century Learning. At the same time, we are working hard to maintain Spellman’s treasured traditions and its strong Catholic values. Keeping a balance with all that going on and addressing our growing student population, we have much on our plate!

Cardinal Spellman High School’s building is 52 years old. It is in great shape but the physical requirements for teaching and learning have changed dramatically in the past half-century. The demands of technology have already been integrated in our classrooms and throughout the school. Other changes like our guidance and nurse’s offices have been criticized by our recent accreditation from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges. Our science labs definitely need to be updated.

Over the next year or so, we hope to begin a Capital Campaign to address all of our needs. We will talk more about this in the future. In the meantime, we would like to take on a smaller, defined project that will greatly enhance Cardinal Spellman as a whole. We would like to create a Fitness Center that would be adjacent to our current gymnasium.

Physical education and wellness programs require the teaching of practices for lifelong learning and our current facility does not allow for cardiovascular or weight programs. Our athletes have to go off campus to work in various gyms at a fee. We need a place that is safe, well equipped and easily accessible by all students, athletes and staff. We have a plan!

We have been fortunate enough to acquire the services of the architectural firm of Ai3. These are the same architects who designed the award-winning facility of Whitman-Hanson High School that is the model high school for Massachusetts. After interviewing the staff and administration, the architects have drawn up a plan that would be the envy of any athletic director and any school. The plan calls for a facility, contiguous to the gym, of approximately 5,000 square feet that includes an historical hallway, a team room, offices, rest rooms and a large area for free weights and cardiovascular equipment. The plan will enhance our current gym and provide adequate space for tickets and concessions.

Not only is the plan for the new Fitness Center practical, it also is aesthetically beautiful. It will be the cornerstone of the **New Spellman**. The design is integrated into the current facility. It will be highlighted by breathtaking etched glass windows, beautiful landscaping and dramatic lighting. It will be a great source of pride for everyone affiliated with Spellman.

Our goal is to raise the funds for this project over the next year and, if possible, begin construction in March of 2011 for a grand opening in September of 2011. Obviously, we will need much support to meet this goal. We believe that this plan will set the bar for the improvements we are working towards for the rest of the high school. If you would like to learn more about the new Fitness Center or if you would be interested in contributing to this important project, please contact John McEwan, President of Cardinal Spellman High School or Heidi Garcia or Ellen Rota from our Advancement Office. WE are committed to the belief that “the best is yet to come” for the students of Cardinal Spellman High School!

A Message from the Principal

Happy Easter! I pray that this holy season brings you and your family peace!

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 continue the last term of the year. Please encourage your son/daughter to not let down on his/her academics. I hope that you are taking the opportunity of EdLine to check on your son/daughter’s academics. If you feel your son/daughter is letting up on academics, please call and speak to his/her teachers particularly if you have concerns or questions regarding grades.

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

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 give us.

On a sad note, I ask that you remember Sr. Catherine Madden CSJ who passed away on March 31st. Sister Catherine ministered at Spellman for over thirty years. She taught French and served as a secretary when she retired from teaching. May she rest in peace!

News from the Assistant Principal

REPORT CARD AND 4TH TERM INTERIM

Term 3 Report Cards will be given to students on Tuesday, April 6th to bring home to parents/guardians. As always, please call or email teachers with any concerns with your child’s grades. Mrs. Davis will be in contact with parents/guardians of any student in danger of failing a course for the year.

GRADE CALCULATION / FIRST SEMESTER

The first semester average is determined using quarter 1 and quarter 2 grades, each are counted twice and the midyear exam is counted once. The **FIRST SEMESTER** average is determined by dividing this total by five. So at this point, each Term grade consists of 40% of the total, and the Midyear exam is 20% of the Semester average.

The **final average** at the end of the school year is computed using each quarter grade twice and each exam grade once. The **FINAL** average is determined by dividing this total by ten. The Final average uses each Term grade for 20% and the exams grades are worth 10% each.

FAILURES

Mrs. Davis will be in contact with parents/guardians of any student in danger of failing a course for the year. Possibly a meeting will be arranged so that we can all work together to help students succeed academically. Please feel free to call Mrs. Davis or your child's guidance counselor with any questions.

It is important for parents and students to note the following from the Student/Parent Handbook (page 8): "Any student who fails quarter 3 and quarter 4 in any course will ordinarily receive a failing grade for the year in that course".

Seniors who fail third and fourth quarter will be ineligible for graduation.

Any student failing Term Three will ordinarily be ineligible to participate in any extra-curricular activities including sports for the next term.

FRESHMEN, SOPHOMORES AND JUNIORS PLEASE NOTE...

Beginning in the Fall of 2010, students who fail a class for the 4th term in the 2009 – 2010 school year will be ineligible for all sports and extra-curricular activities for the first term of the 2010 – 2011 school year. This is an MIAA rule which Spellman will be enforcing beginning next year.

COURSE SELECTION FOR 2010 - 2011

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 their guidance counselor, please do not hesitate to call (508-588-1399).

During the month of March your child had the opportunity to consult with their guidance counselor to discuss the course selection process and to help them build the most challenging and appropriate schedule for them.

On April 5th, 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 \$200.00 re-registration fee. Forms and fee should be returned on or before by April 6th. In order to insure your son/daughter's seat for the school year 2010 - 2011, it is imperative that you return these signed forms with the re-registration fee (\$200.00) promptly. **If you 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.

UNIFORM ORDERS

Representatives from Flynn & O'Hara Uniform Company will be here of April 15th from 11:00am – 12:30pm and from 2:30 – 5:30 pm to take orders for the 2010 - 2011 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 regulation (especially that the skirt/skort is no more than 2 inches above the knee).

Beginning with the 2010-2011 school year we are eliminating the skorts. We will allow students who will be in grades 10, 11 and 12 to continue wearing their skort **PROVIDED** that it is the required length and design of the original skort.

Notes from the Religious Studies and Campus Ministry Department...

The next meeting of the Parent Prayer Group will be held on Wednesday evening, April 7th 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. This month's session will focus on Chapter 7: "Maintaining Good Family Relationships." With questions or for more information, please contact Mrs. Lynne Jensen at the school: (508-584-9276) ljensen@spellman.com or Spellman parent, Mrs. Margi Mannke (781-337-4097) margim@comcast.net (Both of these are new e-mail addresses!)

A Lenten Parent Prayer Night was held on the evening of Wednesday, March 24th sponsored by members of the senior class who belong to Mercy Inc healing ministry. Parents, friends, and students shared in the special evening of prayer that included the celebration of Mass, music by Spellman students, and a talk with healing prayer led by Frank Kelly. It was a beautiful and peace-filled experience of God's love and grace for all!

Ministry Retreat Days:

All of the senior ministries will be sponsoring welcoming retreats for the new candidates for next school year. The juniors will be receiving their t-shirt and ministry cross. In addition the retreat experience will include prayer, sharing, activities, and refreshments. There is a \$25.00 fee for each junior to cover the cost of the retreat. If a student has particular difficulty with this expense, he/she is asked to speak with one of the senior teachers.

Adoration will be sponsored on the first Friday of April, the 9th by the Prayer Posse. This month's prayer will include a program planned by the Life Guard Ministry to remember and support "Child Abuse Awareness Month." There will be prayers, witnessing, and the distribution of blue ribbons to be worn throughout the month of April. The program will take place during Religion classes in the Auditorium. Please feel welcome to attend.

Members of the Life Guard ministry have made rosary beads and plan to visit Saint Joseph Manor, Brockton to pray a rosary with residents during the month of April. Donna Sullivan, Director of Pastoral Care there, will be visiting Spellman to speak with members of Life Guard about life-supporting activities that nurture and support residents and their families.

The April School Mass will be held in the Spellman auditorium on Thursday, April 15th beginning at 9:30 a.m. A Spellman favorite, Fr. Oscar Pratt, will be our celebrant. Family and friends are most welcome!

ADMISSIONS UPDATE: March 31, 2010

We are blessed! How often as Director of Admissions I say that! We are all so well aware of the financial impact on families at this time and the sacrifices being made by so many in order to ensure that their son or daughter receives an education offering academic excellence, faith development and abundant leadership opportunities.

We are so happy to have the opportunity to welcome so many young men and women not only to grade 9 but also to grade 10 and a few to grade 11. At this time we have a Wait List for grade 9.

On March 25, we invited members of the Class of 2014 to an orientation session: The Academic & Religious Dimensions of Spellman. Administration, faculty and staff commented on how happy families were to be here. We look forward to welcoming them to the "Spellman Family".

Advancement Happenings April 2010

THE LEGACY GALA & AUCTION

There's still time to get your reservations in for the Legacy Gala and Auction, which will be held at the *Lantana on Saturday, April 10, 2010*. Tickets are \$60.00 per person. Remember all proceeds from the evening will benefit Spellman students. To learn more or to purchase tickets, please contact the Office of Advancement at 508-584-3004 or erota@spellman.com.

SAVE THE DATE~ Spellman Golf Classic

The Annual Golf Classic will be held on Monday, June 21, 2010 at LeBaron Hills Country Club. Any parents or faculty wishing to serve on the Golf Committee please contact Ellen Rota in the Office of Advancement at 508-584-3004 or at erota@spellman.com. Sponsorship Opportunities Now Available!!

The Advancement Office is excited to announce that an anonymous donor has challenged us!

The Challenge...

If 900 alumni/friends make a donation this year with gifts of any amount by June 30th, Cardinal Spellman will earn an additional \$40k to support the Annual Fund. This challenge is the first of its kind and proportion! It is no secret that \$40k would make a significant difference in closing the gap between tuition at Spellman and the actual cost of educating our students. To date we need 600 donors to make this happen.

Have you ever known Spellman to back away from a challenge? Absolutely not! Please join us and take the challenge of helping our students and breaking financial records.

Questions? Contact Heidi Garcia at hgarcia@spellman.com or 508-584-3004

Free Tuition Raffle

There's still time to buy your tuition raffle tickets for free tuition! The drawing will be held April 10, 2010 at the Legacy Gala. You do not have to be present to win. Students must meet all necessary admissions requirements. Tuition may be donated to a student of your choice or gifted to a student in need. All proceeds benefit Cardinal Spellman High School. Tickets are \$50 each or 3 for \$100. You can purchase your tickets on www.spellman.com or by mailing your check to Cardinal Spellman High School.

Best Regards and Good Luck!

Join Spellman's Online Networking Communities



Spellman's on-line networking communities are a great way to reconnect with old friends or network with other alumni. Connect with us on Facebook at "*Cardinal Spellman Alumni*" or on Linked In at "*Cardinal Spellman High School Brockton MA*".

Senior Class Happenings

Mr. Spellman

The senior class hosted the first Mr. Spellman Contest on March 26th in the Spellman auditorium. The following students participated, Pat Ahern '10, Mike Augenti '10, Christian Bragdon '10, Ryan Carson '10, Jake Damore '10, Chris Dauphin '11, Dan Higgins '10, Mike Marshall '10, Kevin O'Malley '10, Nick O'Malley '10, Dan Pantano '10, Mike Stefano '10, Andrew Wall '10 and Jared Ward '10. The contestants were judged on four categories; casual wear, talent, formal wear and question and answer.

The contestant that won Most Talented was Dan Higgins. Mr. Congeniality was Ryan Carson. The four top scoring contestants were, Jake Damore, Nick O'Malley, Dan Higgins and Dan Pantano. Congratulations to the first Mr. Spellman: Dan Higgins.

The seniors are now in the process of planning a car wash fundraiser for April. They are also making final plans for their Prom to be held May 20th at Indian Pond in Kingston following the Grand March at 6pm.

A Reminder from the Nurse's office

Cardinal Spellman high School is a peanut free environment. Lunches and snacks should be peanut free.

Student Council maintains a used uniform closet...as you do spring cleaning please consider sending in any uniform parts which you no longer use. Please make sure that they are clean...put in a bag and mark them to Ms. Bailey in Room 204.

The Psychology classes use the "Reality Works...Baby Think It Over" program. If you have any infant car seats, carriers, umbrella strollers, diaper bags that you no longer use, we would be thrilled to get them. They can be brought to Ms. Bailey in Rm. 204.