

INSIDE SPELLMAN

CARDINAL SPELLMAN HIGH SCHOOL'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

February 2010 Volume 32 No. 5

A Message from the President

January 8, 2010

Dear Parents, Guardians and friends of Spellman:

We all hope that you had a wonderful Christmas and we wish you and your families the best throughout 2010. We also hope that you and your families had the opportunity to enjoy each other and to share the special times that we all look forward to during the Christmas season. The anticipation of the season with its shopping, wrapping, decorating and cooking can sometimes distract us from the true meaning of Christmas. Having some time to reflect, pray and to just appreciate all our gifts, is what the season is really about.

I have had some time to think about my first semester at Cardinal Spellman and my role as its new President. It really has been a gift to return to Spellman as its first lay President and to see how much Spellman has grown since I was a student here in the sixties and a teacher here in the seventies. Spellman is a wonderful high school filled with dedicated administrators, teachers and staff. It is also a school filled with enthusiastic students who are committed to learn, not just academically, but also spiritually in order to become positive, contributing and successful adults.

There is the "right" kind of pride in Spellman and it is felt by everyone who visits our school. From the students who visit us through our orientation program, "(CS)³" and our wonderful Open Houses, to the parents and friends who join us for our monthly Masses, to the spectators and opposing teams on the playing fields, to business and service people who just happen to be in the building...people sense a special energy in Spellman.

I have tried to define that feeling and it is best described as a focused commitment to do what's best everyday and to look for the best in the world in every way. We find this teaching in our religion classes but it is also emphasized across the curriculum. Students learn with a focus to get into college but they also are focused on being the best kind of person they can be. This is reflected in the daily demeanor of the students in the halls and cafeteria; it is seen in the numerous volunteer projects they work on; and it is demonstrated most vividly by the kind of young adults they evolve into as they go through their four years at Spellman.

I have always had great pride in Cardinal Spellman High School...but now, more than ever, I feel that Spellman has become a place where every student can reach his or her full potential as an adult. We have much we want to do in the near future to make Spellman even better. We are looking at new and more rigorous classes, increasing our students' use of technology and making facilities changes to offer even better programs in a more twenty-first century environment. I am very enthusiastic about Spellman today but I believe we have an even greater and even more promising future.

I am glad that I did have some time to reflect over the Christmas holidays. It's great to be back at Spellman and it's great to see where we are as a school and where we are going to be in the future.

Sincerely,

John F. McEwan, Ed. D.
President

A Message from the Principal

We are certainly experiencing a true New England winter with all of its elements! The end of January also brings us to the second half of the academic year. We will be distributing report cards to students on February 1st. Please take time to review the grades for the second quarter, midyear exam and the semester grade. If your son/daughter received a grade of F for any of these marks or has not done as well as you expected, I urge you to contact the teacher(s) involved so that he/she can get back on track.

We will be celebrating Catholic Schools Week February 1st through February 5th. The theme this year is Catholic Schools --- Dividends for life --- ***Faith, Morals, Knowledge, Discipline***. Please visit our website to see a description of the events. And of course, you are most welcome to any of these events. As part of our events, we will be engaging in a penny war to raise money to be sent to Haiti. Three teams, seniors freshmen, juniors sophomores and the faculty will be competing to see who raises the most money. This week is an opportunity to recognize the gift that each of us has to be in Catholic School environment and especially at Cardinal Spellman High 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 give us.

Ms Dorothy Lynch

From the Office of the Assistant Principal

NO SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENTS

When a snow storm comes or the weather is bad and there is no school at Cardinal Spellman High School we will:

- Initiate an instant alert
- Call the major radio/TV stations. ***(If you hear that there is no school in Brockton, then Spellman will have no school. We will also announce Cardinal Spellman individually.) Please do not call the convent!***

FINANCIAL AID 2010-2011

Financial Aid applications will be available after Feb. 1st. Your son or daughter may get one in the office or you may call and request that we send you one in the mail. The deadline for filing this application is April 1st. **No student will be considered for any type of financial aid unless this form has been completely processed.**

REPORT CARDS

Report cards will be distributed to students on February 2nd.
If you have any concerns please contact your child's teachers ASAP.

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

Letters will be sent home to the parents of any student with a D- or F semester average.

In addition to this letter, a phone conversation with Mrs. Davis and 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.

As we begin the third quarter 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 Two or whose Semester Average is an F will ordinarily be ineligible to participate in any extra-curricular activities including sports for the next term.

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.

CURRICULUM MEETINGS

On Monday February 8th the guidance department will meet with freshmen, sophomores and juniors to distribute the Program of Studies Book and begin the process of course selection for the academic year 2010-2011. Students who meet the prerequisites and who wish to apply for Honors or AP level courses must submit a statement of interest form in order to be considered for these courses. These forms and due dates will be given to students at the curriculum meetings.

We ask that you review with your sons and daughters their course choices. If you have any questions regarding the process, please contact the guidance department.

February 2010 - Advancement Happenings

Best wishes for a happy and healthy 2010!

The **AD Drive** for the production of *Les Misérables* will continue until Tuesday, February 9th. The success of the Ad Drive is possible because of the many parents, businesses and students who are soliciting ads for this marvelous production, which will be held on March 5th, 6th, and 7th. The ads help defray the cost of the play, which includes the orchestra, costumes, scenery and other miscellaneous expenses. ***Please remember that all ads must be in the Office of Advancement by Tuesday, February 9th in order to be listed in the program book.*** ***We are happy to announce for the first time, you are able to purchase your ad on-line by going to Spellman.com*** Ads can also be submitted to Jane Westerlund at: jwesterlund@spellman.com. Thank you for your support.

SAVE THE DATE

The Annual Legacy Gala/Auction will be held on *Saturday, April 10, 2010 at The Lantana.*

This year we will be honoring:

Dorrie Bessette `69
Pat `73 and Janet `72 Madigan
Mike Perry, Coach
Matt Glynn`75

Not able to join us, but would like to show your support? This year's Legacy Gala Committee is currently looking for donations for the live and silent auction. Please consider helping us make this year's event an even greater success by donating an auction item or serving on the auction planning committee. For more information contact Ellen Rota at 508-584-3004 or erota@spellman.com. **Remember, all proceeds benefit the students of Cardinal Spellman High School.**

TUITION RAFFLE – Win free full tuition for the 2010-2011 school year or \$5,000 cash!

On Thursday, January 14th the tuition raffle tickets were handed out in homeroom to the students. The tickets are \$50 each or 3 for \$100. There is also a cash option of \$5,000. All proceeds benefit Cardinal Spellman High School. To purchase a raffle ticket, please ask your son/daughter for the tickets or go to www.spellman.com to buy the raffles online.

SAVE THE DATE

The Annual Golf Classic

Monday, June 21, 2010

LeBaron Hills Country Club

Planning Committee will begin meeting in February. 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

From the Admissions Office

The letters for admission were mailed Friday, January 29th and we are looking forward to having a wonderful Class of 2014. Registration will be held on Sunday, February 7th from 1:30 –

3:00 and Tuesday, February 9th from 6:30 – 8:00. If needed because of snow storm, we have reserved Thursday, February 11th from 6:30 – 8:00.

At the time of registration, students will be available to be tour guides for some parents who may not have had the opportunity to tour our school with a student at either open house. There are many Spellman students as well as administration and faculty looking forward to welcoming these prospective students and their parents.

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

Please join us for the February Meeting of the Parent Prayer Group to be held on this Wednesday evening, February 3rd beginning at 7 p.m. in Room #104. We look forward to seeing *old* members as well as any *new* members! All parents, faculty, and mentors are warmly welcomed. We come together to pray for the intentions of Spellman students in particular and the needs of our entire school community. For those following along in the book The Power of a Praying Parent, the topic this month will focus on Chapter 5: “Establishing an Eternal Future.” For further information please contact either Mrs. Margi Mannke (781-337-4097) margim@verizon.net or Mrs. Lynne Jensen (508-584-9276) ljensen@spellman.com

Catholic Schools Week—celebrating the theme *Catholic Schools: Dividends for Life* is taking place this first week of February. Many exciting activities have been planned by the Adoration ministry class a.k.a. the *Prayer Posse* under the direction of Ms. Cathy Demers. The various programs include: **Monday: Teacher/Staff Appreciation Day**; **Tuesday: Who is Your Hero?** which will give students and faculty the opportunity to come dressed as their favorite superhero, sports player, religious hero, saint, or everyday hero like nurse, police, and firefighters; **Wednesday: Student Appreciation Day** (no tests or quizzes today!) as well as dress up in colors day—with a particular color assigned to different grade levels (Seniors-blue, Juniors-red, Sophomores-Yellow, Freshmen-Green, and Faculty & Staff-Black); **Thursday is Mass and the Senior Retreat** along with a hoodsie and Spellman cookies for all students at lunch; and Friday is *all-day Adoration, “Come relax with Jesus.”* The **Friday** program will also include a speech about a real-life hero and his mission to build up and restore hope for Haiti as well as a personal witness by a member of Prayer Posse.

Please join us for the Mass celebrating Catholic Schools week on Thursday, February 4th in the auditorium beginning at 9:30 a.m. Bishop John Dooher will be the celebrant.

The Senior Class Retreat is taking place at Cardinal Spellman High School on Thursday of Catholic Schools Week. Members of the Peer Ministry class under the direction of Deacon Joe Nickley have been busy planning the day’s events. The seniors will join the rest of the school community in celebrating Mass together. Additional activities include prayers, skits, and witness talks. Seniors will celebrate their time together and begin to reflect on the joys and sadness associated with leaving Spellman at graduation. A pizza-party lunch will be provided.

A Lenten Prayer Service to observe the opening of Lent is being planned for the week following February vacation on Tuesday, February 23rd at 8:00 a.m. in the Spellman auditorium. Parents and friends are invited to attend!

From the Guidance Office

The Guidance Department would like to like thank Mr. Gilarde for filling in so capably for Mrs. Hogan while she was out on maternity leave. Mrs. Hogan returned on January 25, 2010 and will be working all day on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Mrs. LaCara will continue to be in the office on Monday mornings and all day Tuesday and Thursday.

SENIOR NEWS

At the end of January 93% of the members of the Senior Class have applied to college. The Guidance Department will automatically send the second term grades of each senior to every college where he/she has applied. Students should make certain that every college has their complete file. This can be accomplished by the students going online to their account on each college's website and checking what has been received. If this cannot be done, the students should call the admissions office. If anything is missing, students should report this to their guidance counselor immediately.

Seniors received a new edition of the Scholarship Scoop at the end of January. Approximately 25 scholarships were listed in this newsletter with information on how to apply. Parents of about 40 of the seniors took part in the TERi workshops held at Spellman in the month of January. The counselors at TERi assisted the families in completing their FAFSA forms. Make certain that you have submitted the FAFSA by the deadlines of each college. It is very important that families check the websites of each college to find out what forms each college requires to be submitted. Many of the private colleges require that the parents fill out the CSS Profile. Again make certain that all "paperwork" be supplied by the proper deadlines; otherwise, the seniors may not fully be considered for financial aid.

If parents have questions about any of the steps of the application process, please contact your son's or daughter's guidance counselor. If we don't know the answer, we will make calls.

Seniors should also share their decision/scholarship letters with the Guidance Office, and make certain that they have paid their transcript fees.

JUNIOR NEWS

The Guidance Counselors have begun meeting individually with each member of the junior class. Some of the topics we will discuss with the students include: taking standardized tests, selecting courses for next year based on the student's interest, developing a beginning list of colleges that meet the needs of the student, what students should be accomplishing in the college search process during the junior year, visiting colleges, attending college fairs, and providing the student with realistic choices of colleges. We are more than willing to have individual conferences with any parents or answer questions via email or by phone.

Many of the juniors are availing themselves of the SAT review course that is being taught at Spellman beginning the second week of February. Parents also should have received a Junior Jumpstart Newsletter that explains a variety of upcoming events.

SOPHOMORE NEWS

For the first time the Guidance Counselors are offering an Early College Planning Workshop for parents/guardians of sophomores. The program held on Tuesday night February 2 is an opportunity to inform the parents about the college admissions process and giving the families a timeline and overview of what to expect over the next two years.

Counselors are meeting individually with all of the sophomores to discuss their course selection for next year, the meaning of their PSAT scores, and beginning college planning. In their

Computer Applications course Mr. Healy will work with the students on a software program My Road. This program includes an interest inventory, assists students in developing a personality profile for the world of work, and career exploration. Later on in the year, counselors will register all sophomores on Naviance, an extremely useful college search and planning program.

FRESHMAN NEWS

The counselors in addition to meeting each member of the freshman class at the Breakfast Club, has had a one-to-one appointment with each student. If parents have any questions on course selection, grades, adjustment or any other topics, we encourage you to contact the guidance counselor of your son or daughter.