



MARCH 2009
SAINT MARY'S HIGH SCHOOL
 2525 North Third Street—Phoenix, Arizona 85004 -- (602) 251-2500
www.smknights.org



--GREEN STREAK--

A Newsletter To Keep You Better Informed
 "In the Tradition of the Franciscan Fathers and Sisters of the Precious Blood"

Calendar 2008/2009

March

- 9-13 **Spring Break – No School**
- 17 All School Mass – Feast of St. Patrick
- 18 **Staff Development – Late Arrival Schedule**
- 24 Junior Retreat – On Campus
- 25 Lenten Reconciliation Service

April

- 1 Financial Aid Seminar – 6-8 p.m.
- 2 NHS Blood Drive
- 5 Financial Aid Seminar – 9-11 a.m.
- 7 Combined Schools Band Concert
- 8 Gift of Life Basketball Game – Regular Dismissal
- 9 **Holy Thursday – Friday Schedule**
- 10 **Good Friday – No School**
- 13 **Easter Holiday – No School**
- 16-18 Spring Play – "The Ash Girl"
- 21 All School Mass – Feast of St. Anselm
- 22 **Staff Development – Late Arrival Schedule**
- 25 Prom
- 28 Senior Retreat

Financial Aid Applications

Deadline: April 15, 2009

Saint Mary's continues to pursue every avenue for financial aid resources. For those interested in financial aid, we remind you that the CTODP financial aid application must be filed on or before April 15, 2009. The timely filing of this application is essential to receiving aid from any source. The form requires the attachment of your 2008 federal income tax return, so early preparation of your tax returns is essential and should begin ASAP.

Printed financial aid applications will be made available to parents by mid-March.

**Be Sure to Attend One!!!
 Financial Aid Seminars
 Wednesday, April 1, 6-8 p.m.
 Saturday, April 4, 9-11 a.m.**

Saint Mary's Achieves Very High Marks In Accreditation Report Congratulations To Our Entire Community

In January, Principal Mark Mauro informed our community by letter of the planned visit of a team of educators to complete the accreditation process by evaluating the school's progress and reporting its findings to our accrediting agencies, the Western Catholic Education Association and the North Central Education Association. The visit would bring to a conclusion a two-year effort by our entire community to develop a Focus on Learning Self-Study Report outlining our strengths and weaknesses and setting forth an Action Plan for the future. Our community effort was praised by the Visiting Team:

It is apparent that the community of Saint Mary's High School approached the self-study process seriously and collaboratively, and with a true willingness to effect change for the good of students. The entire community with direct involvement of administrators, teachers, support staff, students, and parents accomplished the five parameters of the self-study. Focus groups were comprised of administration, faculty and staff from all departments. A clear effort was made to include a diverse selection of students and parents. Using the Focus On Learning criteria as well as action plans and areas for critical follow up from the previous visit, the focus groups addressed all facets of the school's programs. The leadership team, drawn from all areas of school life, and the Self-Study Coordinator guided the process through gathering and examination of evidence, frank conversations, and collaborative decision-making.

Visiting Committee:

Greg Dhuyvetter, Ass't Principal, Mater Dei High School (CA)
 Susan Contreras, Teacher, Xavier College Prep
 Scott Middlemist, Teacher, Brophy College Prep
 John Cosden, Teacher, Xavier College Prep
 Patrick Reardon, Ass't Principal, Seton Catholic High School
 Julie Carpenter, Counselor, Notre Dame Prep
 Barbara Stanley, Teacher, Notre Dame Prep
 Donna Stossel, Teacher, Bourgade Catholic High School

Leadership Committee:

Mr. Mark Mauro, Principal
 Mrs. Suzanne Fessler, Assistant Principal
 Mrs. Tina Conn, Mathematics Teacher
 Mrs. Liz Hansen, Director of Finance
 Mr. Robert Kelly, Campus Minister, English Teacher
 Sister John Paul Maher, O.P., Social Studies Teacher
 Mrs. Julie Vietri, Mathematics Department Chairwoman

WALKATHON PAYMENTS ARE DUE BY APRIL 1

Parents can pay Walkathon fees by credit card, check, or cash delivered to the SM Finance Office or by calling 602-251-2517 Alycia Benites. If a payment plan is needed parents can arrange a plan with Alycia Benites. Failure to pay the full \$100 by the end of the school year may result in a student's inability to take finals.

Saint Mary's High School **Self-Study Visiting Committee Report**

Listed below are several terms may be unfamiliar to parents and are an important part of the report of the Visiting Team. We include these terms in the interest of a complete summary of results.

Expected Schoolwide Learning Results (ESLRs)

Graduates of Saint Mary's High School will be... (a) Followers of Christ's Gospel with a deep commitment to the Catholic faith and respectful of other faiths. (b) Leaders, independent thinkers, and problem solvers. (c) Academically prepared to meet the challenges of an ever changing world. (d) Able to work cooperatively and effectively with others. (e) Actively involved at school and in the larger community. (f) Self-disciplined and able to make well-balanced life choices reflective of Catholic values and teachings.

Mission

The mission of Saint Mary's High School is to provide a quality Catholic education by developing and sustaining a rich tradition grounded in Gospel and family values, discipline, and respect.

Philosophy

The Saint Mary's community acknowledges Christ as the source of all Truth and the goal of all learning and parents as the primary educators. Thus, students are encouraged to be active members of the faith community. This entails promoting moral values, fostering an attitude of Christian service, and continually growing in the Truth of the Catholic Church. Saint Mary's students strive to be models of Christian love, honesty, decency and integrity.

Core Beliefs

Students shall strive to grow spiritually, academically, socially, and personally. Students have the right to learn, and teachers have the right to teach; therefore, no student should keep students from learning or teachers from teaching. Students need to be respectful of themselves, others, and their school at all times. Students are responsible for the decisions they make. Students should enjoy the experience of making an appropriate decision and should accept the consequences of making an inappropriate decision.

Six Traits of a Knight/Lady Knight

The six qualities of a Knight/Lady Knight are reverence, studiousness, respect, courtesy, loyalty, and obedience. These qualities should mark student conduct in the classrooms, on the school grounds, in the athletic arena, at all co-curricular school functions, at home, and in the community.

Summations from the Report of the Visiting Team

Overall Schoolwide Areas of Strength

1. A strong tradition and long history of serving the Catholic community of Phoenix.
2. A strong administrative structure and school leadership dedicated to school improvement.
3. A faculty and staff dedicated to student learning and success.
4. A respectful student body who appreciates their school and demonstrates a commitment to learning.
5. Sound financial practices providing balanced budgets, assistance for families demonstrating need, and planning for the future.
6. Demonstrated dedication to providing Catholic education to the broadest possible student population.
7. A well-maintained campus that meets program needs of the school and a master facilities plan to address future facilities needs.
8. Students have opportunities to witness and participate in the importance of growing in the love of God and others through service, prayer and liturgy.
9. The recent addition of the Piper Performing Arts Building, providing a theater, space for performing and visual arts, and additional offices and classrooms.
10. The addition of the seventh period expanding elective opportunities, particularly in the visual and performing arts.

Areas of Strength for Organization for Student Learning Category

- There exists a solid connection between the content of the Expected Schoolwide Learning Results (ESLRs), the Mission Statement, the Philosophy, the school motto and the Six Traits. This relationship connects the founding tradition of the school (the Six Traits) to its future (ESLRs).
- Strong tradition of creating and promoting a family atmosphere in the school community where the parent is the primary educator.
- Saint Mary's High School offers a number of excellent opportunities to be a part of: liturgies, class retreats, reconciliation, class-time prayer, guest speakers, youth events, kits for the homeless, praying the rosary, soup kitchen work, gift bags for military personnel, to enrich the students' lives in connection to the ESLRs. The Theology department and the Campus Minister are vital connections to the spiritual opportunities provided to the staff.
- School policies and practices support core belief that students have the right to learn, teachers have the right to teach.
- Saint Mary's encourages and promotes all students to become active members of the school, home parishes and community and to give back to the less fortunate.
- Through the current publications, *Knightline*, *Green Streak*, and *the Round Table*, and daily announcements, community accomplishments are celebrated.
- The ESLRs are included in the syllabi of each content area.
- School leadership supports school improvement.

Areas of Strength for Curriculum

- The school provides a Christ-centered, challenging and comprehensive curriculum, which is grounded in the school's Philosophy and Mission Statement, resulting in achievement of the Expected Schoolwide Learning Results.
- The faculty utilizes a variety of teaching and learning experiences to engage students at a high level that is consistent with Expected Schoolwide Learning Results.
- The school provides a solid Theology curriculum with clearly defined course objectives, expectations, and student-activities that promote student acquisition of Catholic values.
- There are opportunities for staff development with professional growth workshops, in-services, and meetings designed to promote and increase both knowledge and skill levels.
- The new Piper facility and adjustments to the schedule provide multiple opportunities for students to participate in fine and performing arts.
- All departments have participated in curriculum mapping to align curriculum with State and Diocesan standards.

Areas of Strength for Support for Student Personal and Academic Growth

- The school provides a wide variety of curricular and co-curricular activities.
- Students demonstrate respect and acceptance of each other within the diverse student body.
- The school is committed to providing strong Catholic education with opportunities to develop each student spiritually, academically, socially, and personally.
- Many students take advantage of the 5A-Division I sports program at the school.
- Teachers are available to help students one-on-one every day before and after school.
- The guidance department offers both academic and personal support to students.
- Many programs exist to enhance student's Catholic identity including Eucharistic Celebrations and the Christian service requirement.

Areas of Strength for Resource Management and Development

- The Administration and affiliated School Board Finance Committee execute responsibility in resource management and planning with a vision for both the present and long-term financial stability of the school.
- Financial operations are conducted with integrity and in accordance with generally accepted accounting standards.
- Teamwork within the school and throughout the community follows a common-cause approach to attaining and allocating resources in order to serve the needs of all students.
- The Mission Statement and Philosophy consistently underscore every decision involving financial matters because the students themselves are the chief focus of the school's stewardship.
- The Director of Finance and the Development Office function as a proactive partnership, benefiting the school with their professionalism and commitment.
- Tradition unifies the Saint Mary's family across generations in its pursuit of resources to sustain the oldest Catholic high school in Arizona.

Key Areas for Organization for Student Learning

- Need to continue assessing the degree that students have internalized the Six Traits and the ESLRs.
- Need to assess the staff in order to provide pertinent, research-based professional growth opportunities for all.
- Need to continue developing programs that encourage respect and appreciation for diversity and cultural differences.
- Because of constantly changing environmental issues, Saint Mary's needs to continue to implement security measures which maintain a safe and healthy environment.
- Need for ongoing collaboration with all constituents during school planning.

Key Areas for Curriculum

- Need to follow through with the plan to develop a systematic approach for improving standardized test results.
- Need to develop and implement strategies to accelerate freshman academic success and philosophical buy-in.
- Need to implement a valid schoolwide, standards-based assessment process, representative of all course content to provide a just reflection of student performance.
- Need to continue to maintain and develop high-level curriculum that prepares students for post-secondary education.

Key Areas for Support for Student Personal and Academic Growth

- Need for continued assessment and development of projects and programs that embrace cultural and economic diversity.
- Need to develop a formal process to address and track at-risk students who require accommodations in the classroom.
- Need to seek new ways to enhance the four-year academic planning process through the Guidance Department for college planning goals.
- Need to follow through on a plan to unite a comprehensive booster club and develop its parameters.

Key Areas Resource Management and Development

- Need to continue marketing and recruitment strategies in order to increase student enrollment.
- Need to continue to seek sources of income to offset tuition.
- Need to continue to seek financial resources to assist with debt reduction and operational expense support.

NHS News Update

The process for selection of new members for the Seat of Wisdom Chapter of the National Honor Society is well underway. The selection process is governed by the national constitution of the Society. In addition to academic excellence, membership requires strong showings of leadership, service, and citizenship. Applications have been made available to students meeting the minimum cumulative GPA requirement of 3.2.

A five-person Faculty Council will be reviewing information forms submitted by students and a survey conducted among teachers and administrators. Decisions will be announced sometime after Spring Break.

Spring NHS Blood Drive

The National Honor Society is once again sponsoring its Spring Blood Drive. It is scheduled for Tuesday, April 2 from 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the school's Gym. Any member of the Saint Mary's family, including parents, students, graduates, faculty and staff members, over the age of 17, are welcome to participate. For further information contact Mrs. Vietri, NHS advisor at 602-251-2554 or jvietri@smknights.org.

Happy Saint Patrick's Day



Student Council Easter Basket Drive

The Student council will be hosting an Easter Basket Drive starting on Monday March 16 and will go through Friday March 27th. This year we are going to be doing a little something different. Along with the basket and any other Easter goodies, each basket should include an Easter egg coloring kit. These baskets will be donated to St. Joes Children's Hospital, and both St. Matthew and St. Agnes grade schools. These kids will then have the opportunity to be celebrate Easter at their school, by dying eggs with the coloring kits given in the basket. This year, our goal is to make and give 2,500 baskets. We hope that everyone can contribute in making our goal a success!!

Electrifying News From the Music Department of St. Mary's.

St. Mary's Pep Band had a great first semester. They were in high spirits during the games and played very well to motivate the students, parents and the football team. The band also did well in their performance at the Christmas Concert. Parents, staff and students enjoyed listening to the wonderful talent of the Choir, Beginning and Advanced Guitar, Drum Line, Beginning Band and Advanced Band.

In the spring the St Mary's Pep Band is performing at the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade. The procession is held on March 14th. The marching band is always enthusiastic to perform and march but what's really exciting is that this year we have 51 band members! This is the most members St. Mary's Band has had at the Parade.

Several students from our band and choir auditioned for the Arizona Regional Band and Choir. Band students that auditioned were Alma Arreola and Raina Jung. Choir students that auditioned were Yolanda Lopez, Andrew Trujillo, Katelynne Lespron, Mutsuko Tanaka and Jisu Kim. We are proud of our music students for putting forth the extra effort to audition for Regionals. The choir has been fortunate to have in it's membership Japanese transfer students, Mutsuko Tanaka, Kaori (insert last name), and Hitomi (insert last name). The band has Dong Ho (Sean) Kim in its Beginning Band.

Saint Mary's music instructors Mrs. Carol Mellis, flute/voice and Mr. John Calvert, guitar/voice will perform together in a free concert on Wednesday, March 18th at 7:00 pm in the Saint Mary's auditorium. They have been performing together as a duo for 2 years and play and sing a wide variety of music. Come hear these two superb musicians that teach our Saint Mary's students.

On April 7th at 6:30 pm in the Saint Mary's gym band students from Saint Mary's, St. Catherine of Siena, St. Gregory's and St. Matthew's will join forces to perform together in the annual Combined Schools Band Concert. There will be 200 students performing together for this event!

A new music ensemble has formed at St. Mary's. It is Jazz Band, under the direction of Mrs. Donna Wilson. Mrs. Wilson is a wonderful jazz saxophonist and singer. Look to hear the Jazz Band perform at the Spring Music Concert on May 6th at 7:00 pm in the auditorium.

AN ALERT FOR PARENTS ON PROPOSED CHANGE IN AIMS PROGRAM

On February 10, 2009, ASU sent out a notice to current students receiving the AIMS scholarships informing them that "ASU is also suspending funding of its AIMS scholarship program." On February 11, 2009, the AZ Department of Education announced:

Any suspension of the AIMS Scholarship Program must be voted upon and approved by the Arizona Board of Regents. Superintendent Tom Horne, a voting member of the Arizona Board of Regents, has stated that he will work vigorously to defeat the suspension to the AIMS Scholarship Program. The Arizona Department of Education has no control over the universities' budget decisions.

The AIMS Scholarship Program has been an important asset to our college-bound students. The tuition waiver benefit has made college a viable choice for many of our deserving students. Please contact the Arizona Board of Regents to express your support for the continuation of this valuable program. The Board meets on this issue in April.

**Contact Info: Arizona Board of Regents, 2020 N. Central Avenue, Suite 230, Phoenix, AZ 85004
(602) 229-2500 -- Fax (602) 229-2555 -- www.abor.azregents.e**

MARCH 2009

Seventh Annual Saint Mary's Fashion Show, Another Resounding Success!

On February 7, 2009, at the Wyndham Phoenix Hotel, Saint Mary's High School hosted our Seventh Annual Fashion Show, "A Knight in Wonderland". Some last minute changes were made due to the cold forecast on show day. The entire event was moved from the terrace of the hotel to the ballroom. The afternoon was a tremendous success with over 126 models participating and 350 guests in attendance. The fashion show committee consisted of 73 volunteers that started planning the event in September. On the day of the show there were an additional 40 backstage helpers along with 44 Saint Mary's student helpers. All of the volunteers did an outstanding job in making sure the event ran smoothly and was a success. Diana Hawthorne, mother to sophomore Danielle Hawthorne, directed the backstage helpers and students. Colleen Whitman Nunez was very instrumental in keeping the show rolling. Colleen has two students at SM, junior – James and freshman – Bridget Witman Nunez.

The afternoon also featured a silent auction and a live auction that helped raise over \$30,000 for the Saint Mary's community. In addition, the afternoon featured a gourmet luncheon, Alex Ship -junior, singing the "Star Spangled Banner," the Harmony Dance Team performed and the Saint Mary's drum line entertained the guests. After the show there was boutique shopping featuring; Azteca Bridal Plaza, SM Spirit Shop, Sahay, Caravaggio Boutique and Miche Bag.

This year's Event Chair, Cindy Garcia, is the auntie to sophomore student Brianna Munoz. Cindy, along with the development office, was very instrumental with the organization of the entire event. The art work that was chosen for this year's invitation was provided by SM student Ryan Dougherty, class of 2009.

The Alice and Wonderland theme of this year's show ran throughout the event. Mrs. Cher Norville along with her stagecraft students created the Alice and Wonderland cutouts that decorated the ballroom. Kelly Hansen, Decorations Chair, made sure every guest that attended received a special tea cup as a thank you. Kelly is the mother to junior - Andrew and sophomore - Zach Hansen.

SM graduate, Dr. Maggie Hyland, class of 1958, choreographed a fantastic show. Showcasing our alumni, "Future Knights" of Saint Mary's and current Saint Mary's students. The "Future Knight's" consisted of students ranging from kindergarten to 8th grade from a variety of schools wearing their Saint Mary's dreams (how they see themselves in the future here at SM). Fashion stylist, Geri Farr showcased signature collections by our anchor sponsor, Dillard's - Fashion Square. Dillard's fashions were modeled by the alumni, freshman, sophomores and Juniors. The senior segment was sponsored by Azteca Bridal Plaza and featured beautiful gowns and tuxedos. Tanya Toll, mother to freshman, Matt Pettigrew, organized the fashions backstage for all the models. Cathy Nunez coordinated the 126 Saint Mary's student models for the show. Cathy is the mother to sophomore Brianna Nunez.

The Character Choreographer, Rita Maupin, kept with the theme of Alice and Wonderland with a character skit that opened the show. Alice was played by junior, Carly Marshall, The White Rabbit – junior, Victoria Bonanni, Mad Hatter – sophomore, Danielle Hawthorne and SM Knight – freshman, William Brooks. Three of "The Queen of Hearts Playing Cards" were there to assist the models getting on and off the stage. The Playing Cards were; sophomore - Joseph Standerfer, sophomore - Zack Standerfer and freshman - Beau Kitson . Character Choreographer, Rita Maupin, is the mother of freshman William Brooks.

The hair and makeup portion of the show was organized by Molli Cody, from Molli Codys The Hair Studio in Scottsdale, along with her sister-in-law, Susan Myers. Molli's daughter is SM junior Sage Cody. Molli Codys Hair Studio partnered once again with the Kohler Academy for a total of 38 stylist and makeup artists that helped our girls get ready for the show.

Thank you to the many volunteers and the development office for another fantastic show! A fabulous time was had by all.

Plans are underway for the Eighth Annual Fashion Show that will be held on February 6, 2010. Mark your calendars, this is an event you don't want to miss. Please call the development office for volunteer information (602) 251-2546.



MARCH 2009

Our Foreign Exchange Program –Comments From A Host and Several Students

An Hour That Changed My Life – By Deacon Michael Carlomagno

Six years ago I was working in my office at the parish when I received a phone call from a representative with STS Foundation. The exchange student organization called me to see if I knew anyone in the parish that would like to host an exchange student for the coming academic year. I told her that I always wanted to host an exchange student and could she give me an hour to think about it. That is how it all began.

A couple of months later I was in Terminal 3 at Sky Harbor meeting for the first time an exchange student from Milan Italy. Other host families were there too with huge welcome signs and colorful balloons. There I was with only an 8 ½ by 11 sheet of paper with his name on it. It was 118 degrees that August day and I thought I was going to lose him when went to the car in the garage at the airport.

Meeting Mattia Gellera changed my life. Instead of enrolling him into a public school as was planned, I was able to contact Suzanne Fessler at St. Mary's High School about enrolling him as a senior. Mrs. Fessler worked magic and Mattia was a senior and started class the next week. It was a great experience for him and a lasting relationship developed between St. Mary's and the STS Foundation.

Since then I have hosted five more students with two of them attending St. Mary's. Hugo Andren from Sweden attended last year and Eddie Bazzoli from Verona Italy is currently enrolled.

I have hosted other students from Italy, Austria and France, too. I still receive monthly packages of treats from France that include cookies, crackers, and an assortment of canned items with contents unknown outside of France.

One reason I continue to host students is that I am blessed that they share their lives and customs with me and now I have wonderful friends outside the U.S.A. I speak several times a month to all the students and their families and many of their families have come to visit me in Arizona. My life will never be the same as a result of opening up my home to these fine young people.

One last update to share with you, Mattia decided to stay with me and attend Scottsdale Community College and Arizona State University. He graduate summa cum laude in December 2008 with a degree in Supply Chain Management and has accepted a management position with America Airlines in Tulsa Oklahoma. His family in Italy is delighted and I am very proud of him.

Thanks to St. Mary's High School, STS Foundation and the exchange students for changing my life. I am blessed.

Exchange Students Comment On Their Saint Mary's Experiences

Student Eddie Bazzoli (Senior, Italy): I am really enjoying Saint Mary's, the students were and are nice to me. The teachers too, they are always ready to help me or give me extra explanations. I'm really having a great experience in the US. I think Saint Mary's is doing a great job with the exchange students, because it offers them a great opportunity and chance to learn English and another culture.

Student Hyeonjung Jung (Sophomore, South Korea): I was glad that nobody avoided me because of where I'm from. They also helped me. I have many friends now. At first it was too hard for me to enjoy Saint Mary's even though many people helped me. I didn't expect that cultural difference would give me this much hard time, but I believe I would be like that at any school at that time. Now I'm so happy to attend Saint Mary's. I can see myself enjoying going to school. I'm having a really good time with my host family all the time. They treat me as their real family. I always appreciate it that they care about me.

Student Virgil Artuz (Sophomore, Philippines): The students at Saint Mary's are very friendly, and very nice people. They are very hospitable to me and are helpful. And yes, I made friends at school. The teachers are nice and very approachable when it comes to school work.

Student Minjung (Sophomore, South Korea): Saint Mary's teachers and all staff are kind, and they help me a lot, and I feel comfortable with that. I'm enjoying my time at Saint Mary's. I think my decision on choosing Saint Mary's was great. I'm having so much fun with my host family, they are my other family in America. I love them, also they give me a lot of love. Everyday I feel comfortable, like real family. Even their relatives treat me well.

Congratulations to our School Board for the great honor they just received!

“We are pleased to announce that St. Mary's High School Board of Directors is one of 9 boards that have been awarded the 2009 Outstanding Board Award by the National Catholic Educational Association's Department of Boards and Councils.”

Our School Board will be receiving their award at the NCEA Convention in Anaheim on April 15. Ronnie Perez, President of the Board will be there for sure to receive the award.

“Senioritis” is Real, It’s Widespread, and It’s Dangerous

The coming of Spring Break signals the start of the annual ritual of “end of year” attitude adjustments. Although the ritual runs rampant in the senior class, no class is immune from the effect of senioritis. Seniors begin to see events as the “last time” to do this or that, an attitude that leads to an almost desperate attempt to reach excess in one form or another. Each year one or more seniors fail to graduate because they completely shut down on academic life and spin toward the end of their SM experience without a thought about the consequences. We republish some thoughts on some of the issues arising in the typical high school setting.

Some Sensible Advice On Teenage Parties

The Project Graduation event provides a great alternative to unsafe conduct and unsupervised activities on one night of the year, Graduation Night, that presents special concerns about teen behavior. The success of past Project Graduation events, and the expected success of the upcoming event, surely proves that parents and teens can work cooperatively together to create a meaningful, fun experience on the final night of their high school careers.

The [Arizona Republic](#) published some advice to parents on dealing with teenage parties every other day of the year (summer included). We reprint those suggestions in the belief that some simple rules, laid out in advance, can go far toward assuring that teens enjoy their high school years in a safe and sensible fashion, all from [www.safegrad.com](#).

If your son or daughter plans to have a party:

- Plan together for a safe and fun party. Neither you nor your teen wants any unexpected surprises.
- Together, choose where in your house the party will take place.
- Have a definite start and finish time for the party.
- Decide in advance how to clear guests from your house when the party is over.
- Be clear that the parents of any guest under the influence of drugs or alcohol will be notified.
- Decide in advance how unwelcome guests will be handled.
- Admit only those guests on an established guest list.
- Do not allow guests to come and go from your home.
- Include an activity as part of the evening, for example, skating, movies, dancing, bowling, games, etc.
- Make sure that alcohol and medication in your home is not accessible to your guests.
- Discourage the addition of alcohol by providing canned pop or juice rather than a punch bowl.
- Contact the parents of the invited guests to let them know what will be happening at your house.

If your son or daughter plans to go to a party:

- Know where your teen will be (the address, telephone number and name of the party host or where the party is being held).
- Don't hesitate to call the parents of the teen hosting the party.
- Offer assistance, clarify the hours, ensure supervision of the party, make certain alcohol and drugs will not be present. (Let your teen know you are doing this beforehand.)
- Make sure your teen has a ride with a designated driver. Be a backup if need be. Be clear that your teen can call on you (or name someone else) for a ride home.
- Let your teens know it is OK to call home for a ride under any circumstances, especially if they have had any alcohol.
- Set a curfew. If you are awake or if you ask your teen to wake you when he or she gets home, take the time to talk about the party and show that you care.
- If your teen stays overnight with a friend, it is not unreasonable for you to check with the parents. Check on the fact that they will be home, that you agree on the curfew hours and any other basic rules that should apply.

Reflections on Teenage Drinking

Tom Reilly

In 2003, I enrolled in a Rio Salado online course: [Fundamentals of Chemical Dependency](#). I enrolled in the course as an enrichment experience and was rewarded with some thought provoking content. I want to share one item with you: fifteen questions designed to alert young people to the possibility that they have, or are developing, a drinking problem. Although parents can benefit from an awareness of these issues, the better use of this material is to plant a seed in a young person’s mind about the behaviors that should give a person pause about their drinking.

1. Do you lose time from school or work because of drinking?
2. Do you drink to lose shyness and build self-confidence?
3. Is drinking affecting your reputation?
4. Do you drink to escape from study or home worries?
5. Does it bother you if someone says you drink too much?
6. Do you have to take a drink to go out on a date?
7. Do you ever get into money trouble over buying liquor?
8. Have you lost friends since you’ve started drinking?

9. Do you hang out with a crowd where liquor is easy to get?
10. Do your friends drink less than you do?
11. Do you drink until the bottle is empty?
12. Have you ever had a loss of memory from drinking?
13. Has drunk driving ever led to an accident or worse?
14. Do you get annoyed with classes or lectures on drinking?
15. Do you think you have a drinking problem?

There is no “magic” score on this type of material. Obviously, the more times a person answers “YES” the greater the concern should be that a young person has a drinking problem. Too many people think alcoholism is a disease that does not affect the young, one that is reserved for the homeless and the destitute. This is far from true, and this misconception prevents many people from seeking help at an early age.

MARCH 2009

**SAINT MARY'S HIGH SCHOOL
- GREEN STREAK -
2525 NORTH THIRD STREET
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Coming Friday, May 1, 2009: Luncheon With Vince Lombardi, Jr.

Saint Mary's High School presents "Celebrating Saint Mary's High School & High Performance People" with featured speaker Vince Lombardi, Jr. The objective of this luncheon event is to raise the profile of Saint Mary's High School by inviting community leaders to a luncheon event and educating them on the breadth, depth and impact of The Mission of Saint Mary's High School. We want to continue to build relationships with corporations & individuals that want to align with the positive work that Saint Mary's is doing in the community. The free luncheon event will be held at the Wyndham Phoenix Hotel, 50 East Adams, in downtown Phoenix. The event is free but RSVP is required.

We are seeking table hosts. We hope parents will host a table (or two) and invite business friends and associates to join us. If interested in serving as table host, contact Bridget Costello at 602-251-2508.

Opportunity to Help Saint Mary's In Your Parish or Child's Grade School.

Are you passionate about Saint Mary's High School? Do you believe in the mission of Saint Mary's and are happy with your child's experience at Saint Mary's? If so, then we want you to join the Saint Mary's Marketing Committee as a Parish or School Representative. This is an easy position, yet so vital to the future of Saint Mary's. Parish/School Representatives will meet a few times a year with the Saint Mary's Marketing Committee. The primary job of a Parish/School Representative is to make sure that Saint Mary's marketing materials get into the hands of the proper people at your church or school community. In essence you will be an Ambassador for Saint Mary's High School. We need many parents and volunteers to make sure we are covering the entire Valley. Please join us in the vital effort to promote SM. Contact Bridget Costello to sign up. 602-251-2508.

"The Human Experience" Returns to the Valley

The success of the premiere showing of this film has caused a rescheduling of showings of the film on March 16 and March 17. This film received the highest marks from our students, many of them expressing the wish that they could see the film again in the company of their parents. The return engagement is sponsored by AimHigherMedia.com

MONDAY, MARCH 16, 2009

7 PM

HARKINS VALLEY ART

505 SOUTH MILL AVE

TEMPE, AZ 85281

TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2009

7 PM

HERBERGER THEATER

222 E. MONROE

PHOENIX, AZ 85004